

## Frequently asked questions

### **How does my student access transcripts?**

To request official transcripts, students must use Parchment, a third party service provider. For students who have not already created their Parchment accounts, they should create their free account, which is used for all official transcript requests not related to college applications and will also be the vehicle for any requests your child makes as an alum. Unofficial transcripts can also be accessed through Parchment or through Infinite Campus, once they have been updated for the year. College Counseling is responsible for distributing transcripts to the colleges.

### **When will I find out who my child's college counselor is?**

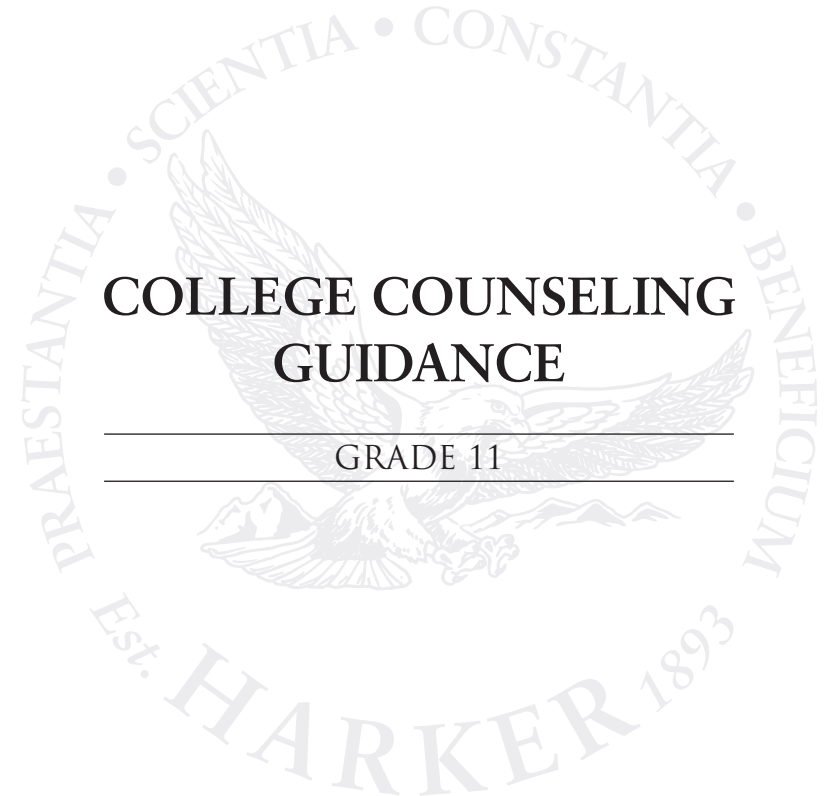
Students will be informed of their college counselor at the beginning of Semester 2, when College Counseling officially begins.

### **Should my student take the SAT or ACT?**

Deciding to take the SAT, the ACT or both is a personal decision. In order to make this choice, it is recommended that students take a diagnostic test for both. The PSAT will serve as a diagnostic for the SAT. Students can also take an ACT diagnostic to see which test best suits their testing style and strengths.

### **Can my child drop a class?**

Students wishing to change their schedules should consult with their advisor, the academic counselor, and/or the assistant division head; the upper school head must approve all such proposed changes. Student-initiated class level changes or class drops will not be considered after Nov. 1 for semester 1 or April 1 for semester 2 classes.



# COLLEGE COUNSELING GUIDANCE

GRADE 11



**HARKER**  
Est. 1893 · K-12 College Prep



**HARKER**  
Est. 1893 · K-12 College Prep

### **Upper School**

500 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, CA 95129 | 408.249.2510

## Extracurricular activities

It is important that students strike a balance between their course load and extracurricular activities. In the junior year, extracurricular activities can afford important opportunities that will serve to develop essential life skills. These opportunities can prove to be as impactful for development as academic courses. Additionally, we encourage students to be realistic about the time commitments in all areas of their lives.

## Standardized tests

- **PSAT:** Students will take the PSAT at Harker on Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023. Harker oversees the registration process for all juniors. Performance on this PSAT will be considered by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation in their competition. While this has no impact on college admissions, it can be useful for scholarships in college.
- **SAT or ACT:** Students are encouraged to sit for the SAT or ACT at least once by the end of their junior year (June is not too late). This will allow a student to take another standardized test in the fall, if so desired.

## Course selection: January 2024

As eleventh graders, students can function fairly independently on course selection using the Infinite Campus Academic Planner module. The school will use students' saved selections as the starting point for their classes the following year. Students have considerable freedom in choosing electives for grade 12; they are required to take one year of English and strongly encouraged to take one year of math. Should students have questions about course selections, they should consult their college counselor.

## Summer

Students are encouraged to explore ways to pursue their interests that align with how the family would like to allocate resources. There is no one correct way to spend a summer; however, students should dedicate some time to further explore their college options, organize college applications, and begin writing essays. Should a summer program require a teacher recommendation, the student should follow Harker's process and ask the teacher no less than four weeks in advance of the deadline. It is helpful for our teachers' workloads if a student asks as few teachers as possible.

PSAT/NMSQT is a registered trademark of the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

## Important Events

- **Parent & Student Event:** A Healthy Approach to College Admissions (Nov. 14, 2023)
- **Student Event:** PSAT (Oct. 11, 2023)
- **Parent Event:** Grade 11 College Night & Course Selection (Jan. 17, 2024)

## College Counseling: The fun begins in January 2024

Harker's mission is to educate students for success at college and beyond. We help our students discover their passions and find colleges that align with their talents, personalities and goals. We take pride in the wide range of colleges on our matriculation list, representing the great diversity of talent and interests possessed by Harker students and alumni.

The following activities compose the first part of the formal college counseling experience:

- Students and families begin individual meetings with their college counselors.
- Students attend college counseling classes on key topics.
- Families should schedule visits to colleges over February and/or spring breaks.

## Harker Graduation Requirement Progress Check

- Complete classes that satisfy the U.S. History, English 3, biology and math requirements.
- Earn at least 5 academic credits this year.
- Continue to earn P.E. credits (2.0 credits are needed to graduate). Students should contact Mr. Alfredo Alves at [alfredo.alves@harker.org](mailto:alfredo.alves@harker.org) with any questions. Complete 30 Community Service hours by spring break of grade 11.