

FHS COUNSELING UPDATES

Back to School Newsletter Enclosed is a newsletter from the FHS Counseling Department containing pertinent information for this month of our school year. As you read through this newsletter, please note and share any questions that may arise as we are happy to help!

Skyward

Please be sure we have your current email address listed in Skyward. We communicate events, important dates, and reminders to you via your Skyward account and through the email address that is listed there. We also provide updated information on our link off of the school district's website. Here is the link and if you are having issues logging on, please email our IT department at ktennant@freedomschools.k12.wi.us

<https://skyward.iscorp.com/scripts/wsisa.dll/WService=wsedufreedomwi/seplog01.w>

Announcements

Attention Parents and Students, announcements are posted daily. Checking announcements will help keep you in the loop of upcoming meetings, events, deadlines and reminders. Below is the link where they will be posted daily.

<https://www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us/schools/fhs/about/announcements.cfm>

Voices of Democracy

All students (9-12) are eligible to compete in the Voices of Democracy scholarship program! Established in 1947, the Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 25,000 ninth through 12th grade students from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$1 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

The national first place winner receives a \$35,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. A complete list of other national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$21,000, and the first place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins at least a scholarship of \$1,000. Before submitting your essay, download the 2024-2025 entry form below:

<https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>

Please turn in your 3-5 minute audio-essay (can be on a flash drive) to the front office and we will return to our local VFW post. We have had many students participate and have success and earn monetary prizes. Please don't pass this opportunity up!

AP (Advanced Placement) Course Registration with College Board and Payment Process

All students planning on taking an AP class or currently taking an AP class should be creating an account or signing in on on-line with the College Board. After creating/accessing their account, they need to register for their respective course sections. Students will be given these join codes in their courses or receive an email from Mrs. Vander Loop (AP PreCalc Terms 3 and 4.)

Once they join their sections on the College Board website, they are registered to take the AP test. Payment for AP Testing is due our FHS Counseling Office by **October 30th** and checks can be made payable to FHS testing. Cost is \$98 per test. If a student decides to forgo the test, they will have to notify the high school counseling office by March 3rd, 2025 to avoid a \$40 fee. See link below for details.

<https://www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us/schools/fhs/students/ap-exams-and-courses.cfm>

CAPP (Cooperative Academic Partnership Program) Courses and Payment Information

If you or your students has registered for a class at Freedom High School that is eligible for CAPP (Cooperative Academic Partnership Program) credit through UW-Oshkosh please read the information below. Freedom High School currently offers four CAPP courses this year:

CAPP Biology 105	4 UW Oshkosh Credits
CAPP English 214	3 UW Oshkosh Credits
CAPP Spanish 204	5 UW Oshkosh Credits
CAPP Writing 101	3 UW Oshkosh Credits

The cost for a CAPP credit CAPP (Cooperative Academic Partnership Program) is \$105 dollars per credit. Students receiving Free and Reduced Lunch cost will be \$52.50 per credit. CAPP Writing 101 and English 214 would be \$315, CAPP Biology is \$420 and CAPP Spanish will be \$525. Cost per credit at UW Oshkosh is \$355.48 for a Wisconsin resident.

Payment is due October 3rd for: **students taking a CAPP Course in Terms 1 and 2**

Payment is due February 1st for: **students taking a CAPP Course in Terms 3 and 4**

Payment should be brought to the FHS Counseling office and checks can be made payable to "FHS".

*If you *want* to pay for a CAPP course in terms 3 and 4 now, families are more than welcome to.

CAPP courses are a unique and awesome opportunity the FHS offers. Our staff has worked hard to collaborate with UW Oshkosh to become eligible to provide these courses. Please note that your undergraduate GPA begins when you start these courses so be sure you are allowing yourself the time to dedicate and focus on the curriculum being taught.

<https://www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us/schools/fhs/students/capp.cfm>

Do CAPP Credits Transfer?

It is our student's responsibility to confirm whether or not the credits from UW Oshkosh will be accepted at the college of their interest. To help determine whether or not you would like to take the course for credit from UW Oshkosh, please use the resources listed below:

Transferology <https://www.transferology.com/index.htm>

CAPP Website <https://uwosh.edu/capp/students/transferring-credits/>

CCIHS (College Credits in High School) Courses and Payment Information

If you or your student has registered for a class at Freedom High School that is eligible for CCIHS (College Credit in High School) credit through UWGB, please read the information below. Freedom High School currently offers two CCIHS courses this year:

College Credit Precalculus: Math 104, Precalculus 4 credits at UWGB

College Credit Calculus: Math 202, Calc and Analytic Geometry 4 credits at UWGB

Payment:

The cost for a CCIHS credit is \$110 dollars per credit. Both Math 104 and 202 will total \$440. Cost per credit at UW Green Bay is \$ \$348 for a Wisconsin resident.

