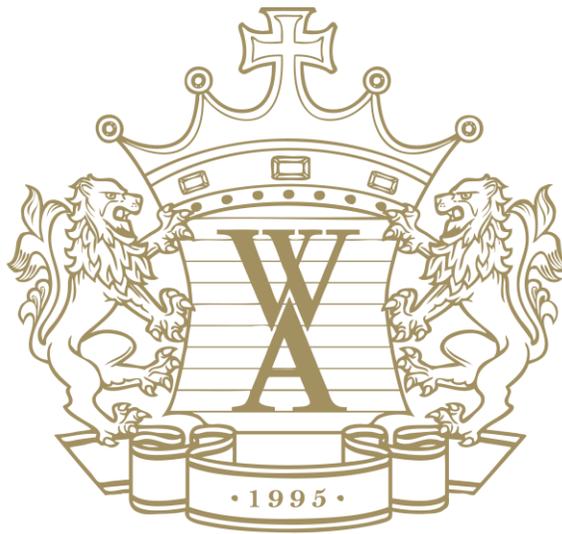


WHITEFIELD ACADEMY

College and Career Handbook



WHITEFIELD ACADEMY

A Classical Christian Education

Graduating

Christ-Focused

Critical Thinkers, Clear Communicators, & Compassionate Leaders



PORTRAIT OF THE GRADUATE

Knowing that mankind's purpose is to glorify God and enjoy him forever (Revelation 4:11), Whitefield Academy seeks to equip our graduates...

- Through the skills of reading comprehension, analysis, and synthesis to confirm truth and correct error in themselves and their communities
- To communicate, both in writing and speech with respect and wisdom, to recognize the needs and interests of an audience
- To live in God's kingdom, under Christ's lordship, by the Holy Spirit's power, according to Scripture
- With the mind of Christ, preparing them for service in the local church, community, and world: purposeful, self-sacrificing, and confident
- To be mindful of the physical component of classical education and practice a healthful lifestyle

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COLLEGE COUNSELING INFORMATION

Whitefield academic counseling exists to come alongside students and their parents with college and career advising. Please let me know how I can help you with the process. Mrs. Katie Theiss, ktheiss@whitefieldacademy.org

APPOINTMENTS AND MEETINGS

Appointment Times

Mrs. Theiss will schedule initial and follow-up appointments with students in the senior, junior and sophomore classes.

Group Meetings

Sophomore and junior students will have the opportunity to attend *Knowledge for College* held each year. This is an overview which includes the college search, options other than college, the application process, financial considerations, scholarship information, and a look at standardized testing. Seniors may attend if needed. A special college advising class will be held for 9th graders in the fall.

Parents are encouraged to attend *Knowledge for College* at least once, preferably during the sophomore year. These meetings provide valuable insight into the process of college admissions and allow you to express any concerns or ask questions.

Other Events

Please be aware that other events may be added to the college and career calendar throughout the year. Look for handouts and email notifications of these new events as well as an updated spring calendar.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE SCALE

Percent %	Grade	Grade Point
90-100	A	4.0
80-89	B	3.0
70-79	C	2.0
60-69	D	1.0
50 or Below	F	0

Whitefield Academy's GPA is calculated on a 4.0 scale and is unweighted. College, honors programs and scholarship applications often ask for this information. We do not rank, and it is recommended to put the words "do not rank" when asked for ranking on applications.

Grades transferred from elective courses, independent study courses, college and/or correspondence courses, and work completed in home school settings may apply toward graduation requirements but are not factored

into the cumulative GPA.

Most schools require a minimum GPA for admission, but the average GPA of students accepted is usually higher. Check the institution's admissions webpage for details. Most all colleges convert a weighted GPA to a 4-point scale.

The difficulty of coursework and overall GPA play a large role in an institution's evaluation of you as a student.

COMMUNITY SERVICE, VOLUNTEERING AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Volunteering is a great way to not only improve a college application resume and help the community, but it also will tell you a lot about yourself.

Are you thinking of becoming a teacher? Volunteer to teach Sunday school or assist an organization that helps children. Would you like to be a doctor? There are abundant opportunities to volunteer with hospitals. Freshmen and sophomores should cast their net wide and focus on a wide variety of volunteer and community service. Juniors and seniors should focus instead on consistent, long-term involvement.

Colleges are looking for well-rounded students who have learned a lot about themselves through their chosen activities, and who they believe will perform well in their coursework. Additionally, they are looking for personal

qualities that will add to their campus culture. Contrary to popular belief, it is often not about how much you have done or accomplished; admissions officers have been known to discard long resumes. It is instead about the quality and length of the work you have done and how much it shows your true self.

Ideally, you want to have the total package: strong GPA, high test scores, consistent school leadership, and volunteer service. However, if your grades or test scores are weak, strong and consistent school leadership and volunteer service could save your application from the deny pile. It is important to note that large state universities put more weight on the GPA and test scores than do smaller colleges. Smaller liberal arts colleges are more likely to give more weight to a student's involvement in various activities.

Community Service – Your Own Initiative

Have you discovered a need in your community? Start your own initiative to meet the need! Colleges love to see a student who is Whitefield Academy College Handbook

willing to step up to help on their own. This shows leadership. But remember: do not do this for the sole purpose of building your

college resume.

How Extracurricular Activities Affect College Admissions

Similar to any volunteer work you do, your inside and outside of school activities show where your true passions lie. Getting involved in clubs, summer camps, online classes, etc. shows that you have drive and initiative in the things in which you are interested. Colleges are also looking for lifelong learners – students who seek ways to learn even in their free time.

