

Working with College Counseling

During your first meeting with your college counselor, you will:

- Review your academic performance in high school;
- Discuss courses you are considering taking in your senior year;
- Identify potential recommendation writers;
- Review Naviance and its features;
- Discuss your standardized testing sequence;
- Begin to identify colleges and universities of interest.

Over the course of the semester:

- You will meet formally with your college counselor at least twice.
- Your college counselor will encourage you to be an active researcher and identify schools that pique your interest.
- Your college counselor will meet with your parents in April, May, or June to discuss progress and address specific concerns.

Your search and selection process will go most smoothly if you do the following:

- **Check FirstClass and be responsive to requests from College Counseling.** We will not email you unless the information is relevant and important to your college search. Since email is our primary means of contacting you, we expect you to check it regularly. You will also find important college counseling updates posted in your Class Folder from time to time.
- **Be thoughtful and engaged.** No one can get you into college but you! It is your responsibility to stay involved in the process by meeting with your counselor, doing your research, and thinking about what kind of college will be best for you. The outcomes of your college search will be directly linked to the quality of work and research you put into it.
- **Be proactive.** Stay ahead of deadlines. Ask questions. Use Naviance to access information. Anticipate problems before they become emergencies. Don't leave things until the last minute!
- **Be honest.** Don't mislead your counselor, your classmates, or your colleges. Keep Baylor's Honor Code in mind as you move through the search and application process.
- **Communicate.** Keeping your parents and your counselor up-to-date on your thoughts and actions will prevent unnecessary nagging, needling, and conflict:



- **Think for yourself.** Not everything you hear about individual schools from friends, social media outlets, or online blogs is accurate or true. It is in your best interest to do your own research and develop well-informed opinions of schools you may include in your list. Respectfully consider the advice your counselor offers you. Don't feel the need to justify your list to peers.
- **Don't let the college process affect your sense of personal worth.** Remember that admissions decisions are not a reflection of your value as a human being, nor is the college you attend. The college admissions process is unpredictable and complex, but it is not an indication of how successful you will ultimately be as a student or citizen.

Working with College Counseling

| Your responsibilities as an <u>Applicant:</u> | What you can expect from your <u>Counselor:</u> | What you can expect from the <u>Office of College Counseling:</u> |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take ownership of your college search. • Be aware of and meet application, financial aid, and scholarship deadlines. Naviance can help you with this! • Be informed about every school on your list. Know why you're applying to each school and be responsible in your research. • Keep Naviance up-to-date. • Request transcripts for applications, coaches, and scholarships through Naviance well in advance of deadlines (12th grade) • Order score reports from ACT or College Board (SAT) by logging into your account. <i>We cannot send these to your colleges for you</i> (12th grade). • Ask questions when you don't understand something. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance and support throughout the process. We chose to be college counselors because we like helping students! Please take advantage of the resources our office provides to you. • Help building your college list. We use our knowledge and experience to make recommendations so that your list is comprehensive and balanced. • An open door and an open mind. Support for every student and acknowledgement of each student as an individual with a unique personality, talents, background, and interests. We are always willing to listen to any question, frustration, fear, success or disappointment. • Honesty. Data and experience help your college counselor understand which colleges and universities are realistic choices and which might or might not be a good fit. Be prepared to receive honest feedback from us with respect to your list, and remember that this is not a judgment of your intelligence, talent, or value as a human being. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about events and deadlines. Remember to check your email and your Class Folder regularly. • Timely transmission of your transcript and letters of recommendation when you make your request through Naviance by our office's deadlines (12th grade). • Opportunities to connect with colleges through college visits to Baylor, the annual College Fair, College Forum, Case Studies Program and other events. Please take advantage of these opportunities to meet and talk with admissions counselors. • Up-to-date knowledge and information. We visit college campuses regularly and attend conferences with other college and admissions counselors. This enables us to provide you with updated information and well-informed opinions of colleges and universities you may be considering. |