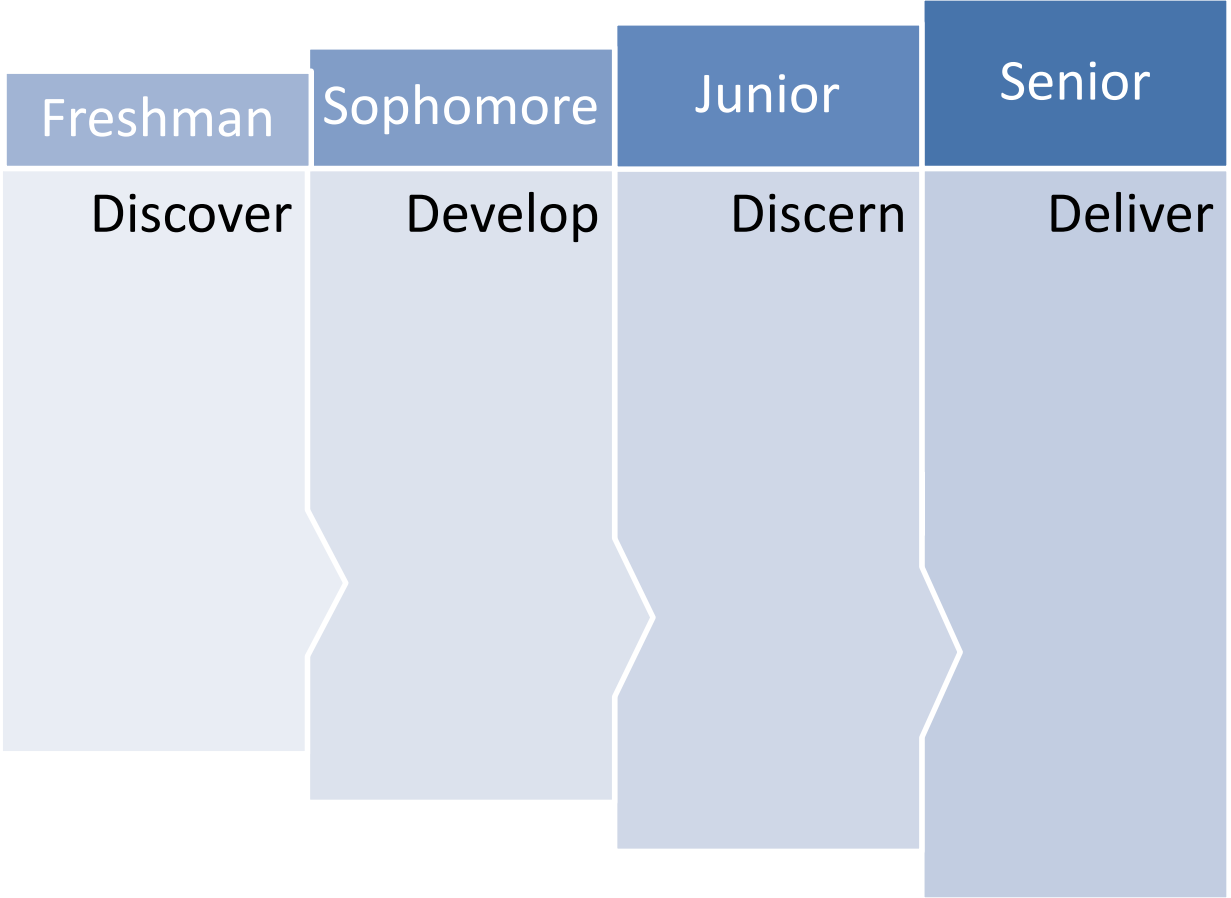


# College Counseling Guide



**2015-2016**



Dear Father McGivney Student and Family,

I am pleased to share with you the College Counseling Guide for your Father McGivney Catholic High School experience. Father McGivney Catholic High School has as its mission to form a strong academic community of disciples, responding to the call of Jesus Christ; prepare students to serve the Culture of Life through a total gift of self; engage students in the mission, sacramental life, and magisterial teachings of the Catholic Church; and develop faithful citizens to lead an America that values the dignity and worth of every human person. Therefore, the goal of the Student Services Department is to provide our students with the opportunities and information to help them reach their God given potential. Our objective is to help students discover, develop, discern and finally deliver their God given talents to the world upon their graduation from Father McGivney Catholic High School.

