

Ready for College and Life

Watershed's college counseling program is designed to support each student in finding their "best fit" college. Authenticity and support lies at the heart of this focus. Colleges want unique people with character, passions, and direction. We help students find, foster, and communicate this through college searches, interviews, applications, and decisions.

College Prep Seminars

Watershed's college counseling classes begin with SAT/ACT test prep in sophomore and junior year to prepare students to perform at their best on standardized tests. Sophomores take the PSAT prior to the test preparation series to get a baseline score and understand how to focus their studying efforts. Students take the SAT/ACT's in the winter of junior year. In the spring of junior year the College Seminars begin. During Junior Seminar, students are working on their college searches, exploring gap year opportunities, completing a strengths reflection, writing resumes, practicing interview skills, and writing application essay outlines. This is a time for the students to do some guided daydreaming and focused prep before the college application process begins.

The Senior Seminar class is for students to narrow their college choices, work on college applications, write essays and supplements, get feedback on how to best represent oneself in an application, set up interviews, apply for scholarships, and talk through the upcoming transition with our college counselor. Each seminar meets once a week and students and parents also meet individually with the college counselor to address specific needs throughout the process.

In the spring of senior year, students take a Senior Passages course. In addition to academic and community development, Watershed supports students in their natural transitions between life stages. Senior Passages is a course designed to foster a healthy dialogue about what it means to move into the independence and responsibilities of life beyond high school.

These classes are designed to support students in finding the schools that will be the best fit for the individual to create a positive transition into college as well as prepare them for the life transition that comes with graduation.

At Watershed, we see college preparation as a four year process that involves consultation with the College Counselor, programming during the school day, and the active involvement of students in pursuing their passions and staying on top of their school work.

Grade	Focus of College Process
9th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Focus on academic success and personal interests● Find a balance with future planning and consistent academic success

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Make summer plans, such as internships, jobs, and volunteerism, to pursue interests in depth
10th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Take the PSAT at Watershed in the fall● SAT/ACT prep course starts in the spring● Get involved in activities that interest you● Continue actively pursuing interests in the summer● Be aware of graduation requirements and plan● Maintain academic success
11th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● SAT/ACT prep course continues in the fall● Take the SAT and ACT in the winter and spring (more than once)● College visits● Maintaining academic success is critical● Junior seminar in the spring helps you build your college list● Envision life beyond high school
12th Grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Take the SAT and ACT once more if needed● Finalize college list● Work on college applications● Interview with colleges● Senior Seminar in the fall walks you through the college application process. In the spring it walks you through the transition out of high school