Again, quality and length of activity is important. Stay with the clubs and organizations that interest you the most and

finish any short-term programs that you start.

Also, be aware that colleges appreciate students who get involved in their own pre-college or summer programs. If there is a university that you think you might want to attend and they have a summer program of some kind for high school students, get involved. Not only will you get to experience the campus and learn but you will meet other prospective students.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

PSAT

Students will take the PSAT in October of their sophomore and junior years. The 10th grade year is considered practice for the PSAT to be taken in the junior year. National Merit Scholarship Honors are awarded to those in the country who score at the very highest level. Initial qualification for the National Merit Scholarship is announced in April following

the test. The following September, high scoring students are notified as to whether they are a semi-finalist or a commended student. Finalists will be announced in February then in March and continuing into June, recipients of National Merit Scholarships will be announced.

ACT, CLT and SAT

The ACT tests five subject areas including English, math, reading, science, and optionally, writing. The SAT tests reading, math and writing. The CLT tests verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning and grammar/writing. All three tests require each student set up an

account. Remember the user name and password for each site as you will need to use it each time you need a score sent to a college. Approximately 800 colleges are now “test optional” therefore, not requiring any standardized exam.

AP, SAT Subject Tests and CLEP Testing

The AP English Language Exam is taken by all Juniors: *parents contacted by test coordinator email in February; testing is in May.*

Students are able to take AP (Advanced Placement) exams in May during high school. SAT Subject test are taken at specified times by the College Board. CLEP (College Level Examination Program) exams may be taken following high school and into their college years. If passed, students may earn college credit. Acceptance and availability vary from one college to another so it is important to contact testing officials prior to committing time and money to the exams.

While the coursework at Whitefield Academy has prepared students for some parts of each exam, it is recommended that the student review and examine the exact content of each test in order to fully prepare. Use the ACT, SAT and CLT websites for practice tests. Khan Academy is another source to work with regarding the PSAT and Princeton Review and www.number2.com have practice help for the ACT.

Do I take the ACT, SAT, / CLT? When to take and how many times?

WA's recommendation is that you take your first ACT and CLT in the early or late spring of junior year to establish baseline scores. Students may then want to take the SAT. Note that the SAT tests knowledge gained in the Common Core curriculum used in public and some private schools. WA does not use any of the Common Core Curriculum.

You may request a full report of scores for additional information on which areas you need to study for a second round of test-taking in the summer or early fall of senior year. Please note it is unwise to take any standardized exam repeatedly without any study in between tests. You are unlikely to improve your scores and will waste mo

Should I take the ACT Writing?

Yes. Whitefield students have traditionally excelled in this. Schools that accept the ACT normally want to see these results at least one time.

How do schools view my scores?

Many schools practice what is called "super scoring." They will combine the best scores from separate testing dates. Some schools, however, will only look at a single test date. It is perfectly acceptable to ask an admissions officer when visiting a school if they practice "super scoring."

When should I take the tests?

Before Junior Year:

A student may choose to test in June at the end of their sophomore year. Most do not test at all until their junior year, after taking the PSAT in October.

Junior Year:

October – Take the PSAT (WA covers cost for juniors and sophomores)

December, February, April – Take the ACT

May – Take the CLT, take SAT if you think you will want a comparison to the ACT

April, June, or July – Re-take the ACT

Senior Year:

September – December – Take the ACT, CLT one last time if you need to improve your scores.

It's recommended that all testing be completed by the last exam of the calendar year at the latest.

Testing Websites

<https://actstudent.org>

<https://sat.collegeboard.org>.

<https://clep.collegeboard.org/exams>

<https://.psat.org>

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org>

<https://www.cltexam.com>

CHOOSING A COLLEGE

First, it is important to view college not as an admissions prize or a label of prestige but as a path to your future. You do not want to end up at a big name university with no program in your desired areas of study or where you cannot be a part of the campus life and its activities.

Second, make a list of colleges in which you are interested. Keep it under 15 schools and dream big! Remember that many of the top schools offer very generous scholarships to the right candidate, so do not rule out an expensive-looking school because of the advertised tuition costs. Sticker price is not the same as the actual cost of attendance.

Think about your own preferences. Would you be comfortable in a school with 150 people in each class or do you prefer something smaller? Do newer buildings impress you or do you

prefer something older with character? Is it important for you to be on a Christian campus? Does a liberal arts-oriented university fit your needs or would a school with a large engineering program work better? How far away from home do you want to be? Should you be close enough to enable you to travel home on weekends, or just Christmas and summer? How is the weather in these locations? Are you miserable in rainy, cold weather or do you live for those days? How is the dorm life at these universities? Is it considered a “party” school? Is there a thriving Christian community on campus?

It is a lot to think about, but it will help you narrow your list of schools. Trim the list to 5-10 schools and try to visit as many as possible. Visiting a campus will help you solidify your decisions and preferences.

Campus Visits

- Visit the admissions webpage of the colleges you would like to visit. This page should have instructions for setting up a visit. It will also list open house and group visit days.
- It is not ideal to visit on a weekend or a college’s holiday. Not seeing students or visiting classrooms will lessen the experience.
- When you set up your visit, ask to visit one class in and outside of your desired major or primary areas of interest. Class visits are not always included in a standard tour.
- The student should ask the questions on the tour – not the parent! Students should be prepared with a list of questions to ask.
- Remember that campus tours are advertising. Keep everything that is said in perspective.
- Visit the student center and look at activity announcement boards to get the flavor of the campus. Speak to the students about their involvement in campus activities.
- Visit a dorm room. You want to be happy with where you will be living for one-four years. Ask students if they are happy with dorm life.

