College Advising - 11th Grade To Do List

Research · Plan · Prepare

College Research

- Attend college rep visits to Seattle Academy and area college programs for prospective students
- Attend College Advising Fall and winter webinars
- Bring your questions anytime to College Advising office hours (every day but Wednesday, 3-3:30 pm)
- Meet your assigned college advisor in December
- Develop preliminary college criteria and create an initial college list
- Research a range of likely, target and reach options
- Investigate academic programs/majors, admissions requirements, and financial aid for each college
- Consider affordability as part of college research, not as an afterthought
- Visit campuses, attend virtual tours and/or speak with admissions representatives. Take notes!
- Attend college fairs and school-based programming such as Application Case Studies
- Track research in student's individual college folder (shared by College Advising in December)
- Review materials in College Resource Folder (shared by College Advising in December)

SEATTLE ACADEMY

Application Preparation

- Discuss summer opportunities (including local ones!) and apply for summer programs as needed
- With college advisor, identify potential teacher recommenders
- Ask teachers for recommendations beginning May 1
- Draw on Brag Bank to refine Common App activity list with college advisor
- Record meaningful accomplishments, responsibilities, employment, service and leadership
- Draft personal essay in English class in partnership with College Advising
- Identify experiences that demonstrate growth, values, character, curiosity or resilience

Academic and Extracurricular

- Select senior year courses strategically with college advisor and advisor; learn how grades and senior courses will appear in the application
- Maintain strong academic performance
- Develop healthy relationships with teachers who may write recommendation letters
- Seek support promptly for any academic concerns
- Deepen involvements or increase leadership (broadly defined!)
- Explore academic competitions, independent projects, internships, employment or community involvement

Financial Planning

- Have a family conversation about college budget and financial expectations
- Attend or watch the recording of College Advising's annual Guide to College Financing
- Learn the difference between need-based and merit-based aid
- Complete net price calculators for different types of schools (public out-of-state, public in-state, private)
- Understand FAFSA/CSS Profile and other institutional requirements
- Lightly research outside scholarships (apply for most of these senior year)

Testing

- Attend PSAT overview program
- Take PSAT 11 in October (optional)
- Take virtual SAT or ACT practice test (optional)
- Attend or watch recording of College Advising's Guide to Standardized Testing
- Determine whether (or if) to take SAT or ACT and establish a testing plan, including prep
- Review scores and determine whether additional testing makes sense
- Register for AP exams at SAAS, especially if applying internationally

Rising Senior Summer

- Finalize a balanced preliminary college list
- If possible, visit additional colleges or their counterparts nearby
- Revise personal statement
- Complete activity list draft
- Begin supplemental essays when they are available August 1st
- Continue meaningful summer work, service, employment, research or other pursuits
- Get some rest before senior year!

