



Career and
College
Information
Session

Fall 2024

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS



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Sun Prairie West High School

Families will gain knowledge about:

- ❖ Academic and Career Planning (ACP)
- ❖ Accessing post secondary information
- ❖ Navigating the college application process
- ❖ Preparation opportunities for students
- ❖ How to pay for college
- ❖ Annual TO DO LISTS

GOALS / OUTCOMES



SUN PRAIRIE WEST
WOLVES

High School General Information

* Graduation Requirements

* Wisconsin State Civics Test

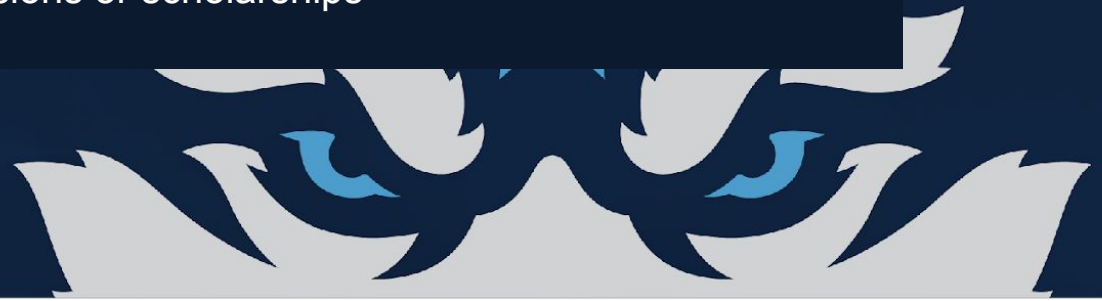
- Every student in Wisconsin must pass the Wisconsin State Civics Test in order to graduate.
- Most students complete the exam during Foundations of American Democracy or AP US Gov't

* Transcripts

- Transcripts are sent through www.parchment.com
- To view your transcript:
 - Open Infinite Campus
 - Click on “Documents”
 - Click on “Unofficial Transcript”

* Grade Point Average (GPA)

- Your cumulative GPA is your grade point average over the course of your high school years.
- GPA can be used for various reasons such as college admissions or scholarships



Academic and Career Planning

[DPI Video](#)

The Department of Public Instruction requires that every school provides academic and career planning services to students enrolled in grades 6 to 12.

In Sun Prairie, Academic and Career Planning activities are woven into classroom and SP30 lessons. Additionally, Xello serves as the way students keep track of their Academic and Career Planning Progress.

** Annual grade level meetings are held with students and slideshows are always posted on our [website](#).*



Make A Plan for After High School

Here are some options:

- 2 year college / transfer program
 - Madison College Liberal Arts Program: <https://madisoncollege.edu/academics/programs/associate-arts-humanities>
- Technical college
 - Wisconsin Technical System: <https://www.wtcsystem.edu/>
- Speciality school
- 4 year school
 - UW Schools: www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu
 - Wisconsin Private Schools: www.waicu.org
 - Historically Black Colleges & Universities: <http://www.thehundred-seven.org/hbculist.html>
 - Hispanic Serving Institutions: <https://www.hacu.net/hacu/HSIs.asp>
 - Asian Pacific Islander and Asian American Institutions: <https://apiascholars.org/>
 - Tribal Colleges and Universities : <https://collegefund.org/tribal-colleges-and-universities/>
- Gap Year
- Registered apprenticeships
 - <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/apprenticeship/>
- Workforce
- Military
 - www.military.com



Xello - College & Career Exploration Tools

The screenshot displays the Xello website interface with a dark header containing the 'xello' logo and navigation links: 'About Me', 'Explore Options', and 'Goals & Plans'. There are also icons for search, a heart, and a user profile. The main content area is divided into six panels:

- PERSONALITY STYLE:** A circular diagram with six personality types: Organizer, Builder, Thinker, Creator, Helper, and Persuader. A 'View Results' button is at the bottom.
- LEARNING STYLE:** A diagram showing three learning styles: Auditory (60%), Visual (25%), and Tactile (15%). It concludes with 'You are an Auditory Learner' and a 'View Results' button.
- SKILLS LAB:** A section titled 'What skills do you want to develop?' with an illustration of laboratory glassware and a 'Get Started' button.
- AFTER HIGH SCHOOL...:** A section titled 'My Goal More School or Training' with an illustration of diverse students and an 'Edit Goal' button.
- FAVORITE CLUSTERS:** A section showing 'Education & Training / Health Science / Human Services' with an illustration of colorful icons and an 'Update' button.
- RESUME:** A section titled 'Get ready to impress potential employers.' with an illustration of a student at a desk and an 'Update' button.

