



College Counseling

From the moment you set foot in the Upper School, you will take part in exceptional college preparation, both in and out of the classroom. Each family will work with a seasoned college counselor to design a plan that is tailored to each student's unique strengths, goals and dreams. Together, you will create a successful strategy for course selection, standardized testing and develop a list of colleges that are the most suitable. You will also assemble a highly competitive application that includes compelling essays/personal statements and co-curricular accomplishments. Our goal is for each student to choose the institution that is the most ideal fit, so that you can continue your journey filled with a positive disposition for learning, and a lifelong love of creativity, curiosity and wonder.

College Advising Process

The college advising process at Chase is designed to introduce students and their families to the importance of course selection, academic achievement and co-curricular involvement as early as the freshman year. Parents and students are encouraged to become familiar with the College Office throughout their time at Chase to help them develop a relationship with their college counselor and work together to ultimately select a college in the senior year that will best fit the student's individual talents, interests, and aspirations. The college advising process timeline outlines the four-year process of college selection.

Grade 9

While the focus of students' goals and efforts in Grade 9 should be on making the adjustment to the Upper School community, conversations about college do filter into their experience through planned programs.

- Students meet with the Director of College Counseling in the Spring semester of their 9th grade year to participate in activities designed to help them understand the importance of good study habits, getting involved and how to direct their studies toward preparing them to make curricular choices that will benefit the college process in the senior year.

Grade 10

By grade 10 students should be on track to solidify their academic and extracurricular

experience at Chase. During the sophomore year, more of an emphasis is placed on becoming familiar with the College Office and standardized testing.

- *PSAT/NMSQT Administration:* All students in grade 10 are required to take the PSAT (preliminary SAT) administered on the date designated by the College Board in mid-October.
- *PreACT Administration:* All grade 10 students take the PreACT in early May
- *College by the Numbers:* Grade 10 students meet in small groups in the College Counseling Office to review how to interpret their PSAT scores and understand how to read their transcript. They are introduced to how colleges use test scores, GPA, and other factors in the college admission process.
- *Course Selection Advising:* Students may elect to meet with the Director of College Counseling to discuss their academic plan for junior and senior years.

Grade 11

The bulk of the college advising process takes place within the junior year. Students and families will begin with a kick off meeting to discuss the ins and outs of the process and proceed with one-on-one conferences with their college counselor throughout the year to develop an individualized approach to the college search including the development of prospective college lists, college visit strategies, interview practice, and more.

- *PSAT/NMSQT Administration:* As in the previous year, all students are required to take the PSAT/NMSQT in October. By taking this exam as a junior, students are eligible to enter the National Merit Scholarship Corporation programs and gain access to valuable college and career planning tools.
- *Grade 11: Intro to the College Process:* This mandatory event for all students and families is designed to provide detailed information about the college process and tools that are used in the College Office to assist students throughout the college search and application process. In the past, representatives from a variety of colleges were invited to speak and share their advice with students and families.
- *Standardized Test Preparation Courses:* The College Office can refer students to numerous standardized testing preparation programs, including those offered by [Summit Education Group](#).
- *College Visits:* Students and their families are strongly encouraged to various college campuses during their March break and the summer before their senior year. Visits are a good way to gain a better understanding of the academic environment and college atmosphere that is most appealing to them.

- *College Fair Participation:* Chase Collegiate School partners with the Taft School to host a college fair for area students. All students in Grade 11 are required to attend. During the fair, students have the opportunity to interact with college representatives from across the world to discuss academic programs and admission criteria. Families are encouraged to attend as well.
- *Essay Writing Workshops and Coaching:* In an effort to prepare Chase students to write an authentic college essay, a workshop led by English Department faculty is held during junior spring to discuss approaches that will help them understand the importance of topic choice and finding their own voice. Grade 11 students will then have the opportunity to work with an English Department faculty member to finalize their essays.

Grade 12

The focus of the beginning of the senior year is finalizing college lists and submitting college applications. Grade 12 students and families work together with the College Office to submit all necessary materials to be considered for college admission. Once college decisions are released, students will work with their college counselor to review options and finalize their choice on which college to attend.

- *Senior College Night:* A final meeting with all parents and students in Grade 12 to discuss admission plans, including Early Action, Early Decision, Regular Decision and Rolling Admission. Additionally, students will review their transcripts and submit all necessary paperwork to the College Office to authorize the processing of their application materials.
- *College Representative Visits:* Each year the College Office hosts more than 80 college admission representatives for individual visits in the fall. The goal of these visits is to renew and strengthen the school's existing relationships with college admission officers, as well as to reach out to new ones. When possible, students are encouraged to attend these sessions to make important face-to-face connections with the representatives. Grade 12 students and families are able to see a complete list of scheduled visits in Naviance.
- *Financial Aid Workshop:* Grade 12 families and students are encouraged to attend a presentation on the Financial Aid process at the college level. A representative from a University Financial Aid department will present this valuable information.
- *Grade 12 Transition to College:* This evening program is presented by the College Office and the School Counselor. It takes place toward the end of the spring semester, after all students have made their decision on a college of choice. Parents and students are presented with topics of conversation and

difficult questions to consider as they prepare to say “goodbye” and make the transition to college.

Standardized Testing

Understanding that standardized testing is an important part of many college admission review processes, the Chase Collegiate School College Office works with students to develop the best approach to a standardized testing plan.

- **SAT** (www.collegeboard.org)
The SAT is designed to demonstrate what you know as well as how well you can apply that knowledge. The test is comprised of three sections: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, Math and Essay. Students are encouraged to take the SAT more than once because most colleges will “superscore” their results. This means that the college will put together the highest subset score regardless of exam date to determine the most competitive total score for consideration.
- **SAT Subject Tests**
The SAT Subject Tests are offered in five general subject areas: English, History, Languages, Mathematics, and Sciences. Not all colleges require the submission of SAT subject scores for admission consideration. Students should meet with the Director of College Counseling to receive individual guidance on whether or not they should take the SAT Subject Tests.
- **ACT** (www.actstudent.org)
The ACT consists of subject area sections in: English, Math, Reading, and Science. An optional Writing portion is also available. Many colleges do “superscore” the ACT. As such, students are encouraged to take the test more than once since the ACT allows students to elect which scores they want to send to colleges.
- **TOEFL** (www.ets.org/toefl)
The TOEFL test is the most widely accepted English-language proficiency test in the world and the primary test required by colleges for admission consideration for international students. The internet-based test is formatted to include four language skills measured in: reading, listening, speaking and writing. All international students attending Chase are advised to take the TOEFL as well as the SAT and/or ACT for college admission consideration.