Payment is due October 3rd for: students taking a CCIHS Course in Terms 1 and 2

Payment is due February 6th for: students taking a CCIHS Course in Terms 3 and 4

Payment should be brought to the FHS Counseling office and checks can be made payable to "FHS".

*If you want to pay for a CCIHS course in terms 3 and 4 now, families are more than welcome to.

CCIHS courses are a unique and awesome opportunity the FHS offers. Our staff has worked hard to collaborate with UWGB to become eligible to provide these courses. Please note that your college undergraduate GPA begins when you start these courses so be sure you are allowing yourself the time to dedicate and focus on the curriculum being taught.

Please contact the high school counseling office if you have any further questions regarding CCIHS courses. You can also refer to the CCIHS link on the UWGB website as an additional resource!

<https://www.uwgb.edu/college-credit-in-high-school/>

Will these credits transfer to your prospective school? Check the link below:

Transferology <https://www.transferology.com/index.htm>

Class of 2025

Seniors could begin applying to UW schools on August 1st. Although we do not want you sending in a rushed application, if you feel prepared and want to move forward with applying, it may be nice to get this off of your "to-do" list. Private colleges typically have a rolling application and you will want to check specifically with your school of interest to determine specific dates for application.

UW System application date opens

August 1, 2025

<https://apply.wisconsin.edu/>

<https://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/>

When you apply, you may be asked to send your ACT scores and a high school transcript. Below are the websites to do so. Many colleges are *not requiring* the ACT this year for application. Please check the admission requirements of the colleges that you are applying to see if this a required component.

Transcript www.parchment.com
ACT Scores <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/scores.html>

University and Technical College Applications Senior Meetings

Ideally, seniors should have their college applications to their desired university(s) and technical colleges of their choice *by Halloween*. Many universities have moved up their priority deadline dates due to greater competition and enrollment caps. Many universities have early application deadlines of November 1st so stay diligent with your applications.

We will be conducting additional Senior Application Meetings for the Technical and Four Year Colleges on the following dates. If you have not already applied, please consider signing up for a meeting:

Tuesday, September 17 th	Irish Hour	4 Year College Application Meeting
Wednesday, September 18 th	Irish Hour	2 Year Technical College Application Meeting

Direct Admit Accept Offer Forms

For those seniors who received the Direct Admit letters from the UW System, you may now take the next steps in the process. You can complete the “Accept Offer Forms” on their website. You will need to create an account (if you don’t already have one from participating in the CAPP program) and sign in. Once you sign in, you then can complete the forms needed to move forward.

<https://apply.wisconsin.edu/direct-admit>

Wisconsin Education Fairs

Any student (9-12) who is considering going to college should plan on attending a college fair! Wisconsin Education Fairs (WEF's) are a great way to learn more about prospective universities in person and all in one place. There is no cost and you can register at the link below. Two local upcoming fairs will be:

St. Norbert College

Tuesday, Sept 24 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept 25 9:00-11:00 a.m.

UW Oshkosh

Thursday, Sept. 26 9:00-11:00 a.m.

WEF Registration Link

Visiting Campuses

FHS students can take virtual campus tours of potential colleges to help explore the options that are available. Upper classmen should be exploring and narrowing down their campuses choices. If you are able to establish an in-person campus tour, that is ideal. This helps immensely with the decision making process. College websites contain the information needed to set up a visit and it is typically listed under their admission’s link.

Local Technical College Open Houses

NorthEast Wisconsin Technical College Open House
Thursday, September 26th 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Application fee waived if you attend and apply that evening
[NWTC Open House Link](#)

Fox Valley Technical College Open House
Tuesday, October 8th 3:00-7:00 p.m.
Apply on the spot, \$30.00 application fee waived
[FVTC Open House Link](#)

Letters of Recommendation

Seniors, as you are preparing to ask someone to write a letter of recommendation, please provide them with a completed Recommendation Request Form located on the link below (this will help the author of your letter write a more complete letter) You can also pick up a hard copy of this form in the high school counseling office:

<https://www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us/schools/fhs/students/letter-of-recommendation.cfm>

Scholarships

Seniors looking to apply for scholarships can begin researching which scholarships they are eligible for. Any scholarships that we become aware of we will post electronically. Please refer to the link below for more information. You will note that there are not many available this time of year. However, this will change as the school year progresses. Please check our page regularly for updates!