Sample Questions to Ask on a Campus Visit

(Taken from collegeplanninggroup.com)

- What is the best way to prepare for school?
- What unique programs are incorporated into the school’s curriculum?
- What is the school culture like?
- What do students like most about the college?
- How does the career planning department compare with other colleges?
- What are the results of graduate job placement surveys? What percentages of students find summer internships before graduating? How many find jobs upon graduation?
- What companies recruit on campus? How many companies recruit on campus?
- Where do students typically work after graduation? Are internship or job fairs held on campus?

- What is the ratio of professors to students? How much time are they required to spend with each student?
- Are professors available to give individual attention to students if requested?
- What types of tutoring programs are offered?
- How many liberal arts classes do students take and how many classes will they take towards their major?
- What do students do for fun? What events does the campus activities board plan for students? How often do students go off campus and where do they go? What are some popular clubs, events, activities?

Small or Large? Private or State?

There are many different types of schools available to you. Explore all options. Do not let preconceived notions about atmosphere or financial constraints limit your perspective. Many schools with high tuition actually offer better scholarships than larger or public universities to bring the cost down.

Visit as many different campuses as you can, ask questions of students and admissions representatives, pray, get advice from your teachers, parents, and counselor, and then, ultimately, come to your own conclusion about where you belong.

Consider Christian and Secular Colleges

Some students say they are not interested in attending a Christian school because they want their college experience to be different from their high school experience. First, know that your college experience will be very different from high school no matter where you choose to go to school. College is, in part, about

personal growth, independence and learning, and you should pick a school that is a good fit for you both academically and spiritually. The right school for you should help you find your calling – not just your career or a job. Seek out the Christian community-fellowship groups or Bible studies if you attend a secular school.

Finally

Apply to the schools which most suit and attract *you*.

Colleges with an “elite” reputation are worth consideration but realize that they are actually competing to have a low acceptance rate – as low as 6% of an applicant pool with 4.0 GPAs and the highest standardized test scores. Legacy status, donations and factors other than academic and extracurricular achievement may weigh in on the university’s admissions decisions.

Submit applications to between three and ten schools. There should be at least one school on the list that has the programs you want; where you think you will be content, is affordable with no financial aid, and you stand a high chance of acceptance—this is your *sure-thing* school. There should be one that is competitive in acceptance—this is your *possibility-school*, and one that is perhaps far-reaching in acceptance rate and finances—this is your *dream school*.

Online College Search Engines

Name of Website	Website	Cost
College Board: Big Future	https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search	FREE, requires the creation of a free account
College Navigator	https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator	FREE
Peterson's	https://www.petersons.com	FREE, requires the creation of a free account
Princeton Review	https://www.princetonreview.com/college-search	FREE

College and College Major Tests

Name	Website	Cost
Discovery Surveys	https://www.collegegrazing.com	FREE
PICS Survey	https://www.collegetrends.org	FREE
Princeton Review – Various College and Career Prep Help	https://www.princetonreview.com	FREE
My Majors	https://www.mymajors.com	FREE
My Plan	https://www.myplan.com	Most services are free

Occupational Outlook Handbook

The *Occupational Outlook Handbook* can be found at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>. It allows students to see the projected growth, salary, and degree requirements of their chosen field.

APPLYING TO COLLEGE

The Common Application

Over 800 schools accept the Common Application which allows a student to apply to multiple colleges with one application. Once completed online, this application is sent to any member university. See <https://commonapp.org> for a complete list of schools. Some universities may require additional essays or support beyond the Common Application.

Check the school's website or contact their admissions office. The Common Application opens August 1st.

Please note that the Common Application organization is large and there have been problems with its administration, including record-keeping, in the past.

The Common App Essay

Students must respond to an essay question with 250 – 650 words.

Since the common application mirrors a lot of other common essay questions, check with any applications you plan to complete outside of the common application for essay topics. If they have chosen one of these questions or one very similar to it, you may want to choose that topic for your common application essay. Yes; you may use the same essay for multiple applications and tweak it as needed.

Essay Prompts

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?

4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.

5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?

7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

Individual University Application

Universities accept individual applications which are available on their website. Most end in .edu, as in www.northwestern.edu.

Essay Pointers

Your style should be informal, easy to read, and you should set a goal of fully expressing your true self through the essay. You also want to stand out.

Admissions officers read thousands of essays a year. What is going to make yours stand out from the crowd? Why should they remember you?

Suggestions for individualization of your essay:

- Be unexpected
- Set the scene
- Be direct
- Start with a laugh
- Use descriptive, figurative language

Written Recommendations from Teachers and Counselors

- Make your request early, even in the summer before your senior year. Teachers and the counselor get very busy during the school year and you may have to wait longer for the recommendation. An in-person request followed by an email works best.
- If applying for a scholarship that requires a paper recommendation, make sure you provide the teacher or counselor with any required forms and notify him or her of the deadline. If the recommendation needs to be mailed provide them with a stamped, addressed envelope.
- Check with your recommender a week before the deadline to make sure the letter has been sent or uploaded.
- Send a thank you note. Handwriting a small card shows your appreciation.
- Be understanding if a teacher declines to write you a recommendation letter. You want the best recommendation possible, and if a teacher declines, he/she is simply asking you to find someone who knows you better.

