COLLEGE COUNSELING INFORMATION PACKET
Your Future Awaits!
THE COLLEGE PROCESS AT PRESENTATION

The Presentation College Counseling Department celebrates the unique identities, values, and aspirations of each student. At Presentation, we believe that the transition to college is an opportunity for spiritual, academic, and personal growth.

We provide a comprehensive college advising program that empowers students to make their own decisions about their future. We teach students to value college fit over college placement by guiding each student in a thoughtful college search within the framework of their intellectual interests, personal strengths, and career aspirations. Our innovative and student-centered approach embraces the use of virtual resources to provide personalized advising to each student and their family.

At Presentation, students and families begin meeting individually with their college counselor in the 2nd semester of the junior year. However, in the years leading up to the first counseling meeting, students and families receive guidance and attend group meetings that provide guidance about course selection, college admissions testing, and extracurricular activities.

For students, the department hosts mentoring sessions that begin in the 2nd semester of sophomore year and individual meetings that begin in the 2nd semester of junior year. The department also provides online resources and workshops, hosts college representative visits, fairs, and additional college planning events to guide students and families through the college process.

For parents and guardians, the department hosts evening events that begin in the 2nd semester of sophomore year. Although we do not require parent/guardian meetings, we value partnership with parents and guardians and welcome meetings requests beginning the 2nd semester of the junior year.
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

10th Grade
- College Counseling Mentoring Sessions
- Naviance Account Access
- PreACT on Testing Day
- College Athletics Information Night
- Sophomore College Information Night
- Joint Sophomore College Night at Bellarmine
- Sophomore Testing Night
- College Visits
- College Counseling Webinars

11th Grade
- College Counseling Mentoring Sessions
- Individual Counseling Meetings
- Junior College Information Night
- PSAT/NMSQT on Testing Day
- College Athletics Information Night
- Junior College Workshop
- College Admission Case Studies Program
- Junior Financial Aid Night
- College Visits
- College Counseling Webinars

12th Grade
- College Counseling Mentoring Sessions
- Individual Counseling Meetings
- College Application Workshops
- Senior Parent College Night
- Senior Financial Aid Night
- Application Workshops
- College Visits
- Senior College Day
- College Counseling Webinars
OUR PHILOSOPHY

At Presentation, the college counselors teach students to value college fit over college placement by guiding each student in a thoughtful college search within the framework of their intellectual interests, personal strengths, and career aspirations. Students are asked to consider their values, preferences, environment, insight, and perspectives before looking outward for college information. Considering these personal priorities is essential to finding college fit.

Students are invited to attend informational sessions hosted by college representatives to begin gathering information about colleges and universities beginning in the freshman year. In the sophomore year, students learn about the college admissions landscape and are introduced to the college process.

In the junior year, students begin the college research process with their college counselor by identifying their college priorities and building a Foundation 5 college list. Foundation 5 colleges are colleges that meet student priorities in all five areas that categorize colleges (e.g. location, size, academic fit, social fit, and financial match). Once foundation colleges are established, students continue the college research and list building process and create a well-balanced college list.

Students and parents/guardians are given access to Naviance Student, an online platform used to research colleges, store test score information, build their college list, and access the fall college visit calendar. Students and parents get access to their Naviance accounts in the sophomore year. Naviance is also used by college counselors to send important supporting documents to colleges in a student’s senior year.
THE PRES COLLEGE TIMELINE

9th Grade
EXPLORE
Transition to Pres

10th Grade
PREPARE
PreACT + Intro to College Process + Naviance Access

11th Grade
RESEARCH
PSAT + SAT/ACT + College Research and List Building

12th Grade
APPLY
College Application Process
COLLEGE COUNSELING EXPECTATIONS

The College Counselor Will:

• Be available from 7:30 am - 3:30 pm during the calendared school year to advise students and families through the college admission and financial aid processes.
• Provide accurate college admissions and financial aid resources and information to Presentation students and parents/guardians.
• Advise, but not dictate, where and when a student submits a college application.
• Support only one early decision application (if applicable) and one enrollment decision.
• Teach students how to advocate for themselves in the application process and how to present themselves authentically.
• Write a comprehensive and honest letter of recommendation for each student when required by at least one college on their college list.
• Provide the following on time to colleges when required:
  » Secondary School Report
  » Presentation High School College Admissions Profile
  » Counselor Recommendation
  » 6th Semester Transcript
  » Quarter 1 Grade Report
  » 7th Semester Transcript
  » Final Transcript
• Comply with Presentation High School’s discipline reporting policy and report any incidents of academic dishonesty to colleges. Counselors will also work with students on how to appropriately disclose a disciplinary incident to colleges.
• Send one final transcript. Only wait list offers will be considered after May 1.
• Celebrate and respect each students’ post-secondary plans.

The Student Will:

• Attend mandatory college counseling programming throughout the year.
• Meet with their college counselor individually at least once a semester beginning the second semester of junior year.
• Be open to colleges suggested by their college counselor.
• Complete college applications honestly and on time.
• Maintain the high ethical standards throughout the entire college process.
• Be responsible for submitting all required application materials on time.
• Keep parents/guardians informed about their college plans and progress.
• Keep their college counselor informed and updated about their college priorities and application progress.
• If applicable, apply Early Decision to one college and withdraw all other applications if admitted. Students with financial aid concerns should wait until their financial aid information is confirmed before withdrawing all other applications.
• Read the college counseling newsletter and respond to emails from their college counselor.
• After applying, be responsible for checking their college portals for messages from colleges.
• Commit to enrolling at one college and complete a final transcript survey in their senior year.
• Celebrate/support their peers’ post-secondary plans without judgement.