<https://www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us/schools/fhs/students/scholarships.cfm>

Students should also be checking the schools they are planning on attending for scholarships that they offer as well as parents' places of employment, credit unions and any associations or clubs your family may belong to for additional scholarship opportunities. Local scholarships offered to Freedom seniors only will become available in the spring and we will communicate specifics in upcoming correspondence.

Volunteering

We often receive questions about ways to volunteer. One way to explore opportunities is through the website listed below. Students can review the website to search for ways to volunteer throughout the Fox Cities. This a great way to branch out, try something new and become more well-rounded. Volunteerism is something that both employers and schools seek in applicants!

Volunteer Fox Cities
<https://www.volunteerfoxcities.org/>

Feeding America
<https://www.feedingamerica.org/take-action/volunteer>

Pillars Homeless Shelter
<https://pillarsinc.org/become-a-volunteer/>

Financial Aid (Completing the FAFSA)

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) applications for the college year of 2025-2026

begin processing in December (later than in past years). Seniors can apply for grants and loans (all based on tax information) at the link below:

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

Class of 2026

Junior Conferencing

Juniors will have the opportunity during October-December to have a **SPEC (Student Parent Educational Conference.)** This is will also take a more in depth look at opportunities for our students after they graduate from FHS. The SPECs are conducted with the school counselor, parent(s) and student during the school day and will last 30-40 minutes. Parents will be able to register electronically. Sign up information will be sent out shortly.

Mrs. Vander Loop and Mrs. Peters will divide the meetings and cover similar talking points including:

- Student's Strengths, Accomplishments, Co-Curricular Involvement, Volunteer and Work Experience
- High School Coursework/GPA/Class Rank
- Post Secondary Options
- Vocational/Educational Goals
- Discuss Direct Admit, Wisconsin Guarantee and Application Process

SPECs serve as an excellent opportunity to gather individual information and resources for post-secondary planning.

There are several activities that juniors will need to be complete prior to conferencing during College and Career Planning activities with Mrs. Vander Loop and Mrs. Peters. These will be conducted in late September and early October.

Direct Admit

Juniors will have the opportunity to discuss the Direct Admit process with the counselors during the SPEC meetings. Your family will be asked if this is something you would like to participate in.

If a student opts in, FHS will share the following student data with Universities of Wisconsin: High school and district information, student name, WISEid, high school student ID, graduation year, physical address, school email address, GPA, legal sex, and race/ethnicity. Federal guidelines require schools to collect race/ethnicity information and will be used in aggregate for federal reporting. Demographic information is *not* a factor in the direct admission decision process.

This process eliminates the need for students to fill out an application, pay application fees, and be responsible for sharing their transcript with the following institutions:

UW-Green Bay	UW Parkside	UW Steven Point	UW Whitewater
UW-Milwaukee	UW Platteville	UW Stout	
UW-Oshkosh	UW River Falls	UW Superior	

Direct Admit Link

Wisconsin Guarantee

Juniors who are in the top 10% of their graduating class after this academic year concludes will also be eligible for the Wisconsin Guarantee. The Wisconsin Guarantee offers guaranteed admission to all

Universities of Wisconsin (UW) universities for all who qualify. First-year applicants from Wisconsin high schools who are in the top 10% of their class at the end of 11th grade are guaranteed to all UW universities except UW-Madison. You will need to apply to UW Eau-Claire and UW La Crosse separately as they are not a part of the Direct Admit program.

Additionally, first-year applicants from Wisconsin high schools who are in the top 5% of their class at the end of 11th grade will be guaranteed admission to UW-Madison provided that they apply on or before the Early Action deadline. You will need to apply to UW-Madison as they do not participate in the Direct Admit program.

Below is an informational link that explains the difference between the UW Direct Admit Program and the Wisconsin Guarantee:

[Wisconsin Guarantee Link](#)

ACT

All of the juniors will take the ACT on March 18th, 2025. This test will be digital and we will be providing specifics on the testing window and process shortly. FHS will handle registration and proctoring of this exam. There is no cost to juniors and all juniors are required to take it. Many more details will be forthcoming as the date nears. However, some students opt to take the ACT prior to the state wide test date. If you decide to take the act early, you must go to www.actstudent.org to create an account and register and pay to take the test. The website will allow you to select where you will be testing.