Transcript Requests

Please fill out the transcript request form, available from the office. WA will send the first six transcripts at no cost to the student; after six requests are filled each transcript will cost \$3. A copy of the WA School Profile and cover letter are sent along with each transcript. Once grades are calculated a final transcript including the date of graduation will be sent to

each student's chosen college, usually in June. Information needed with each transcript request includes: the name of the college or university, the admissions office mailing address, (not the *university* address) admissions office email, admissions office fax number and the deadline for your application.

Sending Test Scores

Students are responsible for sending their ACT, CLT or SAT scores to universities and colleges as they want to receive test scores directly from the testing association. Use those

accounts which you previously set up to take the standardized tests to request that your scores be sent. Whitefield Academy cannot send official scores.

EARLY ACTION AND EARLY DECISION DEADLINES

Did you do a lot of college exploration your junior year? Are you absolutely committed to your first choice school? Are you a fantastic candidate for admission and are you positive you want to go there? If this is the case, an early action or early decision application may be for you.

Applying *early action* means that a student will receive an answer as to acceptance long before the spring from the university, usually mid-December. The student, however, does not have to commit to that university and may continue to apply to other schools or may apply early action to multiple schools.

Early decision applications require a commitment on the part of the student. A

student who applies *early decision* agrees to attend that university if accepted. The application, if accepted, is a binding agreement. Around 450 colleges accept early applications of some kind. Most early applications are due between October 31st and November 15th, but check with the university admissions office to be sure of actual deadlines. It is also important to note that often all official documents (transcript, recommendations, test scores) must be received by the required date.

Early action applications have no real downside, but committing to a university through *early decision* means that you will not get a chance to compare financial aid offers. You also may not change your mind.

Applying *Early Decision*

- Research colleges extensively
- Be absolutely sure that the college is the first choice
- Find a college that is a strong match academically, socially and geographically
- You, as a student, meet or exceed the admission profile for the college for SAT scores, GPA and class rank
- You have an academic record that has been consistently solid over time

- You are not in need of financial aid or extensive scholarship money

Remember that since early application replies do not come until mid-December, students choosing early decision will only have about two weeks to get other applications sent if they receive a denial. It is advised that other applications be ready to send so as not to cause stress.

COLLEGE APPLICATION RESUME

Some colleges or particular scholarships will request a resume. Even if not, we recommend you put together an informal version to get the information organized. If submitting, there are some standard guidelines which will make your resume more attractive to admissions officers.

The most important things are readability and correct spelling. Type your resume in 11 or 12 point Garamond or another professional font. Do not use colors and keep time frames for activities simple and easy to process quickly. Admissions officers prefer grade levels to specific dates. Keep your resume to one page. More is not better. Admissions officers read over hundreds of applications.

Include an academic profile, school related activities, and honors at the minimum. After those sections, you may include your most impressive activities.

Order activities done most recently and for the greatest length of time near the top. If you are ever unsure as to what to put first, go with whichever activity is most meaningful to you and you feel is most impressive. Include only activities done while in high school. You may list an activity that started while in middle school and continued through high school.

Even if you have created a resume you will still need to fill out the activities and honors section of any university's application.

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

FAFSA

(Free Application for Federal Student Aid): <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

File the FAFSA even if your family may not qualify for federal aid. Not filing a FAFSA will disqualify the student from federal loans as well as some scholarships and work study programs. The FAFSA award will be based on family income between January 1st of the student's junior year and December 31st of their senior year. All income, including bonuses, commissions, and a student's taxable work income will be included in this assessment. Student income is usually assessed at 35%, so if a student is working, they should set aside at least this amount for college.

The FAFSA can be submitted beginning October of your senior year, but since it relies on the family's tax return, taxes will have to be calculated first. Recommendations are to submit your FAFSA no later than February 2nd but make sure with the individual college that their deadline is not earlier. Money is awarded on a first come-first serve basis. You will need a FAFSA ID number.

File online. The Student Aid Report will come back up to five days sooner. When comes back, check it for errors and correct as soon as possible.

College Scholarship Service Profile

<https://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>

Approximately 700 schools require this profile for scholarships toward institutional aid. Each school will have its own priority filing date. Register for the CSS Profile at least four weeks before this date.

Financial Aid Packages

Almost every type of family and student qualifies for some kind of scholarship or financial aid from the government or from their chosen university. Contact the financial aid office or visit the financial aid website to find opportunities. Your EFC (Estimated Family Contribution) will be about the same at all schools whether expensive or inexpensive, but the financial aid package may be adjusted by the university.

Try to apply for scholarships and financial aid after applying to the school but before receiving an acceptance letter. This may put you first in line for aid.

Also, many times financial aid forms do not reflect any special circumstances which may limit a family's ability to pay for college. You can negotiate a financial aid package by contacting a Financial Aid Officer at the school and explaining the situation.

Examples of National Scholarship Opportunities

Organization	Deadline	Eligibility	Website
American Legion Oratorical Contests	Contact the counseling office by August 15 if you are interested in participating	Grades 9 – 12	www.legion.org/scholarships/oratorical
ACCS Chrystotom Oratory Competition	May 1	Grades 9 – 12	https://classicalchristian.org/chrysostom-oratory-competition
American Foreign Service Essay Contest	February 1	Grades 9 – 12	www.afsa.org/essay-contest
Prudential Spirit of Community Awards	November 1	Grades 6 – 12	spirit.prudential.com/view/page/soc

Other Ways to Find Scholarships

Scholarship money is out there, but it will not come to you. You have to be willing to look for it. Your *best opportunities for aid are through the university*, second best are local, state and community organizations.

