

Property of _____



SOUTH GWINNETT High School



Class of 2026



Junior Handbook

(A Planning Guide for Post-Secondary Options)

2288 Main Street
Snellville, GA 30078
770-972-4840

SGHS Website: www.gcpsk12.org/SouthGwinnettHS

Academy	Pathway	1st Course	2nd Course	3rd Course	4th Course Option
BEH Business, Entrepreneurship & Hospitality	Culinary Arts	<i>Introduction to Culinary Arts</i>	<i>Culinary Arts I</i>	<i>Culinary Arts II</i>	<i>WBL, Dual Enrollment, Internship</i>
	(3DE) Marketing and Management	<i>Marketing Principles</i>	<i>Marketing and Entrepreneurship</i>	<i>Marketing Management</i>	<i>WBL, Dual Enrollment, Internship</i>
	Entrepreneurship	<i>Introduction to Business and Technology</i>	<i>Legal Environment of Business</i>	<i>Entrepreneurship</i>	<i>WBL, Dual Enrollment, Internship, Youth Entrepreneurship of GA</i>
HHS Health and Human Services	Therapeutic Services/Allied Health and Medicine	<i>Introduction to Healthcare Science</i>	<i>Essentials of Healthcare</i>	<i>Allied Health and Medicine</i>	<i>WBL, Dual Enrollment, Internship</i>
	Nutrition and Food Science	<i>Food, Nutrition and Wellness</i>	<i>Food for Life</i>	<i>Food Science</i>	<i>WBL, Dual Enrollment, Internship</i>
PSLM Public Service, Law, and Media	Law Enforcement Services/Forensic Science	<i>Introduction to Law & Public Safety</i>	<i>Criminal Justice Essentials</i>	<i>Forensic Science and Criminal Investigations</i>	<i>WBL, Dual Enrollment, Internship</i>
	Legal Services/Application of Law	<i>Introduction to Law & Public Safety</i>	<i>Essentials of Legal Services</i>	<i>Applications of Law</i>	<i>WBL, Dual Enrollment, Internship</i>
	Audio/Video, Technology and Film	<i>Audio, Video, Tech and Film I</i>	<i>Audio, Video, Tech and Film II</i>	<i>Audio, Video, Tech and Film III</i>	<i>WBL, Dual Enrollment, Internship</i>
	Army JROTC	<i>Leadership, Education and Training</i> (LET I)	<i>Leadership, Education and Training</i> (LET II)	<i>Leadership, Education and Training</i> (LET III)	<i>Leadership, Education and Training</i> (LET IV)
	Teaching as a Profession	<i>Examining the Teaching Profession</i>	<i>Contemporary Issues in Education</i>	<i>Teaching as a Profession Practicum</i>	<i>WBL, Dual Enrollment, Internship</i>
STEM Science, Technology,	Computer Science	<i>Introduction to Digital Technology</i>	<i>AP Computer Science Principles</i>	<i>AP Computer Science</i>	<i>WBL, Dual Enrollment, Internship</i>
	Engineering and Technology	<i>Foundations of Engineering and Technology</i>	<i>Engineering Concepts</i>	<i>Engineering Applications</i>	<i>WBL, Dual Enrollment, Internship</i>
	Cybersecurity	<i>Intro to Digital Technology</i>	<i>Intro to Cybersecurity</i>	<i>Advanced Cybersecurity</i>	<i>WBL, Dual Enrollment, Internship</i>

January 2025,

Greetings SGHS Junior!

This handbook was designed to provide you with the basic tools necessary to make well-informed decisions about your post-secondary options. This is an exciting time in your life, and we hope that the information provided will help alleviate some of the anxiety associated with completing high school. Read through this planning guide carefully and should questions arise before or after your “junior conference”, feel free to make an appointment to see your counselor.

Your Junior year should be devoted to:

- Assessing progress toward graduation, including completing your pathway.
- Gathering information about yourself, your career options, appropriate postsecondary options and required entrance exams.

A few important things to remember:

- Use GAFutures.org to manage your college and career search, as well as testing and college application data
- Start to learn about financial aid and scholarships
- Athletes should register and send a transcript to the NCAA Clearinghouse at www.eligibilitycenter.org or NAIA at www.playnaia.org to participate in collegiate sports (speak to your coach for details).

Sincerely,

Your SGHS Academy Counselors,

Mr. Baker

Mrs. Cunningham

Mrs. Ashton Cotton

Mrs. Jessica Pickard

All of 9th Grade

Last names A – F

Last names G – N

Last names O - Z

larry.baker@gcpsk12.org

tiana.cunningham@gcpsk12.org

ashton.cotton@gcpsk12.org

jessica.pickard@gcpsk12.org

SGHS Graduation Requirements



A college prep diploma will be awarded to students who have the following:

- satisfied **course/credit** and **state assessment requirements**
- participate in state-mandated **End of Course (EOC)** assessments for designated courses in core areas

Students earn 0.5 units per class and take 7 classes per semester. Students can earn 3.5 units per semester and 7.0 units per year.

