



PLANNING FOR COLLEGE: FOURTH FORM

Overview:

During the second semester of Fourth Form year, students will learn about relevant college counseling topics, such as the importance of class work and developing self-advocacy skills, summer opportunities, making appropriate course choices, leadership and service, standardized testing, and the concept of creating a college profile over time. There are no one-on-one meetings scheduled between students (or parents) and counselors during the school year, but emailed questions are answered in a timely manner.

Tips for Students:

1. Take the PSAT (required for all Fourth Formers in October).
2. Continue to pursue your extracurricular activities in greater depth. This will allow you to cultivate leadership opportunities moving forward.
 - NOTE: It's okay to change your mind and to explore new activities. Don't cling to something that no longer interests you. Move on and get involved in something else you're excited about.
3. Continue talking to your advisor about your courses moving forward:
 - Are you ready to take APs? If so, how many? And in what subjects?
 - What is the right balance of courses that will challenge you appropriately *and* prepare you for college?
4. When possible, meet with college representatives who visit Asheville School.
5. Make use of family trips and vacations to take a first look at colleges. Don't plan a long, expensive trip, but instead visit some colleges near home – just as a starting point.
6. Make good use of your summer: get a job, go to camp or work as a camp counselor, volunteer in your community, travel, or take a class (it could be academic or extracurricular – a film class, for example). Pursue something that interests you.

Tips For Parents:

1. Read *College Admission: From Application to Acceptance, Step by Step* by Robin Mamlet and Christine Vandavelde, available in bookstores and online.
2. Begin financial planning for college now. Don't wait. Investigate college costs, use "Net Price Calculators" on colleges' websites, and plan ahead!
3. Plan to attend our Fifth Form College Weekend in February. Though geared towards Fifth Form students and parents, we also welcome under-form parents to attend and to learn from a panel of college admission officers. (NOTE: Third and Fourth Form students are not invited, but parents often find it helpful to get a preview of what to expect moving forward.)