



Charles Wright Academy's Four-Year Upper School College Counseling Program

CWA expects every graduate to go on to a four-year college or university. Our two full-time college counselors guide students toward college choices that match their unique characters, strengths, and interests. Our aim is to maximize success in college admissions even as we work to minimize the inevitable stress that surrounds this process. Counselors work one-on-one with students in order to meet the needs of each individual, encouraging self-reflection, informed decision-making, and mature communication skills.

Freshman Year



STUDENTS

Develop strong study habits. Remember that your success this year will determine your placement next year. Explore your interests in arts, athletics, clubs, and student leadership.

In October consider attending CWA's College Fair, where you'll meet admissions officers from many schools.

In February consider taking a Winterim college tour.

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

In September attend the Back to School Night presentation by college counselors.

In October consider attending CWA's College Fair.

In April attend the Wright Connection panel discussion with college admissions deans from schools across the country.

In October or April consider attending CWA's College Financial Planning Program.

Sophomore Year

STUDENTS

Strengthen your study and research skills. Identify and pursue several interests outside of the classroom. Begin exploring different types of colleges and thinking about what will make a school a good fit for you.

In September attend PSAT preview in your English classes.

In October take the PSAT exam for the first time. Attend CWA's College Fair, where you'll meet admissions officers from many schools.

In December meet with college counselors at a class meeting to discuss PSAT scores and what's ahead next year.

In February consider taking a Winterim college tour.

In March, April, or May consider scheduling a meeting with your college counselor (you'll be assigned one in March) to informally discuss your interests and ask a few questions.

In April take a practice ACT at CWA. Compare your results with PSAT scores and decide which test to focus on for future preparation.

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

In September attend the Back to School Night presentation by college counselors.

In October attend CWA's College Fair.

In October or April consider attending CWA's College Financial Planning Program.

In December review PSAT scores with your child and encourage him or her to make use of available resources to improve scores on the junior PSAT and the SAT.

In March, April, or May consider scheduling a first meeting with your child and his or her college counselor.

In April attend the Wright Connection panel discussion with college admissions deans from schools across the country.

Junior Year

STUDENTS

Challenge yourself to dig deeper into the curriculum and activities that interest you.

Look for opportunities to take on more leadership responsibilities.

Begin touring colleges, meeting with admissions officers who visit CWA, building a list of schools where you'd like to apply, and meeting regularly with your college counselor.

In September participate in Experiential Ed week workshops on college admissions.

Begin using your SCOIR account (accessible from Veracross) to access CWA's online college planning tools.

Begin attending information sessions with college admissions officers—more than 75 visit CWA each year.

In October take the PSAT for a second time to prepare for the SAT. Consider signing up for a practice ACT at CWA as well.

In October attend CWA's College Fair.

In January or February have your first individual college counseling session with your college counselor.

In February consider taking a Winterim college tour.

In March and April complete your college research assignment to learn more about the colleges you are considering and clarify your preferences.

In March, April, or May have your second individual college counseling session with your college counselor and your parents or guardians.

Take the SAT and/or ACT.

In April attend the Wright Connection college workshop with college admission deans to learn how colleges make admissions decisions.

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

In October attend College Night for Junior Parents and CWA's College Fair.

In October or April attend CWA's College Financial Planning Program.

In December review PSAT and/or practice ACT scores with your child and encourage him or her to make use of available resources to improve scores.

In March, April, or May meet with your child and his or her college counselor.

In April attend the Wright Connection panel discussion with college admissions deans from schools across the country.

During the summer take your child on a tour of colleges.

Senior Year

STUDENTS

Continue challenging academic coursework and leadership roles.

In August attend CWA's College Boot Camp to get a jump start on your applications.

In September tour colleges with your parents or guardians, and/or participate in intensive college application workshops during Experiential Ed Week.

Attend information sessions with college admissions officers—more than 75 visit CWA each year.

Decide if you will retake the SAT and/or the ACT to improve your score.

Throughout fall, attend class meetings and work with your counselor to finalize the list of schools to which you'll apply.

Work on college essays with your counselor.

In October attend CWA's College Fair.

November through January submit applications to colleges. Ask for help and feedback from your counselor as needed.

In March begin meeting with your college counselor as college decisions arrive.

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

In September take your child on college tours during Experiential Ed week. Meet with your child's college counselor.

In October attend CWA's College Fair, as well as the College Financial Planning Program.

October through January submit FAFSA and CSS Profile if applying for college financial aid.