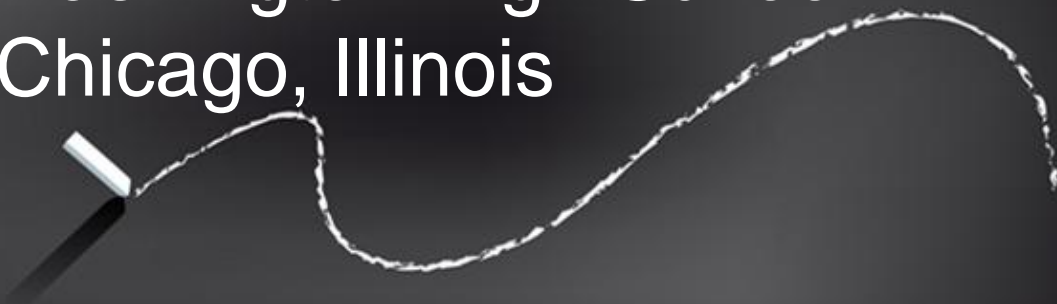


Welcome to
Senior Seminar:
A model for increasing
college-going rates

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Session Objective

Participants will learn how the counseling team at GWHS increased their college-going rate by developing and teaching Senior Seminar.

Session Objective

Participants will gain helpful strategies and tools and walk away with engaging activities to implement Senior Seminar at their school to increase the college-going rates.

Activities

- Complete a pre/post test
- Take a first hand look at Senior Seminar through a 6-minute video
- Analyze GWHS' postsecondary data
- Review the Senior Seminar syllabus

Learning Outcomes

After reviewing video footage
from the GWHS Senior Seminar course
along with a PowerPoint Presentation
highlighting school data,
participants will be able to:

Learning Outcomes (cont.)

- **use ideas from the video to help structure a Senior Seminar course**
- **identify key data points outlined in the PowerPoint presentation**

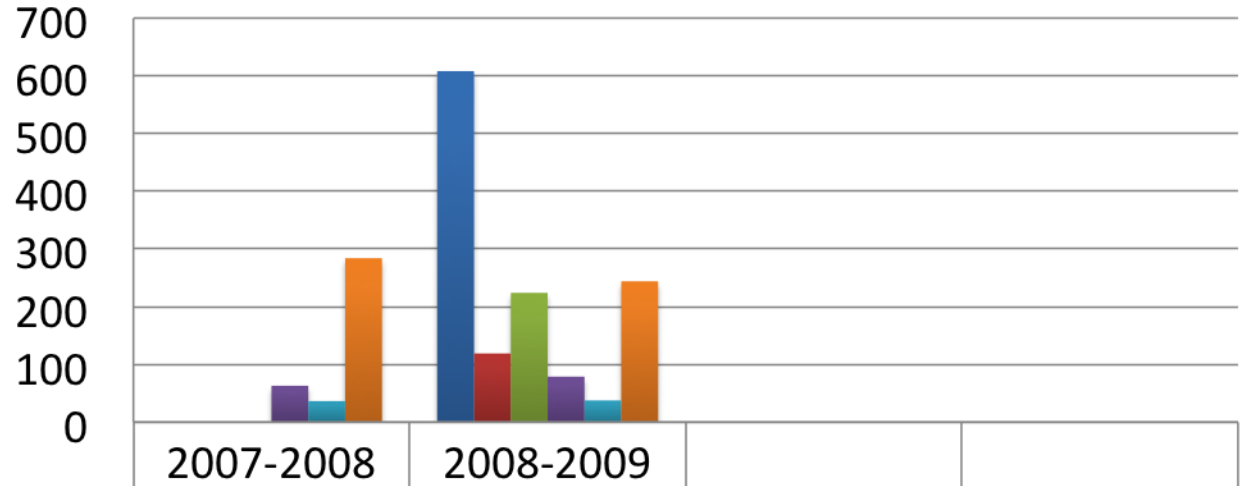
Learning Outcomes (cont.)

- use the GWHS syllabus as a template to develop a syllabus based on the needs of students at your school and
- make an informed decision about implementing Senior Seminar to increase college-going rates

Pre-test

- **if you need a paper test please raise your hand**
- **if you have a smart phone please go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/>**

GWHS College-Going Data



	2007-2008	2008-2009		
Applications Processed		608		
1 Letter of Acceptance		119		
Total letters		224		
FAFSA %	63.1	78.9		
College Enrollment Rate	36.6	37.7		
Graduates	284	244		

Senior Seminar Course Description

The purpose of this course is to

- increase awareness about postsecondary options
- assist seniors in the postsecondary application process, which includes completing five college and scholarship applications, applying for financial aid (FAFSA) and revising the personal statement

Course Description (cont.)

