



## 2008 COLLEGE COUNSELING AND ADMISSIONS Camp (grades 11-12)

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Mercer Education's *COLLEGE COUNSELING & ADMISSIONS CAMP* for students entering grades 11-12 meets for two hours a day twice a week for a total of 16 hours of intensive college counseling and admissions preparation. There are two one-month sessions, and students may attend just the first session, just the second session, or both. Students complete a "college readiness" assessment and are scheduled in small groups not exceeding six students. The assessment information and the small class setting allow ME's experienced counselors to develop action plans to meet each student's specific college selection needs and admissions criteria. Over the course of four weeks, students follow an accelerated schedule that provides a comprehensive look at the process and the requirements leading to successful college admissions.

Because many juniors and seniors are not fully prepared to meet the deadlines that they will soon be facing, the course is designed to follow an intensive curriculum that instructs students in making informed decisions regarding college selection and in working on all the necessary components of the application process within a compressed period of time. The goal of this course is to enhance the likelihood that students will select a college(s) that is best-suited to them and that they will gain admission through informed selection, thorough preparation, and quality work that will impress admissions counselors, selection committees, and alumni interviewers—anyone who reviews and must choose from the thousands of applicants each year those students whose applications stand out from the crowd. At the end of each session, parents receive a progress report appraising student's work in the course and suggestions for additional preparation.

### A Student's Typical Day (total 2 hours instruction each class, twice a week)

Over the course of four weeks, students will cover the "full package" of college selection and admissions material that include the components listed below. The components build on each other and will be covered, for the most part, in a logical, chronological order. Times spent in each area may vary depending on the needs of the class, and there will be some overlap as components are revisited and work is revised and resubmitted. Application essays receive special attention, and students should plan to do some writing.

Component	Activities
"Big Picture"	Students fill in calendar with all impending as well as distant deadlines including tests dates for SAT, ACT, and SAT Subject Tests.
Personal & Academic Profile	Students define 4-year high school plan, create resume, cover letter, and personal profile, identify extracurricular activity options, and complete a "who-am-I" inventory of likes, dislikes, needs and goals.
College Selection	Students selectively identify and develop a list of college choices to best fit their individual interests, talents, objectives, and possible career choices and learn the specific admissions requirements of each college.
Application Components	Students work through the process: special focus on effective personal statements, recommendations, pros and cons of early application, campus visits, interactive mock interviews, and necessary planning and follow-up.
Costs, Scholarships, and Other Considerations	Students explore financial aid and scholarship options, work and intern opportunities, other academic enrichment opportunities.