Xello can help with all your plans after high school. The program includes, but is not limited to:

- Assessments
- Careers/Education exploration
- My Course Plan
- Resume Builder
- ACT Prep via Methodize Test Prep



Additional Ways to Research Post-Secondary Options

- Virtual Campus Visits/Tours
- Virtual College Fairs
- See the student services [website!](#)

UW Schools:

www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu

Wisconsin Private Schools:

www.waicu.org

Historically Black Colleges & Universities:

<http://www.thehundred-seven.org/hbculist.html>

Hispanic Serving Institutions:

<https://www.hacu.net/hacu/HSIs.asp>

Asian Pacific Islander and Asian American Institutions:

<https://apiascholars.org/>

Tribal Colleges and Universities :

<https://collegefund.org/tribal-colleges-and-universities/>

Sun Prairie West High School
Home of the Wolves

ENROLL MYSIP INFINITE CAMPUS WE ARE LISTENING TRANSLATE

About Academics Athletics & Activities Student Life DISTRICT HOME QUICKLINKS

SUN PRAIRIE WEST HIGH SCHOOL > ACADEMICS > STUDENT SERVICES

Sun Prairie West High School Calendar

About +

Academics -

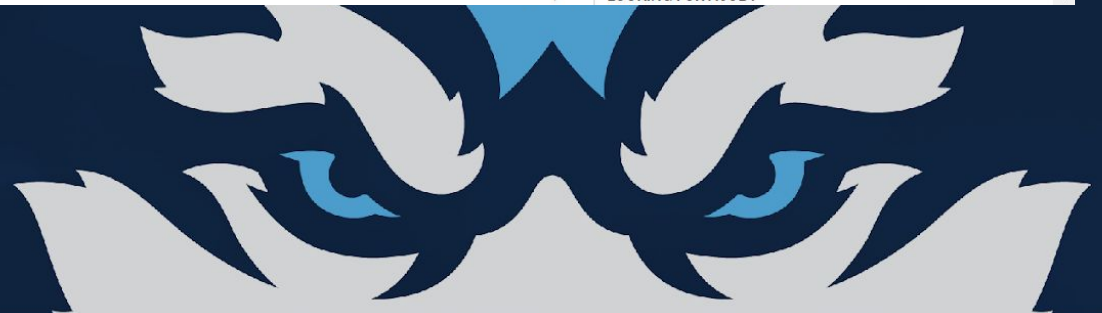
- ACCEL
- Academic and Career Planning (ACP)
- Advanced Placement
- Academic Profile
- Course Guide and Scheduling
- Drivers Education

Student Services

Student Services is comprised of School Counselors, School Social Workers, and School Psychologists. The Student Services team works collaboratively to best help students in the areas of academic achievement, personal/social development and career services, as well as providing responsive services.

- ▶ ACADEMIC AND CAREER PLANNING
- ▶ XELLO, CAREER AND COLLEGE EXPLORATION, AND ACT TEST PREP
- ▶ COLLEGE VISITS, TOURS, AND RESOURCES
- ▶ LOOKING FOR A JOB?

STAFF



Considerations When Choosing A College

- Size and Location
- Admissions Probability
- Academic Options
- Extracurricular Activities
- Affordability
- Future Career Pathways

PRO TIP:

Beyond these core six, make a list of non-negotiable considerations, big and small. These might include food options, nightlife, safety, diversity, political climate, etc.



Apply Online

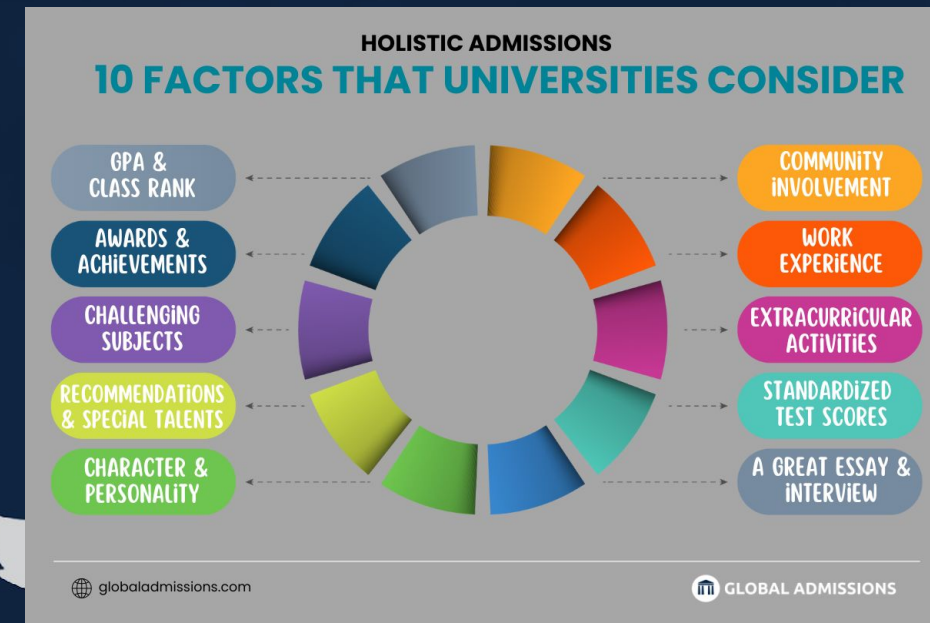
Apply Online:

