

CREW PROFILE

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

My role as a counselor generally focuses on the personal, social, academic and emotional development of my students, their college and career interests and how I can help them manage and balance all of these things through education, strategies, interventions, prevention, etc.

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:

I'm still fairly new to U Prep as a Crew Member and although I get the opportunity to interact with students daily, working through a pandemic certainly has me missing the daily face to face interaction with students to really get to know them and their families. So while one memory doesn't stand out just yet, I am looking forward to creating memories and making an impact on the students, just as my teachers and counselors did for me.

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

Middle school students should get involved in as many activities, go on as many college field trips, attend as many events, join as many after school program (in and/or out of school) as possible. Middle school is the perfect time for students to really begin to explore their interests and try new things to figure out what they like, dislike, etc. Also, being active now will help them with time management and social skills which are both incredibly necessary for college.

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

Advice I give to my students is to follow their heart, pay attention to their skill set and their interests and let that guide them when choosing a major in college and/or career. In conversations with students, many share they're interested in careers/majors they believe will make them the most money. I take that as an opportunity to highlight their skills and think about how they can monetize that.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

The most rewarding part of my job is seeing students accomplish their goals. It's a faith check for themselves and increases their confidence and belief in themselves.

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

I love the family feeling. Although I'm new, it feels like I've been working here for years. I can reach out to anyone in our crew and someone is willing to help, answer a question, etc. It doesn't matter if we're in different buildings or departments. You just don't get that sense of camaraderie and respect everywhere. What we have at U Prep is very unique.

PARIS RITTER

**COLLEGE
AND CAREER
COUNSELOR**

**UPA MIDDLE
SCHOOL**

**TIME AT U PREP:
4 MONTHS**

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.