



## University advising for students at Wheaton Academy

**During 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade**, students should do the following to prepare for university admissions:

- Find PACE and PLACE
- All 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students take the PSAT in October
- Meet with college counselor to map out 4-year plan/discuss NCAA eligibility
- 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.spcs.stanford.edu/>
  2. or Summer Session for high school students where you actually earn college credit (ages 16-19) <https://spcs.stanford.edu/>  
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://admissions.vanderbilt.edu/prospective/precollege-programs.php>  
Art: Summer at Penn <https://jkcp.com/classes-at-enrichment/-studioart>
  3. Volunteer or a get summer job
  4. Begin ACT/SAT prep – summer following 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- **Get on your Naviance account and research what Wheaton Academy graduates' average GPAs and ACT mid-range scores are to be admissible at universities of interest to you.**

### **In 11<sup>th</sup> grade**

- Fall: take PSAT, take ACT/SAT prep class (SAT Subject tests if needed)
- Spring: register to take ACT and/or 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

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(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, May, or June: take official ACT/SAT exam
    - Ask two teachers (typically from junior year) to write letters of recommendations for you over the summer (provide these teachers with your Teacher's Letter of Recommendation Cheat Sheet before leaving for summer break). Teachers should be selected from Math/Science and from the Humanities (English, History, or Foreign Language)
  - Summer before 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **In 12<sup>th</sup> grade**

- 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 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Families are welcome to contact Mr. Bart Gregersen, [bgregersen@wheatonacademy.org](mailto:bgregersen@wheatonacademy.org) anytime to ask questions or schedule a phone consultation on the university admissions process for their student!**