

University advising for international students at Wheaton Academy



During 9th and 10th grade, students should do the following to prepare for university admissions:

- All 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students take a practice ACT in September
- Students should memorize/ learn what highly selective universities are looking for:
 1. Grades
 2. Test scores (ACT, SAT, TOEFL, SAT Subject Exams)
 3. Passion, involvement, co-curriculars (volunteering, clubs, sports, internships), resume'
 4. Demonstrate ability to write well (university essays)
 5. Ability to show genuine interest in the particular school (fit)
- Summers:
 1. Find a camp, class or enrichment experience. Consider researching this opportunity on a university campus which you may be interested in attending when you graduate. For example, Stanford's Pre-Collegiate Summer Institute (ages 14-17) <https://summerinstitutes.stanford.edu/high-school> or Summer Session for high school students where you actually earn college credit (ages 16-19) <https://summer.stanford.edu/programs/high-school-students/>
PAVE at Vanderbilt-PAVE is a five-week Vanderbilt summer program designed for students who are planning to enter a college engineering, pre-medical/healthcare, humanities, science, or technology program- must have completed junior year <https://pave.vanderbilt.edu/ayindex.php>
Art: Summer at Penn <https://www.jkcp.com/program/art-summer-at-penn.php>
 2. Volunteer
 3. read 3-4 hours a day
 4. ACT, SAT and TOEFL test prep books and/or courses.
 5. **Get on your Naviance account and research what Wheaton Academy graduates' average GPAs and ACT mid -range scores are to be admitted at universities of interest to you.**
 6. Graduates sample profiles: 3.99 GPA, 36 ACT, took 8 APs, finished all of WA's math offerings and took math class online, interned at Fermi Lab, Quiz Bowl, Climbing Club- deferred/denied by MIT, admitted at Washington University in St. Louis, Vanderbilt, attending Notre Dame.
3.6 GPA, 27 ACT, a very good baseball pitcher, applied ED, admitted/attending University of Pennsylvania.
3.7 GPA, 34 ACT, 9 APs, played baseball, coached basketball/softball, applied ED, admitted Northwestern University Engineering.
3.9 GPA, 1370 SAT (approximate 34 ACT), 10 APs, 4 SAT II Subject test (all 700 or better), created/taught Haitian Creole language class, mix of homeschool, online, and Wheaton Academy courses throughout high school, extensive athletic, club, and volunteer work, various academic honors and awards. Denied at Princeton University and Williams College, admitted at Dartmouth College, admitted/attending Stanford University.

11th grade

- Fall: take ACT prep course, take ACT and SAT (SAT Subject tests if needed)
- Spring: Retake ACT, SAT
 - By March:
 1. Prepare resume (some universities offer/require an interview where a resume' can be useful)
 2. Complete Self-Assessment based on sample questions(Counselor uses this info for recommendation letter)
 3. Complete the "Do What You Are" survey in Naviance (under "About Me" tab)
 4. Parents should complete the parent survey online
 - Each junior has one-on-one junior college counseling meeting with university counselor
 - In April and May: take official TOEFL exam
 - At May meeting:
 1. Family in the home country will have a phone meeting with the WA university counselor to discuss college search process which will result in the family coming up with an application list of 6-10 schools over the summer
 2. Ask 2 teachers (typically from junior year) to write letters of recommendations for you over the summer (provide these teachers with your resume before leaving for summer break). Teachers should be selected from Math/Science and from the Humanities (English, History, or Foreign Language)
- Summer before 12th grade:
 1. Create Common Application account and write Common Application rough-draft essays for fall university admissions
 2. Narrow down a list of universities to which you will apply and review university stats together to finalize this list. Parents sign off on list.

12th grade year

- September:

Each senior meets with University Counselor to finalize list of universities and plan out completion of applications
- October and November: Complete university applications and essays with help from English teacher and university counselor
- By December 15: students apply to entire list of colleges (Typically, Nov 1 if early decision or Early Action)
- All admission decisions from universities come between December and the end of March.
- All seniors must declare one university to deposit and enroll on May 1st.
- **Families are welcome to contact Mr. Bart Gregersen, bgregersen@wheatonacademy.org anytime to ask questions or schedule a phone consultation on the university admissions process for their student!**