While essay contests and large national awards exist, they are very difficult to get due to the large pool of competitors. If you would like to

explore these scholarships, a place to begin is <https://www.fastweb.com/college-scholarships>

If there is an organization that you have worked extensively with, approach the supervisor and ask if the organization offers a scholarship. Additionally, parents can check with their employer or students with their employer for potential scholarship opportunities.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY

1. To be a full qualifier, a student must:
 - a. Complete 16 core courses
 - b. Ten of the 16 core courses must be completed before the seventh semester (senior year) of high school.
 - c. Seven of the 10 core courses must be English, math or science
2. Have a minimum core-course GPA of 2.300 on an un-weighted scale:
 - a. Grades earned in the 10 required courses required before the senior year are “locked in” for purposes of GPA calculation
 - b. A repeat of one of the “locked in” courses will not be used to improve the GPA if taken after the seventh semester begins
3. Meet the competition sliding scale requirement of GPA and ACT/SAT score
For details see:
<http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/how-register>
4. Graduate from high school.

NCAA Registration

If you are interested in playing college sports, register with the NCAA during your junior year. Request that the school send the NCAA your transcript before your senior year, and make sure all of your ACT/SAT/CLT scores

are sent from the respective organizations. Speak to your coaches, athletic director and counselor during your junior year about recruitment options.

COLLEGE PREPARATION: HELPFUL WEB ADDRESSES

College Planning	www.knowhow2go.org www.collegeboard.com www.mycollegeguide.org www.campustours.com www.collegeview.com www.cappex.com	www.rotc.com www.collegenet.com www.gocollege.com www.universities.com www.princetonreview.com www.petersons.com
Testing	getsmarterprep.com www.testprep.com www.princetonreview.com www.kaplan.com www.actstudent.org	
Career/Major Searches	www.careers.org www.princetonreview.com	www.careerbuilder.com www.monster.com
Scholarships/Financial Aid	www.fastweb.com www.collegenet.com www.college-scholarships.com www.gocollege.com www.gmsp.org	www.finaid.org www.college.com www.fafsa.ed.gov www.collegeboard.org www.uncf.org
Corporate Scholarships	www.kohlscorporation.com www.wellsfargo.com/collegesteps www.tylenolscholarships.com	www.BestBuy.com www.walmartfoundation.org www.toyota.com
Athletics	www.ncaa.com www.collegesportsscholarships.com	
Community Service	www.volunteermatch.org www.worldvolunteerweb.org www.nkch.org	www.projects-abroad.org www.childrensmercy.org www.yvckc.org

ALTERNATIVES TO TRADITIONAL FOUR-YEAR PROGRAMS

Work Colleges

Many work colleges are four-year degree programs, but in contrast to a typical university, these colleges require students to work on campus regardless of financial need or merit. Many times the work students do is related to their field of study, but this is not always the case.

Work colleges provide students with an opportunity to learn responsibility, gain work experience, and pay for the cost of school. The Work College Consortium is a great resource for exploring this option. (www.workcolleges.org).

Community Colleges

Community colleges are great alternatives to the traditional four-year school for different types of students. Students should consider community college if:

- The student is very uncertain of what he wants to do.
- Financial constraints make it difficult to afford housing costs at a four-year school.
- GPA or SAT/ACT scores severely limit choices of four year schools.

For students attending traditional universities, community colleges also offer evening and summer classes and are an excellent way to get coursework done in a smaller, less expensive setting. For more information about Kansas and Missouri Community Colleges, visit www.communitycollegereview.com/kansas or www.communitycollegereview.com/missouri.

Career Schools

Career schools offer a fast track way to jump straight into a desired field. A career school would be a good option if the student is:

- Certain of the field they are going to pursue.
- Interested in fields such as computer programming, animation, culinary arts, graphic design, film and television, nursing.

- Not interested in the “college experience” – clubs, sports, fraternities, or other activities. These are often not offered at career schools.

Go to www.careercolleges.com for a resource for exploring this option.

Online Programs

Online programs allow a student to live at home and potentially work while completing a degree. They allow for flexibility and continued education for a student who needs to remain at home for health or financial reasons. In general, look for programs that have a traditional

brick and mortar location and avoid for-profit campuses. Visit www.usnews.com/education/online-education/bachelors/rankings for a list of the best online programs according to US News.

Military Programs

ROTC Scholarships provide many students with an affordable route to college, but scholarships and career training are also available to students who choose to enlist right

out of high school. Visit with the designated college recruiter to learn more. There are also numerous military schools and the federal academies to consider. www.rotc.com

Gap Year

Many students take a gap year between their high school and university education. This is not the same a “taking a year off.” This gap year can be used to travel, work, explore a calling or pursue any number of other opportunities.

A gap year does not necessarily hurt a student’s chances of admission to a four-year university. It all depends on how the gap year is used. In some cases, activities may increase a student’s

chances for admission. Additionally, there are sponsored gap year programs through various organizations and universities.

For more information, visit:

www.nacacnet.org/studentinfo/articles/pages/gap-year-.aspx

www.usagapyearfairs.org/programs

www.gapyear.com



EXAMPLE OF SCHOOL PROFILE (updated yearly)

(Year) Whitefield Academy

CEEB code: 261729

Head of School: xxx

College Counselor: xxxx

Community

Whitefield Academy is located in South Kansas City, Missouri, adjacent to the City of Leawood, Kansas to the west, and close to Interstate 435 to the south.

