

Saturday, September 7, 2024
Sigma (Junior) Family Plan
Koury Business Center, room 301

Program Guide: Ms. Melissa Chacon Villalobos

Spanish Interpreter: Ms. Sandy Ramos, *Center for Access & Success program assistant*

Materials: (I'll have for you!)

- CAT Mentor objectives handout
- CFNC college checklist handouts
- College Admissions game
- Standardized Test slidedeck + categorizing school activity slides
- Popular NC schools information handout
- Index cards for feedback

9:00-9:30: Morning Meeting (Scholars and families)

Room 101

9:35-12:30 Junior Year College Planning

Room 301

- Below is a recommended sequence. If you think it will work better another way, please make it your own. I've tried to include all the information you might need. Timing is a guess. Whatever doesn't get covered will shift to another session.
- If you find that someone has a question you don't know the answer to, just write it down and let them know you'll ask me – or they can ask me at the end of the program. (And hopefully I know.)

9:35-9:50 Getting Started/Check-in

- Introduce yourself and history/roles with EA and beyond.
- Perhaps have family members do a brief introduction, too? Their names and their scholar – just so people remember each other.
- Check-in in with the group in general. Is everyone ok? Has the start of school been ok?
- Encourage them to meet their scholar's school counselor, if they haven't.
- Remind them of our advocates in each school and how to find those on our website (show on website) – link: <https://www.elon.edu/u/academics/access-and-success/elon-academy/meet-our-team/advocates/>
 - There is an error on the list for Graham; Ms. Uribe has changed jobs, but Principal Joshua Brown is now serving in that role.

9:50 – 10:10 CAT Mentoring

- Meet some of the CAT mentors! Junior CAT mentors will come over from the scholars' class to say hello at some point, hopefully early.
 - Ask them to introduce themselves (name, year at Elon, hometown or state, major, and who their scholars are this semester).
 - There may only be a couple mentors this month. Many couldn't make this early date. You should have at least a couple.
 - Once they've said hello, they'll go back to Gaby.

- Briefly, review these **expectations of scholars** for CAT Mentor meetings each semester:
 - *Scheduling:*
 - We'd like scholars to take charge of this themselves and reach out to their mentor early each month to schedule.
 - If they don't, mentors will reach out to scholar to schedule.
 - If a scholar needs to cancel, they should let mentor know as soon as possible. Please ask scholars to be respectful of their mentor's time and only reschedule for unavoidable things.
 - *Preparation:*
 - Scholars should come to meetings prepared. They should bring whatever they're working on for their EA Saturday class (e.g., college list, college admissions essay drafts)
 - *Location:*
 - Meetings take place in public places – many scholars choose to meet here on campus at the library, student center, or coffeeshops. It's also fine to meet in town at a fast food restaurant, library, etc.
 - *Parent participation:*
 - A parent/guardian can join for one meeting, if you like. Most don't.
 - If you have any concerns about CAT Mentoring, please reach out to anyone on the staff.

- Hand out to everyone CAT Mentor objectives sheet for Junior year and hit some highlights (more on choice, target, and challenge to come)

- If they are having any difficulty with their CAT Mentor, scheduling, etc. please contact Dr. Pyne or Gaby Vazquez.

10:10-10:30 College Checklist & EA Foci This Year

- Hand out **CFNC checklist** and review important tasks of junior year.

- EA's major tasks of junior year for EA scholars:
 - build college list with schools outside NC,
 - refine list of NC schools,

- consider careers/majors and connecting interests to this vs. tying to a major (we cover this more at November program),
- overall continuing to consider what schools are a “fit” for them and why,
- standardized testing required for college,
- continue rapport building among families

10:30-10:45 BREAK

10:45-11:30 College Admission Game (materials provided – No Spanish version, so if you have Spanish-speaking volunteers, they’ll need some one-on-one support to understand.)

11:30-12:00 [Understanding Standardized Tests](#) talk (see slides)

Room 301 – As you talk, invite their questions and knowledge to keep it less stuffy.

12:00-12:15 Choice/Target/Challenge Activity (at end of the previous set of slides)

- Explain our definitions of this to help reorient them to how colleges are categorized in EA (definitions on slides)
 - Scholars can struggle with categorizing because they don’t always want to see if their dream school and their current GPA or test scores don’t match. But it’s critical to know now, so they have time to improve.
 - **Junior year may be the last grades that get sent with college applications;** most schools update these later in the year as they become available, but scholars who apply Early Action, especially, will be judged on junior year. And Early Action is one of the best ways to show a school you’re truly interested in them.
- Share the websites we primarily use to look up the stat info for colleges:
 - CFNC.org -- Collegeresults.org ---- Collegedata.com
- There is a small handout of our more popular schools- one for everyone. Ask families to move into small groups (2-3) and work on the challenges at the end of the slides together- finding choice, target, and challenge schools. After they’ve made their best attempts, talk through as a group.

12:15-12:30: Connect and Reflect

- Give them a little time to connect with each other.
- Ask for their feedback with two questions – they can answer on notecards anonymously. If they want a response to their feedback, they’ll need to include name and best contact.
 - What was the most useful part of today?
 - What questions do you still have about what we covered today?