Areas of Study	Units	Required Courses and State Assessments
English/Language Arts	4	9 th & 10 th Grade Literature/Composition 11 th Grade American Literature/Composition (EOC) 12 th British Literature/Composition
Math	4	Algebra: Conc & Conn (EOC), Geometry: Conc & Conn, Adv Algebra: Conc & Conn, and/or the Accelerated levels
Science	4	Biology (EOC), Chemistry, and Physics, & a 4 th year science
Social Studies	3	World History, U.S. History (EOC), ½ credit of American Government/Political Systems and ½ credit of Economics.
Health/PE	1	½ Health and ½ Personal Fitness or 3 units/credits of JROTC
CTAE/Fine Arts/World Language Students planning to enroll or transfer into a University System of Georgia or other post-secondary institution are required to take <u>two</u> units of the same world language	3	Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education, Fine Arts and /or World Language. Students are encouraged to select courses in a focused area of interest within their academy.
Electives	4	Any other courses
	23	Core academic courses, both required and elective, are included in calculation of the HOPE GPA for HOPE Scholarship eligibility.

Promotion Requirements

Students need a specific number of credits to move from one grade level in order to graduate

Promotion to 10 th Grade	5.0 Credits
Promotion to 11 th Grade	11.0 Credits
Promotion to 12 th Grade	17.0 Credits
Graduation	23.0 Credits

University System of Georgia

Freshman Admission Requirements



Staying on Course: The Required High School Curriculum

The Required High School Curriculum (RHSC) is the cornerstone of the University System of Georgia (USG) admission policy. This document reflects the minimum high school unit requirements for each of the academic subject areas. Students should pursue a challenging and rigorous high school curriculum to be best prepared for a successful college experience and should consult with their high school counselor to determine appropriate coursework. The course titles and numbers used in this document reflect those utilized by the Georgia Department of Education. Consideration is also given to similar courses for students attending private or out-of-state high schools. In addition to the courses listed on this document, other AP and IB courses, as well as college-level courses completed through dual enrollment, may be considered in the appropriate subject area. In addition to these requirements, freshman applicants must meet the [high school GPA and test score requirements](#), if applicable, for the college or university they are applying to attend.

Students are encouraged to contact the Admission Office of their college or university of interest to learn more about requirements, necessary documentation, and deadlines.

CARNEGIE UNIT REQUIREMENTS	
UNITS	DESCRIPTION
4 Carnegie units of college preparatory English	Literature (American, English, World) integrated with grammar, usage and advanced composition skills View the courses that satisfy the English area of the RHSC.
4 Carnegie units of college preparatory mathematics	Algebra I/Coordinate Algebra, Geometry/Analytic Geometry, Algebra II/Advanced Algebra, and a 4th unit of advanced math, or equivalent courses View the courses that satisfy the mathematics area of the RHSC.
4 Carnegie units of college preparatory science	The 4 science units should include two courses with a laboratory component. Georgia public high school students should have at least one unit of biology, one unit of physical science or physics, one unit of chemistry, earth systems, environmental science, or an advanced placement course, and a 4th science. View the courses that satisfy the science area of the RHSC.
3 Carnegie units of college preparatory social science	Must include one unit focusing on U.S. studies and one unit focusing on world studies. View the courses that satisfy the social science area of the RHSC.
2 Carnegie units of the same foreign language OR 2 units of American Sign Language OR 2 units of computer science ²	The 2 units of the same foreign language must have an emphasis on speaking, listening, reading and writing. The 2 units of computer science must have a coding and programming emphasis. View the courses that satisfy the foreign language/American Sign Language/Computer Science area of the RHSC.

2025 Testing Schedule



SAT

Register at www.collegeboard.org

Test Date	Normal Registration	Late Registration
March 8, 2025	Feb. 21, 2025	Feb. 25, 2025
May 3, 2025	April 18, 2025	April 22, 2025
June 7, 2025	May 22, 2025	May 27, 2025
August 23, 2025	To Be Announced	To Be Announced

Each time you register to take the SAT on a weekend, you can send 4 score reports for FREE!

You can designate your score recipients at the time you register or any time until you take the test.

After that, there's a fee of \$12 per college/university.