School

Whitefield Academy is an academically rigorous co-educational classical Christian day school enrolling 240 students in grades Pre-K through 12. Situated close to the state line, and creating a diversified economic and cultural community, the school draws students from across the Kansas City metro area, especially from Johnson County on the Kansas side and Jackson County on the Missouri side. Opening in 1995, Whitefield moved to its current location in 2004. Whitefield Academy is an accredited member of the Association of Classical Christian Schools.

Curriculum

The Upper School academic program is organized on a regular class schedule of six 50-minute classes, plus two periods for elective classes, tutorials, and clubs. In addition to the required six academic credit classes, most students also participate in athletics, debate or fine arts. The fine arts program includes an annual Shakespeare play and our production of Sophocles' *Antigone* as well as outstanding visual arts instruction.

Upper School students read and analyze extensively from the Great Books of western civilization, understanding the great ideas that weave through literature and inform our lives. Books and authors read include but are not limited to:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Homer's <i>Iliad</i> | • Tacitus | • Shakespeare | • Machiavelli |
| • Herodotus | • Dante's <i>Inferno</i> | • Descartes | • <i>Federalist Papers</i> |
| • Plato | • Copernicus | • Adam Smith | • Darwin |
| • Thucydides | • Galileo | • Isaac Watt's <i>Logic</i> | • Marx |
| • Aristotle | • Milton | • Boethius | • Freud |
| • Virgil's <i>Aeneid</i> | • Locke | • Augustine | • Hegel |

Additionally, graduates have studied and mastered advanced rhetorical texts such as:

- Aphonius' *Progymnasmata*,
- Hermogenes *On Issues* and *On Style*, and
- Quintilian's use of Common and Special Topics in *Institutio Oratoria*.

The mastery of writing skills equips our students to create arguments or ideas around various issues, arrange and develop their concepts in an appealing or persuasive manner, and, finally, compose essays or poetry with particular audiences in mind in order to most effectively convey their meaning.

Graduates have completed a thesis paper in both their Junior and Senior years, each with an accompanying oral defense. The Junior year paper is 3,500 words and the Senior paper is 6,500 words in length. These year-long projects are graded on seven components—thesis statement, annotated bibliography, note cards, outline, first draft, and final draft.

Classical education has successfully developed exceptional scholars for more than two millennia. Focusing on teaching students how to think critically, communicate clearly, and lead compassionately, classical instruction

aligns with a child’s intellectual development, producing outstanding results for students over a wide ability range.

As a Classical Christian school, we implement what traditionally was called a “Liberal Education.” Using the Seven Liberal Arts (Grammar, Logic, Rhetoric, Arithmetic, Geometry, Music, and Astronomy), as the foundation of a Liberal Education, Whitefield instructs students in ways that help them critically think through a problem, communicate a solution persuasively, and thus, to be wise. Graduates receiving Classical Honors have taken two years of Logic and at least two years of a classical language as well as the core content requirements.

The first three Liberal Arts, called the Trivium, train one’s mind to comprehend (Grammar), analyze (Logic) and then to synthesize (Rhetoric) texts in order to solve particular problems with wisdom.

The last four of the Liberal Arts, called the Quadrivium, pertain to Matter: Arithmetic, Geometry, Music, and Astronomy. These arts require students to learn about numbers, mathematical and scientific concepts with their specific vocabulary, and how to read the unique texts of math and science. Training about Matter is expanded to include Algebra, Trigonometry and Statistics, Calculus, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. These subject areas provide unique contexts for the exploration of new areas of knowledge and require ongoing development of the skills learned each year and reinforced through our vertically integrated curriculum.

AP & Dual Enrollment

AP English Language and Composition

Dual enrollment classes: College Algebra and Calculus

Graduation Requirements

A minimum of 24 Carnegie Units is required for high school graduation.

Math (4 units); Science (3 units); English (4 units); Humanities or History (4 units); Logic (1 unit); Foreign Language (1 unit for each year of enrollment); Bible (1 class for each year of enrollment).

All high school students take the six Core Classes offered each year they are enrolled. Transfer students make up the remaining units with eligible courses from their previous schools.

Core Classes

Ninth Grade English III, Humanities III, Geometry, Bible III, Earth Science, Greek I

Tenth Grade Rhetoric I, Humanities IV, Algebra II, Bible IV, Biology, Spanish I or Greek II

Eleventh Grade Rhetoric II/English Language and Composition AP, Humanities V, Statistics and Trigonometry, Chemistry, Spanish II or Greek III, Bible V (½ unit), Music History (½ unit)

Twelfth Grade Rhetoric III/Senior Thesis, American History, College Algebra, Pre-Calculus, or Calculus, Physics, Spanish III or Greek IV, Bible VI (½ unit), Art History (½ unit)

Grading Scale

Courses in the Upper School are graded on a 4.0 scale. The academic challenge provided in all core classes eliminates the need to differentiate any as “Honors” classes. Universities are aware of this challenging academic curriculum due to reputation, School Profile and through personal contact with WA counselor. Because of our small class sizes Whitefield does not rank individuals within classes.

Standardized Test Results

Nearly 100% of the students took the ACT. The average composite score is 27.

