



CRISTO REY KANSAS CITY
Senior Seminar
Fall 2020/Spring 2021 Course Syllabus

Miss Steph Hart
(816) 595-2822 (*direct line*)
SHart@crstoreykc.org
@MissHartCRKC (*Twitter*)
@miss.hart.crkc (*Instagram*)
<http://crkc-seniorseminar.weebly.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/CollegeCounselingCRKC> (*Facebook*)

Cristo Rey Kansas City
211 West Linwood Boulevard
Kansas City, MO 64111
(816) 457-6044 (*main office*)
CEEB # 261659
<http://scholarshipscrkc.weebly.com/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Senior Seminar is a required course, offering a hands-on environment directly correlated to the tasks of the college search and selection process, including applications for admission and scholarships, standardized test preparation, financial aid, and decision making, as well as expectations for college life and beyond.

REQUIRED CLASS SUPPLIES

- CRKC-issued laptop, Google Classroom and designated websites, as well as materials distributed in class throughout the year

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

As college-bound students, this course is modeled to be an opportunity to practice behaviors expected of college undergraduates. Furthermore, all students are required to adhere to the Cristo Rey Kansas City student handbook. In addition, seniors must exhibit behaviors that validate our school's core values:

- **Spirituality** – join peers in reciting our class affirmation after a moment of quiet to begin each class session
- **Integrity** – follow directions the first time they are given; promptly and appropriately request clarification, if needed
- **Respect** – speak with school and work appropriate language that demonstrate respect for themselves and others, including peers, Miss Hart, and guest speakers
- **Responsibility** – come to Senior Seminar prepared with required materials, utilize school-issued electronic device in a proper manner during class time, be accountable for all information posted to virtual resources
- **Partnership** – maintain a positive attitude aimed at high school graduation and successful college enrollment; extend best effort toward our shared goal so that all seniors graduate on time and together

Seniors who are unable to abide by these basic expectations will experience consequences. Initially, a class-wide general reminder announcement will be made. If the negative behavior continues, a private conversation will take place directly with the student. If needed, the student will then be noted aloud by name with a request to engage in classroom expectations. When necessary, the student will be asked to step out of the classroom. In these rare situations, contact will be made with the parent/guardian to discuss.

OFFICE HOURS

Miss Hart will be available each Monday via Zoom from 2:50pm to 3:40pm. In addition, individual appointments may be scheduled *in advance* for alternate times. Virtual workshop sessions will be scheduled on designated days throughout the academic year, as well. This procedure mimics expectations of professors on a college campus.

ATTENDANCE

Punctual attendance at academic appointments is essential. Students are expected to be present and on time for every class, both in-person and synchronous. Late arrivals will be reported, in accordance with the student handbook. In the case of absence, the responsibility for work missed, regardless of the reason, rests upon the student.

STUDENT EVALUATION - ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

All assignments will be posted to Google Classroom, to the Senior Seminar class website, as well as to the student and parent/guardian portals connected to the CRKC gradebook. Assignments are expected to be complete according to the given instructions and by the designated due dates.

Choosing not to submit assignments will negatively impact the grade issued in this course, which is required for graduation. Late work will not be accepted. In the event of absence, missed work is due by the next Seminar class period in order to earn credit. Extended absences will be handled on an individual basis.

Grades will be updated (at least) weekly. Seniors and parents may utilize their online portals to access grades on individual assignments, as well as the current overall grade for the course.

“Crystallize your goals. Make a plan for achieving them and set yourself a deadline. Then, with supreme confidence, determination and disregard for obstacles and other people's criticisms, carry out your plan.” ~ Paul J. Meyer

COURSE CURRICULUM AND COMPETENCIES/LEARNING INTENTIONS

Senior Seminar will be divided into ten units of instruction (*not necessarily presented in order; content overlap will occur*):

- **Introductions, Norms, and Expectations**
Students will recognize the responsibilities associated with being a college-bound senior at CRKC.
- **Application Preparation**
Students will complete components necessary to successfully submit applications for admission and scholarship including essays, resumes, requests for letters of recommendation, and school/organization specific forms.
- **Fall College Fairs and Campus Visits**
Students will be equipped to have meaningful interactions with college admission representatives who visit CRKC virtually, at online college fairs, on campus visits, and when communicating with college staff via phone or email.
- **College Applications**
Students will effectively navigate the college application process, submitting complete applications in advance of deadlines and following through on supplementary materials in a timely manner.
- **Financial Aid**
Students and their parent(s) will understand the financial aid process and submit the requisite documentation to maximize federal, state, and institutional financial aid packaging.
- **Test Preparation for October SAT**
Students will gain test-taking confidence by constructing a set of strategies to utilize on the required October SAT.
- **Scholarship Applications**
Students will be prepared to complete approved outside scholarship applications that may attract additional money toward college tuition and related expenses.
- **Collegiate Life and Beyond**
Students will be exposed to guest speakers, case studies, readings, videos, and exercises designed to enhance requisite skills to navigate not only the college/university campus experience, but life outside of school, as well.
- **Final College Decision**
Students will utilize all available resources to properly evaluate college/university options in order to make an informed final decision. This includes the required Look Forward Conference during spring semester.
- **Graduation Requirements and Connected Activities**
Students will meet requisite criteria to participate in graduation activities, using the monthly checklist as a tool.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

All seniors will apply to at least six (6) colleges/universities: (1) in-district community college, (2) a match in-state public university (state in which you reside), (3) a match Cristo Rey Network Partner institution, (4) a match out-of-state college/university, (5) a reach (step above match) school, and (6) a match "Senior Selection." Students may apply to more after completion of these requirements, but that is optional. Transcripts must be requested through Naviance by the designated CRKC deadline. A fee waiver, via the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), will be provided for all applications requiring payment. (*NOTE: Not all colleges/universities accept application fee waivers. These instances will be handled individually with impacted students.*)

ADMISSION DECISION AND SCHOLARSHIP LETTERS

Seniors must present admission decision and scholarship letters upon receipt from colleges/universities, as well as from scholarship agencies/organizations, uploaded to personal COLLEGE folders on Google Drive, shared with Miss Hart.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AND THE FAFSA

All seniors will submit applications for a minimum of eight (8) outside scholarship opportunities. This does not include institutional scholarships that are automatically awarded based upon the application for admission. Scholarship applications must be for opportunities presented by Miss Hart or approved in advance. Seniors are absolutely encouraged to apply for additional scholarships for which they are qualified.

In addition, all seniors are required to submit the 2021-2022 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). CRKC will host an evening opportunity for families to meet with financial aid professionals to complete this document. Seniors will submit confirmation of FAFSA completion, the Student Aid Report (SAR), and a copy of the 2019 parent (and student, too, if employed during 2019 and filed taxes) tax transcript for use in the financial aid verification process.

"Review your goals twice every day in order to be focused on achieving them." ~ Les Brown

"I've always found that anything worth achieving will always have obstacles in the way and you've got to have that drive and determination to overcome those obstacles on route to whatever it is that you want to accomplish." ~ Chuck Norris

CRISTO REY KANSAS CITY
Senior Seminar
Fall 2020/Spring 2021 Course Syllabus

Signature Acknowledgement from Student

I have read the policies and procedures in the course syllabus and understand that I will be held accountable to expectations.

Student Printed Name	Student Signature	Date
----------------------	-------------------	------

Signature Acknowledgement from Parent/Guardian

I have read the policies and procedures explained in this course syllabus and understand that my student will be held accountable to these expectations.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name	Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
------------------------------	---------------------------	------

_____ (parent/guardian email address; please print clearly)

(_____) _____
(parent/guardian phone number)