ACT

Register at www.act.org

Test Date	Deadline	Late Deadline	Score Release
April 5, 2025	Feb. 28, 2025	March 16, 2025	Approx. 8 weeks after test date
June 14, 2025	May 9, 2025	May 26, 2025	Approx. 8 weeks after test date
July 12, 2025*	June 6, 2025	June 20, 2025	Approx. 8 weeks after test date

Each time you register to take the ACT on a weekend, you can send 4 score reports for FREE!

After that, there's a fee of \$16 per college/university

South Gwinnett High School CEEB Code: 112755

THE SAT VS THE ACT

- Fewer Geometry Questions
- More Time per Question
- No-calculator Math Section

KEY Differences

- Lots of Geometry
- Faster Paced
- Tough Science Section



Overall Time

TIMING & SCORING

Overall Time



Reading

65m

Writing

35m

200 - 800 points

Math
(No Calculator)

25m

Math
(Calculator)

55m

200 - 800 points

1-36

35m

Reading

1-36

45m

English

1-36

60m

Math

1-36

35m

Science

Total Points | 400 - 1600

1 - 36 | **Total Points**

Time per Question



Reading



Writing



Math

Time per Question



Reading



English



Math

MATH

Number of Questions

SAT
58

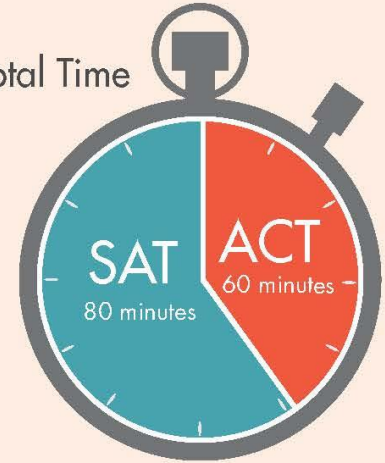
ACT
60

Number of Sections

2
SAT

1
ACT

Total Time



Time Per Question

ACT
SAT

60s

83s

Formulas

The **SAT** provides a reference table of common formulas.

The **ACT** does not provide formulas for reference.



The SAT Math section includes **45** multiple choice questions and **13** student-produced response questions (i.e., fill-in questions).

Geometry Focus

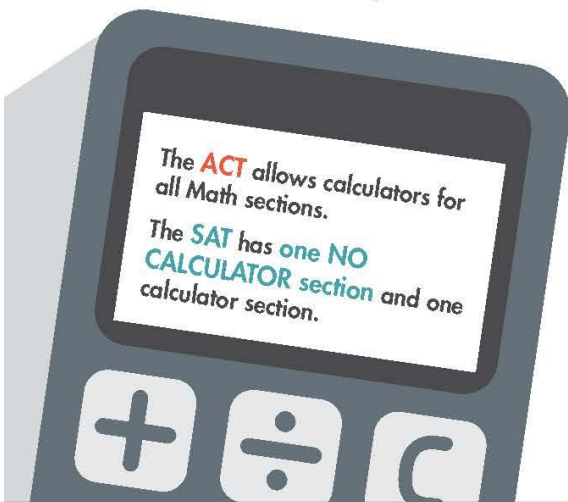
The ACT has a much greater emphasis on Geometry. In contrast, the SAT focuses more on Algebra, word problems, and "Data Analysis" questions that ask you to incorporate information from tables and charts into your calculations.

SAT

6%

ACT

23%



READING



Total Time

Time Per Question

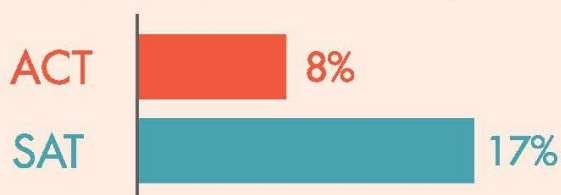


Number of Questions



Vocabulary

What percent of questions test vocabulary?



Do the Reading sections have
Graphs and Charts?

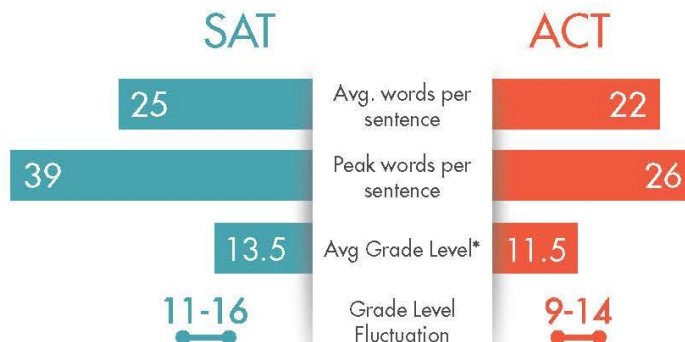


Yes, relating to
two passages



No, only on the
Science section

Passage Complexity



*Flesch-Kincaid readability assessment

Number of Passages



Topics Covered

- Literature
- History/Soc. Studies (2)
- Science (2)
- Prose/Fiction
- Humanities
- Social Science
- Natural Science

WRITING/ENGLISH

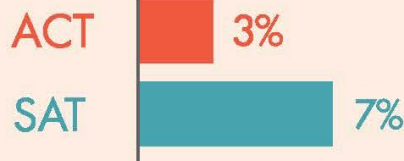
Number of Questions

SAT
44

ACT
75

Vocabulary

What percent of questions test vocabulary?



