



**AISHA
CUNNINGHAM**

**COLLEGE
COUNSELOR**

**UPA HIGH
SCHOOL**

**TIME AT U PREP:
2.5 YEARS**

University Prep Schools provides a culturally responsive educational experience for our scholars that builds that academic competence, habits of work and scholarship, and self-actualization empowering them to successfully accomplish their post-secondary plans, as well as socially and civically engaged as change agents for themselves and their community.

CREW PROFILE

Please describe your role as a College Counselor or College Prep Coordinator.

As a college counselor I provide academic as well as social-emotional support for our students. I work closely with our college prep coordinator for college and career planning as well.

Your work is so important to ensuring our students are prepared for the next step in their academic journey. Please describe a memorable experience you had with a U Prep student.

When I was the counselor at UPA Middle, I put on a Black Business Career Fair. My students were excited to see brown faces in careers of their choice. There were lawyers, chefs, brand strategists, tattoo artists, hair stylists, physicians, painters, and so much more. It made their career choices seem even more tangible.

What advice would you give Middle School students so they are well prepared for college?

Begin to think about what you enjoy doing, and what makes you happy. Whatever that is for you, whatever makes you excited, study that.

What advice would you give High School students so they are well prepared for college?

- Practice managing your time.
- Enjoy getting to know yourself and navigating what you enjoy doing.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions.
- It's okay to ask for help.
- Stay true to your passions. It is your life, and only you can live it.
- Be confident in the decisions you make.
- You are capable and equipped, please don't forget that.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Hearing my students say I've helped them in some way. The hugs, the laughs, and even the eye rolls when I have to hold them accountable to the goals they've set.

What do you love most about working at U Prep Schools?

My students are the best part of this job. They are truly my motivation.