- allow students to participate in the GWHS college fair as well as activities at other sites (National Hispanic College Fair, NACAC and Truman's Open House)
- schedule speakers (admissions representatives) at least once a week to help students make informed decisions about life after high school

GWHS Senior Seminar 2009-10

- **Total Seniors: 300**
- **Seniors enrolled in Senior Seminar: 150**
- **Seniors not enrolled: 60 IB, 60 CTE, 30 enrolled in other courses**
- **IB students assigned to IB counselor, CTE counselors work with CTE students in their caseload and counselors address the remaining students according to caseload**

A look at Senior Seminar



GWHS Senior Seminar (cont.)

- **Five classes (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 7th)**
- **46 minutes**
- **Five days a week**
- **Each counselor teaches one class**
- **Students earn a credit**

Weekly Topics & Assignment

Date

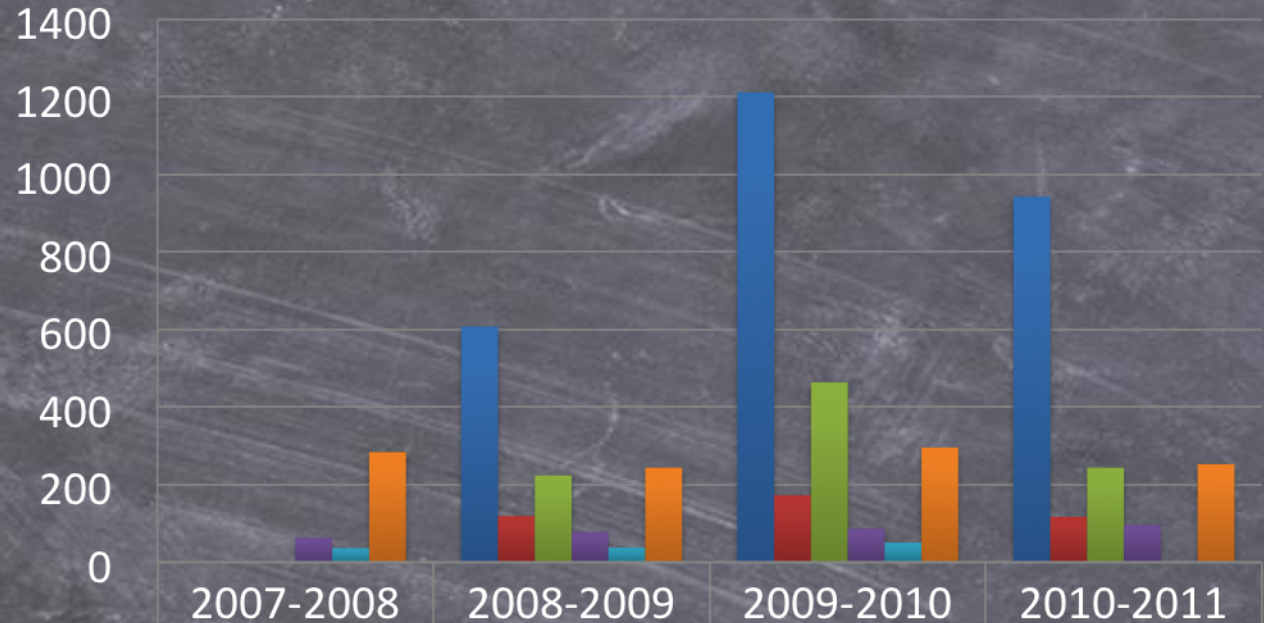
Topics & Assignments

- 09/06/2011 Follow-up with POSSE nominees, create an account at www.actstudent.org, review ACT report, complete on-line registration for the ACT October National Test, Evening/Saturday School Registration, revise personal statement, and eligible students work on GATES (Essay #1)
- 09/12/2011 Transcript review, students should request letters of recommendation (use Brag Sheet), register at What's Next Illinois, Evening/Saturday School Registration, introduce college research project, personal statement revision (1st draft due) and work on GATES (Essay #2)

Week #1

- Follow-up with POSSE nominees
- Review ACT report (areas to improve)
- Create an account at www.actstudent.org (ACT retake)
- Complete on-line registration for the ACT October National Test
- Transcript Evaluation
- Evening/Saturday School Registration
- Eligible students work on GATES (Essay #1)

GWHS College Going Data



	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
■ Applications Processed		608	1212	943
■ 1 Letter of Acceptance		119	173	117
■ Total letters		224	464	244
■ FAFSA %	63.1	78.9	86.3	96
■ College Enrollment Rate	36.6	37.7	50.9	
■ Graduates	284	244	296	253

Who should teach Senior Seminar?

The counselors at GWHS teach Senior Seminar to

- **give seniors the postsecondary attention they need**
- **support juniors in an all important testing year**
- **check in with sophomores because we will not spend quality time with this group until junior year**
- **monitor freshmen so that they stay on track to graduate**

Wrap Up

- **Questions and Answers**

- **Post-test**

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/>

- **Complete feedback form**

Thank you

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