The Parent/Guardian(s) Will:

• Understand and abide by the missions and philosophy of the Presentation College Counseling Department.
• Read the college counseling newsletter, The Advisor, the weekly parent email blast, and utilize their Naviance account to engage in college research with their student.
• Encourage their student to take the lead in the college process.
• Be open to colleges suggested by their student’s college counselor.
• Keep lines of communication open with their student and their college counselor.
• Maintain the high ethical standards throughout the entire college process.
• Ensure that their student commits to enroll and completes the steps to confirm enrollment at only one college.
COURSE SELECTION AND COLLEGE ADMISSION

Each year, students will build a unique and balanced schedule in partnership with their academic mentor. They will select coursework that meets both Presentation graduation requirements and minimum UC/CSU A-G requirements. The college counselors encourage students to take challenging courses (Honors and AP courses) that are appropriate for their level and align with their academic interests. Students who are pursuing college options in the United Kingdom should plan to take at least three Advanced Placement courses and exams before graduation.

Students must earn a C- or better in each of their academic courses to meet minimum A-G requirements and minimum 4-year college entrance requirements.

The table below shows the required and suggested college admissions requirements of most 4-year colleges in the United States. Although additional coursework could strengthen a student’s application, meeting or exceeding the minimum academic course requirements below does not guarantee admission to any specific college.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Presentation HS Graduation Requirements</th>
<th>UC/CSU A-G Minimum Requirements</th>
<th>4-year College/ University Suggested Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>(B) 4 years</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>(C) 3 years</td>
<td>3-4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>(D) 2 years</td>
<td>3-4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>3.5 years</td>
<td>(A) 2 years</td>
<td>3-4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language</td>
<td>3 years of the same language</td>
<td>(E) 2 years of same language</td>
<td>2-3 years recommended; 3-4 years per student interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual &amp; Performing Arts</td>
<td>2 years; Must complete 1 year in a single discipline</td>
<td>(F) 1 year (2 semesters) in a single discipline</td>
<td>2-4 years per student interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Preparatory Electives</td>
<td>3.5 years of religious studies + Computer Applications course</td>
<td>(G) 1 year (2 semesters), in addition to those required in “A-F” above</td>
<td>Take additional electives per student interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COLLEGE APPLICATION COMPONENTS

In senior year, students are responsible for submitting required components of their college applications. Below are the typical requirements to apply to a 4-year college.

- Online Application
- Official 6th semester high school transcript
- Official 7th semester high school transcript (midyear transcript)
- Teacher Evaluation(s)
- Counselor Evaluation
- Essay(s)
- SAT and/or ACT Scores
- Application Fee Waiver(s)
COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTING

The Presentation college counselors will work with each student to create an individualized testing plan. Standardized tests are only one piece of information that colleges use to evaluate an applicant and should be completed anytime before the application process begins. To help prepare students, all students will take the PreACT in the sophomore year and the PSAT/NMSQT in the junior year.

The COVID-19 pandemic has prompted the majority of colleges in the U.S. to move to test-optional admission policies beginning with the fall 2021 application cycle. Under a test-optional policy, students are not required, but have the option of submitting standardized test scores. Although testing still holds some value in the holistic review process, students and families should understand that taking challenging coursework and maintaining a strong academic profile are more important in the review process.

The college counselors suggest students take their first SAT and/or ACT in the spring semester of the junior year. There is no benefit in the holistic review process to taking the SAT and/or ACT before the spring semester of the junior year. SAT Subject Test scores are not required by any colleges in the U.S. and are no longer recommended for admission to UC/CSU campuses.

THE COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

The Presentation college counselors are deeply committed to guiding students and families through the financial aid process. Through student mentoring sessions, workshops, and parent evening events, all students, parents, and guardians will learn the basics of the financial aid process. With guidance from their college counselor, students will consider college cost and ability to receive merit-based financial aid when building their college list. They will also learn how to apply for both federal and state need-based financial aid.

FOR ATHLETES

Presentation students who are interested in playing a sport in college will work closely with their college counselor to ensure they complete the necessary steps to meet eligibility and complete the college recruiting process. They will understand the differences between NCAA Division I, II, and III and the process to meet NCAA eligibility. Students will also learn how to express interest and communicate effectively with college coaches and create an athletic resume with the hope of committing and applying to the athletic program of their choice.
THE COLLEGE APPLICATION GUIDE

Students and families are given a helpful resource in the senior year to guide them through the college application process. The Presentation College Application Guide provides important information about how to complete each step of the application process. The guide will be used in conjunction with individual college advising and group mentoring sessions. Download yours at: bit.ly/collegeappguide2021
COUNSELOR CONTACT INFORMATION

The Presentation College Counseling Office is open from 7:30 am - 3:30 pm on Monday through Friday during the school year. To learn more about the Presentation College Counseling Program, please contact one of the college counselor’s below:

Ms. Chelsea Althouse  
Co-Director of College Counseling  
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Ms. Anya Ishida  
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