- a. Look at your school's website for instructions and deadlines
 - i. Send your transcripts (create your account using your personal email)
 1. www.parchment.com
 - ii. Letters of Rec
 1. Tip: Fill out a [Brag Sheet](#) for your letter writers
 - iii. Essay Writing
 - iv. ACT scores, if needed
 1. www.act.org or www.collegeboard.org

Frequently used application platforms:

- b. UW System Application apply.wisconsin.edu
- c. Common Application www.commonapp.org
- d. Common Black College App <https://commonblackcollegeapp.com/>
- e. Madison College Liberal Arts Transfer program madisoncollege.edu
- f. Wisconsin Technical Schools <http://www.wtcsystem.edu/>

Remember...
most colleges use a holistic review, which looks at **MANY** factors to get a picture of you as a **WHOLE** student!



Essay Writing

It doesn't get said enough, but colleges are literally looking for reasons to admit you. That's why they ask for an essay. They simply want to hear about you. Take your time. Give it some thought, share it with a few people you trust, and revise.

ESSAY BASICS

- Write your essay in a program like Microsoft Word or Google Docs so you can simply copy and paste it into your online application.
- Watch word limits-- commonly between 250 and 650 words
- Ask a friend or teacher to look for inconsistencies, grammatical mistakes, and typos.
- Proofread, proofread, proofread. You don't want some small mistake to accidentally make it look like you don't care.
- Proofread again.

ESSAY TIPS

- Tell colleges something about yourself that you can't capture in the application.
- Jump off the bandwagon. Don't write what you think your colleges will want to hear. Let them know about what drives you.
- Use your own voice. Ask someone you trust to read your essay to see if it "sounds like you."
- Be short and sweet. Clear, concise writing matters more than length.
- Show, don't tell. Be specific and factual.
- Write about your real life. Don't exaggerate or embellish
- Be confident. Skip all the maybes, sort ofs, I thinks, and so on.

[UW System Prompts](#)
[Common Application Prompts](#)
[Common Black College App](#)



ACT Preparation Options

Hard Copy Resources can be found at:

- Public Library
- School Library
- Books stores (ex. Barnes and Noble)
Princeton Review “Crack the ACT”
Kaplan “ACT Premium Program”
Sparknotes “ACT Power Pack”

NOTE: UW Systems will remain test optional through the Spring of 2027! Check with your universities regarding ACT/SAT requirements!

FREE Online Resources

- [ACT.org](https://www.act.org)
- [Xello - Methodize](https://www.xello.com)
- [Testprepreview.com](https://www.testprepreview.com)
- [Number2.com](https://www.number2.com)

In Person Course Options (COST)

- [Sylvan Learning Center](https://www.sylvanlearning.com) 1-800-661-0129
- [Kaplan](https://www.kaplan.com) 1-800-KAP-TEST



Paying for College

There are 4 primary ways students pay for college:

- 1) Financial Aid (Grants, Federal Loans or work study)
- 2) Scholarships
- 3) Private Loans
- 4) Self Funding

FINANCIAL AID:

- Attend COLLEGE GOAL WI for live help with FAFSA registration
- Complete the FAFSA as early as possible
- Get additional assistance from the Financial Aid offices at your potential universities

SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Remember, the more time and energy you put into completing scholarship applications, the more scholarships you will receive.
- Where to look for scholarships (free money for school!):
 - Visit the [Sun Prairie West High School Scholarship Website](#) weekly
 - Search for scholarship applications from the college(s) you are applying to.
 - Complete the Local Scholarship application

PRIVATE LOANS:

- Speak to your financial institution
- <https://finaid.org/loans/privatestudentloans/>

Current seniors:

College Goal WI - FAFSA Support
January 7, 2025 at SP East



NEW this year to the UW System...