This document will help you understand the opportunities provided by Father McGivney, the expectations of the student and the plan for the parents to help our students accomplish this goal and objectives. Like any document, it is only a plan. The ultimate success of your experience will be determined by your effort and execution of the plan. If done right and well, we believe it will result in the student's admission and success at the college of their choice.

The high school education is unique in that to be completed successfully; we must help lead students from their relative dependence on the adults in their lives to a more independent level of existence. It is with this reality in mind that we have planned a curriculum and experience to challenge our students to their fullest and invite them to reach beyond their usual comforts. In other words, we will intentionally and appropriately push students so that they can learn the skills, habits and advocacy to navigate to this desired level of independence. It will require us all working together to help this happen.

It is fitting that our mascot is the Griffin, an ancient mythical creature who was known to guard priceless possessions. Just as the Griffin guarded treasure, the Student Services Department will guard your children as we guide them to discover, develop, discern and finally deliver themselves to the see the beauty of God's world.

I look forward to our work together.

Bobbie J. Madura  
Director of Student Services

## **Discover** – Freshmen Year

The freshmen year is one filled with new discoveries. It is important that students keep an open mind and seek out opportunities to discover the many different options available for them in their college choices. Most importantly, it is a critical year to discover the importance of a solid high school experience as it relates to opportunities and options for college and beyond. This will be done largely through learning the difference between homework and studying.

### Objectives:

- Have students develop proper study habits and skills to reach their full potential
- Help students discover their interests, values and abilities and how they relate to career and college options
- Encourage students to be involved and engaged in school so they can develop as a person
- Educate students and parents about what colleges desire and require in admission decisions
- Prepare and inform students and parents about Standardized Testing
- Introduce the College Counseling process and help families be actively involved

### Expectations of Student:

- Study at least One hour every night five nights per week
- Use available resources:
  - Email to be informed of homework assignments
  - Google Calendar to track assessments
  - Google Docs for projects, assignment submissions, and to save work
- Sign up for Big Futures or the ACT Profile to assist in college and career planning then explore the site and begin to build your college/career portfolio
- Take the ASPIRE and attend interpretation presentation when returned
- Meet individually with Student Services to discuss & update your four-year plan and follow through on goals
- Listen to announcements and read mailings regarding important information and meetings

### Plan for Parent(s):

- Monitor and ensure student's proper study habits & grades
- Use Resources to monitor and assist student
  - Email to be informed of homework assignments
  - Google Calendar to track assessments
  - Google Docs for projects, assignment submissions, and to save work
- Sign up for ACT Profile and have your child allow access to his/her portfolio or navigate through Big Futures with them so you can track their progress
- Be aware of student's standardized test scores
- Look for summer opportunities to enhance student's interests or abilities
- Read mailings regarding important information and attend important meetings

**Develop** – Sophomore

The sophomore year is an important one for the students to really push themselves to develop their full God-given potential. Also, it is an important year to develop a comprehensive understanding of your post-secondary options. This is the year to really begin developing and broadening your understanding of college options and choices.

**Objectives:**

- Require more independent and efficient study habits
- Stress success in a rigorous college preparatory curriculum
- Provide Information about the different college characteristics and choices
- Teach how to effectively and meaningfully research college options
- Explain proper test taking strategies for college entrance tests
- Foster involvement in extracurricular area, especially one of passion

**Expectations for Student:**

- Study at least One and a half hours every night five nights per week
- Continue using Email to be informed of homework assignments Google Calendar to track assessments and Google Docs for projects, assignment submissions, and to save work
- Take the ACT in the late Spring for a baseline score
- Continue to visit/update your portfolio on Big Futures or ACT Profile
- Come listen to College Representative Visits to develop understanding of different college characteristics
- Meet individually with Student Services to discuss & update your four-year plan and follow through on goals
- Decide what activity you will do this summer to best learn and prepare for college

