

1.8 Introduction to G11 UGC Curriculum

Grade 11 is arguably *the* most important time for the university application process. This “work year” includes a list of tasks that are key to successful results. Each student and their family will have two formal meetings with their assigned counselor, and students will attend regular UGC classes to support the production of the following:

- Student resume/ CV
- Student survey
- In-depth research on colleges and universities
- Long list of university and college choices that include *Reach*, *Safety* and *Match* choices for the student

Grade 11 students will also prepare for – and in some cases take – the necessary admissions tests such as the SAT or ACT as per US university requirements. Selected programs in the UK such as those at Oxford and Cambridge require testing that also requires some preparation. The UGC team provides comprehensive information and serves as a testing site for the SAT and Oxbridge testing. Interviews are required at many top tier global universities and interview practice for all universities begins during Grade 11.

Students are encouraged to spend a portion of Grade 11 summer not only revising and preparing for assessments which will inform the UPG2 (University Predicted Grade) but also finalizing their university application shortlist, and continuing to write their university essays. The UGC team believes that each student should think globally about higher education choices, and construct a final application list with a broad balance of *Reach*, *Match* and *Safety* choices. Thorough research, and participation in virtual and in-person campus tours during Grades 10 and 11 will ensure that choices are appropriate matches for each student. Consistent focus and careful planning in Grade 11 will help ensure success in Grade 12, and reduce the burden once students are in the crucial final year of the IBDP.

Grade 12

The final year of the IBDP is where all the preparation work the students have worked hard on finally comes together. The UGC team insists on a two week internal deadline prior to external deadlines; this ensures that students can confidently submit materials which have been reviewed by our team well in advance. The earliest university application deadlines begin in September of Grade 12, with key milestones occurring in October (Oxbridge; Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine in the UK) and November (US Early applications). UGC Counselors prioritize support for Grade 12 students during this crucial period, from August until December. Most students will have submitted their applications before the winter break, with the exception of students applying to Australia and New Zealand, who make their applications after they have received their final IB results in July of the following year.