There are now
3 ways to get in!

Pathways to Admission

Pathways to Admission



FOR WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



- The Wisconsin Guarantee**
- Direct Admit Wisconsin**
- Traditional Application**

www.wisconsin.edu/students/wipathways



	TRADITIONAL ADMISSION	DIRECT ADMIT WISCONSIN	THE WISCONSIN GUARANTEE
Which Universities of Wisconsin are participating?	All UW Universities	All UW Universities except UW-Eau Claire, UW-La Crosse & UW-Madison	All UW Universities
How is eligibility determined?	Holistic Review of Multiple Student Factors	High School Courses & GPA	Class Rank Determined by GPA on 11th Grade Transcript Top 5% Admitted to ALL UWs Top 10% Admitted to All UWs Except UW-Madison
When are admission decisions made?	Beginning August 1/August of Senior Year, Application Date and UW Decision Date	July Before Senior Year	Beginning August 1/August of Senior Year, Application Date and UW Decision Date
Do high schools have to agree to opt in?	No	Yes	No
Do students have to agree to participate?	No	Yes	No
Are applications required?	Yes	No	Yes
Are application fees required?	Yes, if charged by the UW university	No	Yes, if charged by the UW university
Available to out-of-state applicants?	Yes	No	No
Admission guaranteed to a UW university?	No	Yes*	Yes
Admission guaranteed to specific academic programs/majors?	No	No	No



Wisconsin Guarantee (Act 95)

- Starting August 1, 2024, with the high school class of 2025, the Wisconsin Guarantee will offer guaranteed admission to all Universities of Wisconsin universities for Wisconsin high school students in the top 5% to 10% of their graduating class.
 - Students in the top 5% will be guaranteed admission to all UWs including UW-Madison provided they apply on or before the Early Action deadline of November 1.
 - If you are in the top 10%, you will be guaranteed to all UW universities except UW-Madison.
- For more information about the Wisconsin Guarantee, please visit the following website:
www.wisconsin.edu/wisconsin-guarantee

DCODE: 5656
Sun Prairie West High School Official Transcript
Tel: (608)478-1700
2850 Ironwood Drive, Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Class Rank Top 5 %	
You are in the top 5% of your class.	
Student Information	

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Direct Admit Wisconsin

- Direct Admit Wisconsin is an initiative by the Universities of Wisconsin to proactively offer admission to qualifying high school students between their junior and senior years of high school.
- Direct admission removes the traditional application process and instead uses data provided by the high school to admit students to universities.
- For more information about Direct Admit Wisconsin, please visit the following website: www.wisconsin.edu/direct-admissions
 - [Student and Family information including FAQs](#)
 - [Next Steps](#)



UW System: UW Help Links

- [Finding Your UW](#)
- [Preparing for College](#)
- [Getting Started](#)
- [Application Checklist](#)
- [After You Applied](#)
- [Once You Know Where You Are Going](#)
- [Paying For College](#)
- [Tuition](#)

A Few Universal Resource Links

- [College Admissions 101: Keep Calm and Ace Your Application Process](#)
- [The Roadmap to Success: Preparing Early for Your Best College Experience](#)
- [College Admissions from A to Z: Ace Your Application Process \(And Stay Stress Free\)](#)
- [Invest in Your Future: Expert Tips on Scholarships, Financial Aid, and Paying for College](#)
- [Virtual Campus Tours](#)
- [BigFuture](#)



Grade 9 TO DO List

- It's normal to feel shy as you start high school. If you have questions, ask friends, a teacher or a trusted advisor.
- Try new classes and extracurricular activities.
- Explore your interests!
- Develop good study habits.
- College admission offices will evaluate your grades from ALL four years.
- Discuss your options after high school with your teachers and counselor.
- Plan to take challenging and advanced level courses.
- Start a brag sheet: a list of activities, achievements, awards, and other notable accomplishments.
- Search for part-time or seasonal jobs and volunteer experiences, especially for the summer after freshman year.
- Start saving! Money from holidays, birthdays, or part-time jobs can go a long way.
- Think about how your skills and interests might direct you toward a career.
- Ask people how they got their current jobs. If possible, shadow careers that interest you.
- Take a look at summer pre-college programs offered by your local universities.
- Review requirements for college admission.