Post-High School Placement

- 90 students (90%) matriculated to four-year colleges and/or universities
- 4 students, matriculated to 2-year institutions, with plans to transfer to four-year institution after completion of an associate’s degree
- Several students selected a gap year of internship, travel, work, or missions before continuing on to a four year institution

Examples of Colleges currently and previously attended by Whitefield Academy graduates

- Anderson University
- Azusa Pacific University
- Baylor University
- Boston University
- California Institute of the Arts
- Cedarville University
- Dordt College
- Culver-Stockton College
- Eastern Nazarene College
- Full Sail University
- George Mason University
- Gordon College
- Grove City College
- Hillsdale College
- John Brown University
- Kansas City Art Institute
- Kansas State University
- MidAmerica Nazarene University
- Missouri Science and Technology University
- Nebraska Christian College
- Northwestern College
- Olivet Nazarene University
- Park University
- Pittsburgh State University
- Rockhurst University
- Simpson College
- Texas Christian University
- Trevecca Nazarene University
- University of Arkansas
- University of Kansas
- University of Missouri
- University of Missouri, KC
- University of Oklahoma
- University of Wyoming
- Wheaton College

COLLEGE PLANNING, FRESHMAN YEAR CHECKLIST

Fall

- List your short term and long term academic, extra-curricular and spiritual goals
- Get involved with extracurricular activities and sports
- Take electives other than Study Hall most days of the week
- Be aware that your grades and the resulting GPA matter for future scholarships and college admissions
- Review at least one college planning website. <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>
- Speak with college representatives when they visit WA and pick up information to learn about options for college.

Spring

- Create a personal achievement spreadsheet, or file. Include awards, activities, accomplishments, etc. – anything that will help you put together a high school resume later
- Talk to your parents about the money that will be available for school
- Review your activities. Look for programs outside and inside of school. Try something new
- Perform volunteer service hours in an area of interest
- Look for summer classes and activities that will help you discover more about your fields of interest
- Travel as much as you can. Seeing new places will expand your horizons and help you define interests

COLLEGE PLANNING, SOPHOMORE YEAR CHECKLIST

Fall

- Review and revise short term and long term goals (academic, extracurricular, spiritual)
- Attend Knowledge for College
- Prepare for the PSAT. This year is for practice. Junior year counts for the Nat'l Merit Scholarship
- Visit with all college admissions representatives who travel to your high school. It's good practice
- Focus on your GPA and challenge yourself by taking the most difficult courses you can handle
- Try one or more new electives
- Plan to be a leader in a few extracurricular activities this school year. Leadership is one of the most valuable student qualifications sought by college admission officers
- Continue participation in extracurricular activities this school year
- Work on personal achievement file or log. Include awards, activities, and accomplishments
- Look at multiple internet sites for college information include a scholarship hunt- Peterson's Princeton Review, College Board

Spring

- Take a challenging elective
- Take a personality or career matching test if you feel you need a better understanding of likes and dislikes that will lead you to college or career decisions
- Update your personal achievement file or log with new achievements, awards, resume material
- Look for summer classes and activities that will help you discover more about your fields of interest.
- Begin hunt for a summer job to pay for your class trip; remember your class trips will be a part of your application or resume and may provide material for essays
- Investigate college summer enrichment programs for high school students. Start filling out application materials for programs you wish to attend

Summer

- Review your weakest scores on the PSAT and study for the test your junior year.
- Road trip –Stop by college campuses; good if you coordinate with family vacation
- Engage in summer activities which enrich your life; this will increase your chances of getting in to your top choice colleges
- Continue to update your personal achievement spreadsheet or file
- Look at individual colleges on the internet. Dream.

COLLEGE PLANNING, JUNIOR YEAR CHECKLIST

Fall

- Review and revise short term and long term goals (academic, extracurricular, spiritual)
- Meet with college counselor
- Continue to study for the PSAT which you will take in October
- Determine where you will lead in academic and extra-curricular activities
- Make a filing system with divisions for different colleges, finances, scholarships, mail, other
- Take an ACT prep course
- Determine a list of 3-10 colleges in which you may be interested
- Visit with college admissions counselors who come to WA
- Register to take the ACT or SAT, if you want to take it in January or February
- If you are interested in fine arts, discuss with art or music teacher, portfolio or video
- Discuss with your parents who is paying for college
- Your Financial Aid Package assessment will begin January 1st of your Junior year. Make any financial decisions with your parents before the start of the assessment period

Spring

- If you haven't done so, register to take your first ACT test. Register by late April to take the ACT in June if you plan to send any early action or early decision applications.
- Plan for in town or out of town college visits over spring break. (practice visits work well in town)
- Continue extra-curricular activities; intensify a few activities rather than add more
- Update your personal achievement spreadsheet or file
- Request information packets from colleges on your top 10 list so that they have your name; then file info when you receive it, note any due dates
- Make a list of questions for college admissions staff. Remember – finding a college is a two-way conversation. Multiple websites assist with this. There are sample questions in this handbook and more available from counseling office.
- Apply for summer programs and activities that will help you discover more about fields of interest.
- Hunt for your summer job and seek out interesting volunteer activities

Summer

- Build your one-page resume based on your personal achievement spreadsheet or file
- Engage in summer activities which enrich your life and increase your chances of getting in to your top choice colleges
- If you are interested in pursuing fine arts, assemble your portfolio
- Summer job- give it all you've got to the glory of God. Consider asking your employer for a reference
- Review your top 10 colleges, note due dates for the enrollment and scholarship applications
- Look at the FAFSA online and with a parent's help write down the financial forms you will need for next October- February when you will complete your FAFSA
- Determine which colleges to tour and schedule visits while on summer break