**Plan for Parent:**

- Monitor and ensure student's proper study habits & grades
- Continue using email, Google calendar, and Google Docs
- Be aware of student's standardized test scores
- Monitor your student's portfolio contents on ACT Profile or navigate Big Futures with them
- Assist student in finding appropriate summer activity to best learn and prepare for college
- Read mailings regarding important information and attend important meetings

**Discern - Junior**

During the junior year it is important for the student to be deeply involved in the discernment process for what they will do with their future. Students should be discerning which colleges will be a “good fit” for them by actively seeking out information on schools and developing a list of schools for which they plan to apply. They also should know their academic standing and how that relates to their college admission chances.

**Objectives:**

- Encourage commitment to rigorous & appropriate college preparatory curriculum
- Provide resources, information and recommendations on college choices
- Have student complete list of at least 5 “good fit” schools
- Give individual explanation and recommendation for college entrance exams
- Explain importance and value of campus visits and provide information about scheduling and planning meaningful visit

**Expectations for Student:**

- Study at least Two hours every night five nights per week
- Continue using Email to be informed of homework assignments Google Calendar to track assessments and Google Docs for projects, assignment submissions, and to save work
- Attend College Information Night in Fall
- Take second ACT by end of junior year
- Continue to visit/update your portfolio on ACT Profile or Big Futures
- Come listen to College Representative Visits, Attend ICE College Fair at SIUE in fall and visit college campuses to help discern a proper college fit for you
- Meet individually with Student Services to discuss & update four-year plan and follow through on goals
- Look for summer opportunities to increase chances for acceptance to schools

**Plan for Parent:**

- Monitor student’s study habits and grades and encourage continued effort
- Continue using email, Google calendar, and Google Docs
- Be aware of student’s ACT scores and see that they take second ACT by end of junior year (consider test prep course)
- Monitor your student’s portfolio contents on Big Futures or on ACT Profile
- Attend college and financial aid night programs to become more familiar with information presented
- Assist student in finding appropriate summer activity to best increase chances for acceptance to preferred schools

**Deliver** - Senior

The senior year is where the student gets to deliver all that they have discovered, developed and discerned over the past three years. It is important to have a good sense of what your options are and where you can best achieve your goals. The time, effort and quality of your delivery will have a significant impact on your successes. Enjoy and trust in God to guide you to your next step in your journey.

**Objectives:**

- Help students complete commitment to rigorous & appropriate college preparatory curriculum
- Assist student in completing and delivering their best application possible
- Guide and support student in final requirements and decisions
- Assist students and parents in finding and getting best scholarships and financial aid package possible
- Leave student with all the skills, knowledge and faith to go and serve the Lord

**Expectations for Student:**

- Study at least Two hours every night five nights per week
- Continue using Email to be informed of homework assignments Google Calendar to track assessments and Google Docs for projects, assignment submissions, and to save work
- Attend college and financial aid night programs to help complete the process
- Complete on time at least 3-5 applications to “good fit” schools (1-2 fall back, 2 realistic, and 1-2 stretch schools)
- Take additional ACT if needed
- Finalize your portfolio on ACT Profile or Big Futures while also planning your financial aid
- Visit any remaining schools to help make college choice
- Fully investigate and complete forms for all opportunities for scholarship and financial aid
- Make College Choice with confidence in God’s plan for you

**Plan for Parent:**

- Monitor student’s study habits and grades and encourage continued effort
- Continue using Email to be informed of homework assignments Google Calendar to track assessments and Google Docs for projects, assignment submissions, and to save work
- Be aware of ACT test scores and determine if higher score can or needs to be achieved (consider test prep class if necessary)
- Attend college and financial aid night programs to help complete the process
- Monitor your student’s portfolio contents on ACT Profile or navigate Big Futures with your child to include examining the financial aid help listed on the website
- Assist student in finding all opportunities for scholarships and financial aid including filing of the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Help make College Choice with confidence in God’s plan for your child