College Counseling
Academy’s College Counseling Program

Throughout their years at Academy at the Lakes, students engage in a balanced college-preparatory curriculum under the guidance of a dedicated and talented faculty. Academy students develop the skills that are necessary to succeed in college and career: critical thinking, research and analysis, and writing and presentation skills. Our students learn how to collaborate, solve problems, hone their interpersonal communication skills, and become confident young adults who lead by example to inspire purpose and passion in others.

Academy at the Lakes’ college counseling department offers students and their parents extensive, individualized advising in preparation for the college admission process.

It is our goal to help each student find the best “fit” for college, academically, socially, and financially. Finding the ideal match means finding a place that helps students fulfill their personal goals for higher education and offers the tools, opportunities and support for students to successfully take the next steps in their lives and careers.

Time and focus is spent in each year of Upper Division to further students’ self-discovery and to prepare and guide students through the college admissions process.
### 9th Grade
- Develop a four-year academic and activities plan; assist with scheduling courses
- Prepare for and take the PSAT in October
- Learning Style Inventory
- Focus on developing strong study skills and habits
- College visits
- Discussion of summer opportunities

### 10th Grade
- Continuation and revision of four-year academic and activities plan; assist with scheduling courses
- Prepare for and take the PSAT in October
- College search skills and familiarization of college application content
- Career Interest Inventory
- College visits
- Discussion of summer opportunities

### 11th Grade
- Continuation and revision of four-year academic and activities plan; assistance with scheduling courses
- Prepare for and take the PSAT in October
- Preparing for college fairs and informational sessions
- Resumé preparation
- College Forum: details of the college search process and application elements
- Brown bag lunches with juniors and college counselors
- Senior panel presentation
- Essay preparation
- Creation of long list of colleges
- Discussion of summer opportunities and tasks
- Individual meetings with students and parents
- College and college representative visits
- Parent to Parent session for parents of Juniors

### 12th Grade
- Creation of short list of colleges
- Financial aid process
- Individual meetings with students and parents
- Essay writing and editing; application review
- Counselor and teacher recommendation letters
- Mock interview sessions
- Alumni panel presentation
- Transition to college sessions
- College and college representative visits
Our college counselors spend a significant amount of time in individual sessions with parents. College counselors answer questions, offer advice, schedule and develop four-year academic plans, and provide guidance about the college admission and financial aid processes.

In addition, the following parent programs are offered:

**9th Grade**
- Overview of College Counseling program
- Athletic Recruiting & Admissions Process
- Financial Aid Process

**10th Grade**
- Overview of College Counseling program
- Athletic Recruiting & Admissions Process
- Financial Aid Process

**11th Grade**
- College Forum: Details of College Search & Admissions Process
- Athletic Recruiting & Admissions Process
- Financial Aid Process
- Parent to Parent Session

**12th Grade**
- Financial Aid Process
- Transition to College – Senior Parent Coffee

**Post-Graduate**
- Care Package Party for parents of recent graduates

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