



PLANNING FOR COLLEGE: FIFTH FORM

Overview:

For Fifth Formers, the formal college process begins in the winter. Each student is assigned a college counselor and has many one-on-one meetings where they get to know one another, create a standardized testing calendar, explore colleges, begin to make a college list and plan visits to college campuses. There are also class meetings that provide specific information on topics such as course registration, writing college essays or organizing an activity list. Parents of juniors are welcome to schedule meetings with their child's counselor after an initial student-counselor meeting has occurred.

Tips for Students:

1. Make the best grades possible in the strongest courses you can handle. Many college admission decisions (Early Action or Early Decision) will be based on your transcript through the end of junior year. Do your best to end junior year on a high note.
2. Continue to build a strong personal and extracurricular record through involvement in activities.
3. Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October (optional for Fifth Formers, but recommended for those US citizens who want to be considered for National Merit Scholarships).
4. Explore ACT/SAT tutoring options with help from the College Office.
5. Register to take the ACT or SAT in winter and/or spring. We recommend taking at least one ACT or SAT before the school year ends. We also recommend that students take SAT Subject Tests in May or June.
6. Fully engage in your group and individual meetings with the College Office: get to know us even better, respond thoroughly to questionnaires, and drop by our offices. We are here to support and advise you, so take advantage of our knowledge!
7. Meet and talk with college representatives who visit Asheville School during breakfast and conference period.
8. Research colleges using the resources available to you: the College Office, Naviance Family Connection, college websites, and guides (Fiske, Princeton Review).
9. Plan campus visits during long weekends and other school breaks. Our two-week spring break is a great time to visit colleges.
10. With the help of the College Office, start building a tentative list of colleges to apply to.
11. Ask two of your classroom teachers to write college recommendations for you. Don't jump the gun and ask in October of your junior year. Rest assured the College Office will guide you on when and whom to ask.

12. During the summer, work on college applications and essays.

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. Plan to attend our Fifth Form College Weekend in February to learn from experienced college admission Deans.
3. Plan to take your child on college visits, time and resources permitting. Spring Break is a great time, but feel free to use other breaks and long weekends as your schedule allows.
 - Work with your child and the College Office to target a balanced list of colleges to visit.
 - Ask in advance for vacation/personal days.
 - Book your travel.
 - Offer to help your child schedule tours online.
4. As your child begins to identify particular colleges, use “Net Price Calculators” for those colleges. Get a sense of what you might expect to pay, then call that college’s Financial Aid Office to talk about it.
5. Keep it all in perspective, and keep an open mind. The college admission landscape has changed dramatically since you applied to college. Listen to your child, and be open to exploring many possibilities.