ACT Myths

Students often make the mistake of approaching that ACT with the attitude that, “they won’t need this score for college anyway.” However, the admissions counselor of the UW System made it clear at the last UW System workshop that schools will often look at ACT scores for admission in a positive manner for admission *and* for scholarship as well as admission into a program.

Both Technical and Four Year colleges may use it in place of placement tests in Math and English. We have had multiple students state that they wish they would have either submitted their scores to qualify for a scholarship OR tried harder to obtain a point or two to prevent them from having to take another course on their respective campuses.

Juniors, please keep this in mind as we begin to prepare for the ACT. A solid score can bolster your admission chances, qualify you for scholarships, and prevent you from having to take additional placement tests and/or courses in the future! It’s imperative that you try your best.

ACT Prep Class

Freedom is offering an ACT Prep class after winter vacation. We will be providing registration dates and information for this course very shortly. The class we run has proven beneficial and increases confidence for our juniors. All are encouraged to sign up.

Additional ACT Prep Resources

ACT Prep Course from ACT Website

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation.html>

Fox Valley ACT Prep Course
<https://www.act-testprep.com/>

PSAT

FHS will be administering the PSAT on Wednesday, October 16th to those juniors that have signed up. A sign-up email was sent Wednesday, September 11th. Interested juniors should register in guidance prior to Tuesday, September 17th. Mrs. Vander Loop will electronically reach out to all who signed up. The test will be digital this year and we will be providing details shortly. For more information regarding the PSAT and what it entails, practice testing, etc., please refer to the link below:

[**The PSAT/NMSQT – SAT Suite | College Board**](#)

Citizenship Grade

This is our third year offering the Responsibility Pass/ Citizenship program. If your student is eligible for the program, but does not have permission from you as parents, they will not be able to have open campus privileges. Open campus privileges are available for only the 30-minute lunch to Juniors and Seniors whom have a 3.0 or better with their citizenship grade (not academic grade). The responsibility pass program is not for leaving campus during Irish Hour at the end of the school day.

Class of 2027 (Sophomores)

Please note that you can also begin the process of researching career paths and potential schools and taking tours (both Technical and University Campuses) either virtually or in-person (depending on availability.) This is an excellent way to begin to form opinions and interests as to what your choices look like for life after high school. We will continue to explore opportunities during College and Career Planning Activities with the high school counseling staff.

FOCUS Field Trip

FOCUS Program for Teen Drivers (Sophomores)

On Wednesday, October 9th

The FOCUS program stands for:

Focus on driving

Others are affected

Clear distractions

Understand that substances impair judgement

Safely reach your destination

Each year, students from dozens of school districts join together to watch the program at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, showing students the process of a trauma situation, what it is like to be airlifted and to need emergency surgery. The core of the program will always remain the same – we are here to educate, engage and save lives. There will be a parent component as well and information is forthcoming.

Cost of Education

It is *essential* that our underclassmen and their families look at the cost of schooling to formulate a plan.

Below is the tuition chart for the UW System:

[**https://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/pay-for-college/annual-tuition/**](https://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/pay-for-college/annual-tuition/)

Below is a link from UW Oshkosh that also includes estimated costs for room and board:

<https://uwosh.edu/financialaid/resources/cost/>

Please note that Technical Colleges are an excellent option and can also be a stepping stone to a bachelor's degree as well as an associate's degree. Below is a link that includes the estimated costs of a full time Technical College student:

<https://www.wtcsystem.edu/technical-college-benefits/affordable/>

Class of 2027 (Freshmen)

Remember the key to success is joining in and getting involved. Sign up for opportunities and groups as they present themselves in announcements. Homecoming week is a great way to get started! See announcements for details!

College and Military Visits

All students should take advantage of these opportunities (Freshmen through Seniors) Check announcements for updates. It is great to connect with reps and gather information and additional details on places of interest!

College Visit:

September 24: UW-Eau Claire
September 25: UW-Oshkosh
October 1: Bellin College
October 10: Grand Canyon University
October 22: UW-Stout
October 23: Ripon College
October 24: UW-Stevens Point
October 29: UW-Platteville

Military Visits:

September 24: US Army

Looking Ahead

September 23 rd -27 th	Homecoming Week
September 27 th	Early Release
October 9 th	Sophomore FOCUS Field Trip
October 16 th	PSAT
October 26 th	Early Release
November 1 st	No School

Counseling Office

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out via phone or email.

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Dawn Peters	920-788-7940 ext. 1306
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