COLLEGE PLANNING, SENIOR YEAR CHECKLIST

Summer

Before school starts

- Review and revise short term and long term goals (academic, extracurricular, spiritual)
- Finalize your resume
- Write rough drafts of essay(s) if using Common Application
- Plan when you can visit remaining colleges on your list
- Keep up your files, create a master list of due dates
- Register for ACT and CLT or SAT

Fall

- Continue with leadership in extra-curricular activities and keep GPA high. Prospective colleges look down on applicants who decrease involvement or check out in their senior year
- Ask teachers, employers, pastors, to write recommendations. Give them a requested due date at least one month in advance, if possible.
- If applying early action or early decision, make sure you are on schedule
- Finalize essays
- Complete all applications by November 1, if possible. You do not have to wait on CLT, SAT or ACT scores to submit applications
- Keep passwords for accounts on file, keep paper copies if using hard copy apps
- If using the Common App, let the counselor know when you have submitted it online
- Fill out transcript requests and give to school office
- Submit scholarship applications before due date, these dates vary widely
- Assemble and submit portfolio if applying for art or architecture major
- Do not put questionable information, pictures or language on any social media. Remove friends who may use objectionable language or images and appear on FB or Instagram
- Schedule auditions or interviews, if required, for college admission
- Aim to complete FAFSA in the fall, if possible. February 1 is the final date for most universities

Spring

- Fill out the CCS/Profile at the College Board website if your university requires it
- Remind parents to complete and submit tax returns by early February
- Some colleges require mid-year grade reports, if so, submit transcript request to WA office
- Continue looking at scholarships, some local and regional scholarships have spring deadlines
- Apply for all remaining applicable scholarships and financial aid
- If, after financial aid is awarded you will need a student loan, file your application
- Notify academic counselor of all acceptances, wait lists, and scholarships as they come in
- Evaluate offered financial aid, including scholarships and loans with parents and pray about final college attendance decisions
- Decide on a college and notify their admissions office of your intention to enroll by May 1st
- Submit them if there is an enrollment confirmation from and financial aid acceptance form

- Notify the colleges to which you applied that you will not be attending
- Take AP tests. Seniors may take any of the tests offered by the AP organization.
- Notify your college of any scholarships or financial aid you are receiving from outside sources
- Find a job to help save for and pay for college

Summer

- Get a physical and vaccinations. Meningitis vaccine is life-saving
- Complete any forms or placement testing required by your college
- Create a budget with your parents for your college living expenses
- Complete and send in any housing or meal plan forms
- AP scores become available in July, determine with college how course selection will be affected

RECOMMENDED READING

***How to Become a Straight-A Student* by Cal Newport**

Most college students believe that straight A's can be achieved only through cramming and painful all-nighters at the library. But Cal Newport says that real straight-A students don't study harder—they study smarter. Newport tells the proven study secrets of straight-A students across the country and weaves them into a simple, practical system that anyone can master.

***Just Do Something, A Liberating Approach to finding God's Will* by Kevin DeYoung**

Kevin DeYoung helps keep the college and career search in perspective with a scriptural and common sense approach to making decisions. A great book for any Christian at any time.

Too often, he writes, God's people tinker around with churches, jobs, and relationships, worrying that they haven't found God's perfect will for their lives. Or—even worse—they do absolutely nothing, stuck in a frustrated state of paralyzed indecision, waiting...waiting...waiting for clear, direct, unmistakable direction. But God doesn't need to tell us what to do at each fork in the road. He's already revealed His plan for our lives: to love Him with our whole hearts, to obey His Word, and after that, to do what we like.

***What You Don't Know Can Keep You Out of College* by Don Dunbar**

Most of us know what character means, but not in the way that admissions officers define it. Admissions officers have tremendous integrity, and to them, character equals what a student will contribute to his or her community, good or bad, over the next four years. The author explains the concept of character in terms that high school students can understand, using examples from his thirty years of working with kids. He shows readers how to avoid the thirteen fatal character mistakes that even the brightest students make when applying to college.

***Colleges that Change Lives* by Loren Pope**

Prospective college students and their parents have been relying on Loren Pope's expertise since 1995, when he published the first edition of this indispensable guide. This new edition profiles 41 colleges—all of which outdo the Ivies and research universities in producing performers, not only among A students but also among those who get Bs and Cs. Contents include: evaluations of each school's program and personality; candid assessments by students, professors, and deans; information on the progress of graduates.

100 Successful College Application Essays compiled and edited by The Harvard Independent

The largest collection of successful college application essays available in one volume. These are the essays that helped their authors gain admission to Harvard, Yale, Brown, Columbia, Wellesley, Colby, and other outstanding schools—followed by invaluable comments by experts in admissions, placement, and college counseling at some of the best learning institutions around the country.

***Countdown to College: 21 'To Do' Lists for High School* by Valerie Pierce and Cheryl Rilly**

Countdown to College: 21 "To Do" Lists for High School is a timeline to help students maximize their high school years and optimize their chances of "getting where they want to go." While encouraging exploration and self-discovery, these "to do's" provide the details necessary to the college admissions process. Avoid missed deadlines and opportunities.

Peterson's Teens' Guide to College and Career Planning 11th Edition

Intended for use by students at any stage of middle and high school, but it has the most relevance for high school sophomores and juniors who are starting to get serious about the decisions they will need to make after graduation. Whether planning to head to a two-year or four-year college, to a technical school, to an apprenticeship, to the military, directly into the workforce, do a gap year, they will find information on the options available and which ones best suit their skills, needs, and desires.