Grade 10 TO DO List

- Evaluate the extracurricular activities that you began your freshman year.
- Try to pick up something new. Level up involvement in your activities.
- Grow your leadership skills by taking on a new project or contributing new ideas.
- Revisit the plans that you made last year for after high school.
- Learn the requirements to take advanced courses your junior and senior years.
- If possible, take practice tests to help you prepare for the ACT or SAT.
 - Take the PreACT in fall and spring.
 - Consider taking the PSAT in fall of junior year.
- Explore ways to use financial aid, grants and/or scholarships to pay for attending a college campus.
- Reexamine the careers you found interesting in your freshman year. Job shadow someone if you can.
- Talk to your parents and friends about how your career interests align with college majors.
- Explore which college campuses offer your major of interest.
- Take a look at summer pre-college programs offered by your local universities.



Grade 11 TO DO List

- Get ready for the ACT and/or SAT.
 - Consider taking the PSAT in the fall.
- Explore potential college campuses and see what appeals to you, then visit websites and attend college fairs to hone in on what's important to you.
- Stay on track with your classes and grades.
- Take the ACT and/or SAT.
- Ask the teachers, counselors and coaches who know you best for letters of recommendation.
- Register for college campus tours and preview days.
- Research admissions requirements for the colleges you're interested in.
- Review priority dates and deadlines for admission.
- Attend campus tours & preview dates.



Grade 12 TO DO List

FALL

- Attend Senior Meeting with your School Counselor in September / October
- Attend the Wisconsin Education Fair (WEF) at SP West
- Letters of Recommendations (obtain in fall / winter)
- Complete college applications (fall / winter)
- Attend College Goal Wisconsin for FAFSA help
- Create an account on www.parchment.com in preparations for sending your transcripts
- Keep track of application dates and deadlines, scholarships and housing
- Gather application materials. Include transcripts, test scores and letters of recommendation
- Apply for financial aid using the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

WINTER

- Decide which pathway you will choose after graduation
- Pay enrollment deposit (if required)
- Complete your housing application (if needed)
- Watch your email for campus updates or tasks to complete

SPRING

- Register for college placement tests
- Make the last semester of high school count
- Take placement tests
- Review financial aid offer from your future school
- Send final grades from your senior year to the college you are attending

SUMMER

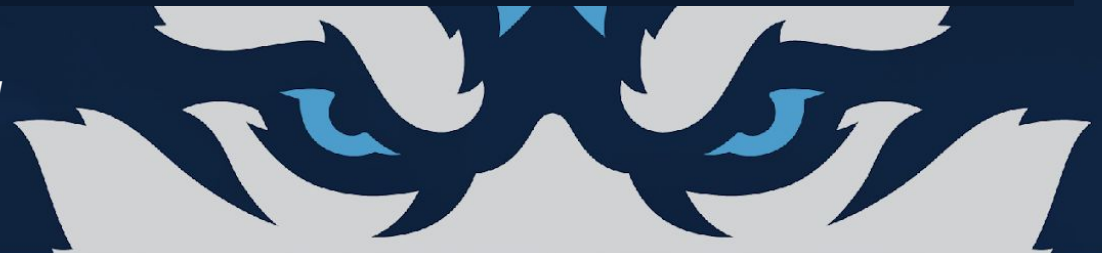
- Sign up and attend student orientation at your future college
- Prepare for your first year of this new pathway!



Additional Considerations

1. Extracurricular Activities are not required but are helpful for admissions purposes, especially if you demonstrate leadership. Quality over quantity!
2. World Language is not required for HS graduation, but may be required for college admissions--check your universities of interest for clarification!
3. Take advantage of all of our [learning opportunities at SP West!](#)
 - a. Dual Enrollment courses
 - b. Advanced Placement courses
 - c. ACCEL Academies
 - d. [Early College Credit Program](#) (ECCP) allows juniors and seniors to take up to two courses at UW Madison
 - e. [Start College Now](#) (SCN) allows juniors and seniors to take up to two courses at Madison College
 - f. Participate in a youth apprenticeship or other work-based learning program
 - g. Participate in Fire Academy/EMR Academy
 - h. Early Graduation
 - i. Applications due no later than the 10th day of first semester of senior year

NOTE: When considering options d-h, it is best to weigh these carefully. SOME universities prefer students take advantage of their full high school curriculum. When in doubt, reach out to the college admissions office!



Questions? We are here to help!

SP West School Counselors

Ms. Saldana A-G



Mr. Medema H-M



Ms. Wagner N-T



Ms. Thao U-Z



Rebecca Griffin
*College, Career and
Life Readiness Coordinator*

