



School Counselors Contribute to College Access and Success

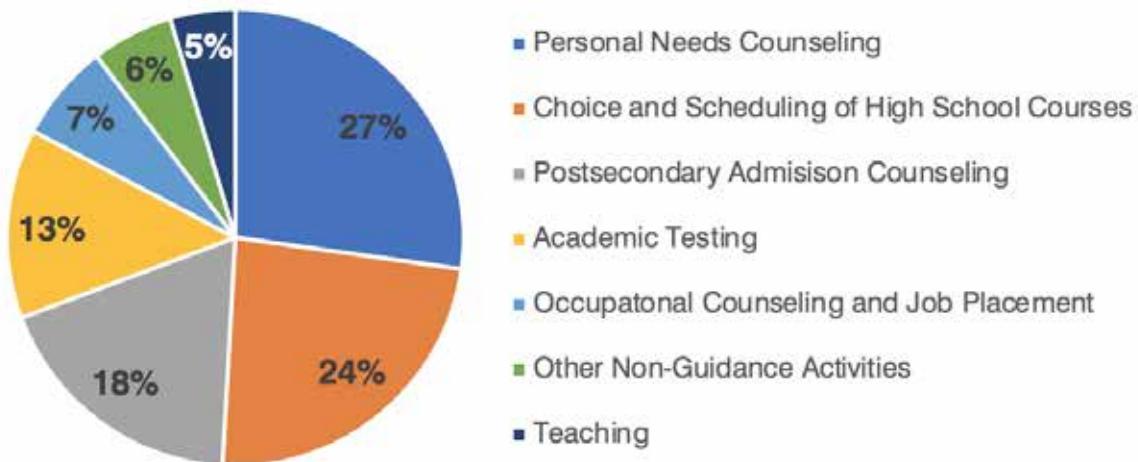
School counselors play an essential part in ensuring students’ success throughout K-12 education and beyond. As the postsecondary aspirations of high school students continue to rise, and as college degrees become the new prerequisite to economic self-sufficiency, it is incumbent upon administrators, policymakers, and the public to recognize the contributions of, and challenges facing, school counselors.

A recent study found that juniors who had talked one-on-one with a school counselor were:

- **Seven times** more likely to complete a FAFSA
- **Three times** more likely to attend college
- **Two times** more likely to attend a bachelor’s degree program

Unfortunately, counselors, especially those serving at-risk students, are often stretched too thin, taught too little, and given too few resources, greatly limiting their abilities to help students realize their full educational potential. According to NACAC research, **public school counselors** report spending only **18 percent** of their time on postsecondary admission counseling, compared to **31 percent** for **private school counselors**.

Percent of Time on Various Counseling Activities



Between heavy caseloads, time-consuming administrative responsibilities, and limited training opportunities, counselors are stretched too thin. To prepare all students for college, improve the college enrollment rates of underrepresented populations, and help advance the United States’ place in the global economy, we must recognize the unique and vital contribution of school counselors and ensure that they receive the support they need to, in turn, support our students as they transition to postsecondary education.

Average Number of Students per Counselor, 2018–2019

