Brimmer and May’s College Counseling team offers a comprehensive program of information and support to students and families enrolled in the Upper School. This schedule is subject to modification due to calendar concerns and availability of outside presenters.

**SEPTEMBER**

**“Boot Camp” for Seniors**

*First day of school; Required attendance: Grade 12*

A two-hour workshop conducted by the College Counseling team to provide guidance to seniors as they work to complete applications for individual colleges, the personal essay, supplemental essays, and other documentation essential to the college application process. This event is held at Brimmer and May.

**College Counseling Class for Seniors begins (ongoing through the end of the first semester)**

*Required attendance: Grade 12*

This is a required non-credit, once-a-week, course for students who meet in small sections to discuss topics related to the college application process, with careful attention paid to requirements and deadlines. Students receive individual help with applications (college, weekend programs, scholarships, etc.) and essays. During the last few weeks of the semester, the discussion topics relate to the transition to college.

**ACT or SAT Test Prep Course, in conjunction with Summit Educational Group**

*Available to students in Grade 11 and 12*

A 4-5-week class offered mainly to 12th grade students as preparation for the fall test dates. The class is also open to students in 11th grade. Financial aid is available to students who qualify. This course is held at Brimmer and May and will meet on the weekend.

**Information Session for College-Bound Athletes: NCAA and NAIA Eligibility and the Recruitment Process**

*Open to all members of the school community; offered every other year*

This event offers student-athletes and parents the opportunity to questions about the recruitment process, the NCAA and NAIA eligibility centers, athletic resumes, contacting coaches, ID camp and showcases, etc. This event is held at Brimmer and May.

**Paying for College: Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority Seminar**

*Open to all members of the school community*

An informational presentation on financing the cost of a college education. Sponsored by BISCCA (Boston Independent School College Counseling Association) and held at a Boston-area independent school. Go to [https://www.mefa.org/events/community-events/](https://www.mefa.org/events/community-events/) for more information about MEFA events.
OCTOBER

**PSAT for Grades 10 and 11**

*Required attendance: Grades 10 and 11*

Brimmer administers the PSAT for all students in Grades 10 and 11. Standard administration of the test entails 2 hours and 45 minutes of testing with sections including Evidence-Based Reading, Writing & Language, and Math. The School offers extended time testing for those students who qualify with the College Board. In January, students are invited to meet with a member of the College Counseling team to review PSAT scores.

**College Night**

*Open to all members of the school community; required attendance for Grades 11 and 12*

Brimmer presents an expert speaker or a panel of college admissions officers to provide information and answer questions about college admissions, applications, testing, recommendations, etc. Every few years, Brimmer invites Peter Van Buskirk of Best College Fit to present “The Admission Game,” an informational program about the college application process. This event is held at Brimmer and May.

DECEMBER

**Standardized Testing Information Session**

*Open to all members of the school community; attendance for Grades 10 and 11 is recommended*

Charles O’Hearn, Founder and CEO of Summit Education Group, provides information and insight into the intricacies of the standardized testing landscape (ACT, SAT, SAT II, etc.) in the college application process. This event is held at Brimmer and May.

JANUARY

**College Night for 11th Grade Students**

*Required attendance: Grade 11*

An introduction to the college application process for 11th grade students and their parents as they begin standardized testing, using Naviance to guide and enhance information retrieval, and commence the College Counseling course. This event is held at Brimmer and May.

**College Counseling Class for 11th Grade begins (ongoing through the end of the second semester)**

*Required attendance: Grade 11*

This is a required non-credit, once-a-week, course for 11th grade students who meet in small sections to discuss topics related to the college search and application process with careful attention paid to creating a college list, drafting the college essay, and beginning the compilation of information for the Common Application. Students are introduced to the effective use of Naviance and topics such as college major and career choice, how to visit a college campus, and interviews.

FEBRUARY

**ACT or SAT Test Prep Course, in conjunction with Summit Educational Group**

*Available to students in Grade 11*

An 8-10-week class offered to 11th grade students as preparation for the spring test dates. Financial aid is available to students who qualify. This course is held at Brimmer and May and will meet on the weekend. This course is also open to 10th grade students.
Grades 9 & 10 Information Evening for Parents and Guardians
[Open to parents and guardians of students in Grades 9 and 10]
Brimmer and May’s College Counseling team provides initial information and answers questions about how to prepare best for college applications. This event is held at Brimmer and May.

Financial Planning for College, in conjunction with Strategies for College, Inc.
[Open to all members of the school community]
An evening event that offers parents insight and information about the financial aid processes used by college financial aid offices. This event is held at Brimmer and May.

APRIL

Visit to a Boston Area College with College Counselors
[Open to students, parents and guardians of students in Grades 9 - 11; attendance is optional]
On the second day of Upper School Parent-Teacher conferences, students may choose to attend an information session and tour at a local college or university accompanied by Brimmer and May college counselors. This experience provides students with an opportunity to visit a college campus and hear expert advice from college admission counselors. The college or university visited will vary from year to year.

BISSCA College Fair at Milton Academy, with breakout sessions on Athletic Recruitment and NCAA Eligibility Guidelines, Application to Art Schools and Conservatories, and Financial Aid
[Required attendance for Grade 11]
College representatives from more than 100 colleges and universities outside of New England are available for questions from students and families. Sponsored by BISCCA (Boston Independent School College Counseling Association).

College Essay Writing Workshop for 11th Grade Students
[Required attendance for Grade 11]
The College Counseling team invites a current college admissions officer to conduct an essay-writing workshop with members of the 11th grade class in preparation for writing their application essays. This two-hour workshop is held during the school day at Brimmer and May.

MAY

Career Day
[Required attendance for students in Grades 9 - 12; offered every other year]
This event provides students with information and firsthand accounts of the work of a wide variety of professions. Workshops and information sessions are presented by parents and friends of the school during a school day special event schedule.

SUMMER

College counselors are available for meetings with students and parents during the summer months.
OTHER EVENTS

**College Coffees**

*Open to all members of the school community; held Friday mornings 5-6 times throughout the school year*

Beginning in the fall, the College Counseling team hosts informal “drop in” sessions for Upper School parents. This is a dedicated time for parents to stop by, enjoy a cup of coffee, and ask questions related to the college application process. Each session is guided in content by the interests of those in attendance that day. These informal meetings give parents an opportunity to get to gain insight on how the college admissions process works.

**Mock Interviews for 11th and 12th Grade Students**

*Optional for students in Grade 11 and 12; offered as needed and by individual request*

Interested students may make appointments with a college counselor to practice their interviewing skills prior to interviewing with college admission counselors or alumni.