

**College Seminar meets weekly during the school day
January to June for Juniors as follows:**

- I. A glossary of terms, the dispelling of common myths
 - a. Junior Survey I
 - b. Family Info Sheet
 - c. Parent Response Form
 - d. First one-on-one meeting

- II. Characteristics of a school and your personal priorities: financial aid and scholarships, Greek life and social, academics and specific programs, proximity to home, rural or urban, prestige, access to professors, class size and rigor of academics, rigid or flexible curriculum, ratio of undergraduate to graduate students, 4-year graduation rate, percentage of students living on campus, access to undergraduate research, internship opportunities, study abroad, FIGS, orientation, Jan or May term, majors and concentrations, academic advising.

- III. Examining your Hewitt experience to see where it leads in the college search. Consider the biggest decision your parents have ever left to you and why they could trust you with it. What will you need to show in your research of schools and understanding of yourself to take command of your college search and the choices you make for yourself?

- IV. The Common Application and the additional info personal statement. Junior College Night II (ppt posted in Naviance documents). The role of standardized testing in admissions (domestic and abroad) and the building a testing plan that serves your academic program and reflects careful college research.

- V. Standardized testing grid and the school calendar; www.fairtest.org and score optional schools.

- VI. The Common Application continued, page by page with open Q&A: www.commonapp.org

- VII. Naviance personal logins given and college search engine, scholarship and summer opportunities search engines revisited.

- VIII. The extracurricular resume, Naviance format feeds the Common Application format; alternative formats distributed (and available in Naviance docs); discussion of the Art Supplement and the role of faculty recommendations.

- IX. The Short Answer Essay is assigned then reviewed during two successive Seminar Sessions, with juniors reading aloud in small groups.

- X. Shaping the college list through research and ongoing communication; making campus visits throughout the spring, summer (end of summer before you return to school, when campuses will be crawling with students) and on those long weekends you can anticipate in the fall. Planning ahead, taking notes, the College Visit Memory Tickler to organize your thoughts and keep track of emerging personal priorities.
- XI. Sample applications for mock admissions committee, confirming spring testing plans in one-on-one meetings.
- XII. Example of short answer essay shared—draft of Short Answer essay due week of 9 May. Students are encouraged to browse the sites of schools to which they know they will apply, to get a sense of supplemental essay questions (these go live over the summer, but typically do not change dramatically from year to year). Long Junior Questionnaire goes out to students in May, due back to College Guidance mid-June.
- XIII. Instructions on requesting faculty recommendations after registration for classes and before heading off into summer (final weeks of May).
- XIV. The Personal Statement, to be drafted and workshopped in junior English sections during the final weeks of junior year.
- XV. Ongoing discussion of emerging priorities as they are directing each student's balanced list of schools. In one-on-one meetings throughout May, students are confirming summer plans, senior year academic program, and what the individual spring testing plan means, looking ahead to fall testing dates and college deadlines.
- XVI. Rising seniors will begin working on the Common Application once it goes live for 2011-12 applicants on July 1. Seniors will then have an opportunity to bring their work to school for an optional Q&A guided workshop, on to-be-designated dates, one in late July, another two in the last week of August.
- XVII. Essay writing input/guidance and list development are ongoing throughout the summer months.

College Seminar reconvenes in fall of Senior Year.