Total Time

Time Per Question



Do the Reading sections have
Graphs and Charts?



Yes, relating to
two passages



No, only on the
Science section

GRAMMAR VS. RHETORICAL SKILLS

SAT 45% 55%*

ACT 51% 49%*

*The difference between the 49% Rhetorical Skills on the ACT and 55% on the SAT feels even greater in practice, as the questions on the SAT require a fuller understanding of the passage.

Passage Complexity



Average words per sentence



Average grade level*

*Flesch-Kincaid readability assessment

"Upper Classmen Planning"

Junior Year

- Consider taking the PSAT/NMSQT again. Taking the test as a Junior may allow you to qualify for national merit-based scholarships depending on your score.
- Review the SGHS Graduation Requirements and your previous course history before selecting your senior course selections!
- Utilize the College and Career Center in A119-B & stay connected using the SGHS counseling website: <https://schools.gcpsk12.org/domain/9176>
- Attend your Junior Conference with your counselor in the Spring.
- Be sure to sign-up for the ASVAB at South, especially if you are interested in the military.
- Become familiar with the www.GAFutures.org website. You will use this site to complete college/technical school applications & send transcripts to colleges in Georgia during your Senior year.
- Please make sure that your high school has your social security number so you can access your HOPE GPA, complete applications, & send electronic transcripts through GAFutures.
- Register for the SAT Reasoning Test and the ACT sometime during the spring semester if you are planning on attending a four-year college/university.
- Attend at least one college fair offered during your Junior year.

Senior Year

- Complete the Senior Application for Graduation with your counselor.
- Register to take the SAT/ACT. Remember that many colleges have deadlines that occur as early as January; therefore, waiting to take the SAT/ACT after December of your Senior year is risky.
- Complete your college applications. Apply for most GA colleges through the GAFutures website. All colleges prefer electronic applications.
- Apply for Scholarships; some of the deadlines are as early as August, so Apply early!
- Make sure you are signed up for the Remind Messaging to get scholarship updates.
- Complete applications
 - Submit the applications by Thanksgiving of your Senior year (recommended).
 - Complete a Senior Brag Sheet via your Naviance account if you need a counselor recommendation letter.
 - Send an electronic transcript from www.GAFutures.org (Georgia Colleges Only) for free or request transcripts (paper copy) through MyPaymentsPlus for \$5.00 each, pick up in the College and Career Center (A119) during your lunch.
 - Send SAT/ACT electronically to your colleges if you did not do so when you registered for the SAT/ACT.
- Keep grades up!!!!!! (Senior grades do count).
- Attend the "Jump Start" Parent Night Meeting and Financial Aid meeting in the fall.
- Continue to visit colleges and attend college fairs throughout your senior year.
- Each week, check College & Career link on the Counseling webpage for important scholarship information and APPLY, APPLY, APPLY!!!!



Service Academies

An appointment to a United States Military Academy such as West Point, Air Force or the Naval Academy is considered to be a \$285,000 scholarship. It takes a strong desire to serve your country. The application process is tedious and life as a cadet is rigorous. The opportunity is without limits for the right applicant. The process is outlined below:

Sophomore or Junior Year

1. Contact the academy and ask them to put you in contact with the liaison officer in your area.
2. Make sure your counselor knows about your interest in the academy.

Junior Year

1. Make sure you take the PSAT (Fall semester, one time only)
2. Ask the liaison officer to help you apply for the special summer program
3. Apply for a nomination through your Congressman
4. Take the SAT and/or ACT (Spring semester)

Summer before Senior Year

1. Take medical and physical aptitude tests as directed by the academy
2. Complete applications to the academy
3. Complete application s to the Congressman

Several tasks must be accomplished simultaneously:

1. Contact the academy to complete the pre-candidate information
2. You must request a nomination to a military academy from your United States Congressman and Senators
3. Contact the U.S. Senators for your state at www.senate.gov
4. Contact the Congressman representing your district. Use this website for this information: www.house.gov Many Congressmen have their academy applications available online.

Academy Contact Information

Air Force
www.usafa.edu
1-800-423-8723

Army – West Point
www.usma.edu
1-800-872-2769

Navy
www.usna.edu
1-800-872-6289

Coast Guard
www.uscg.edu
1-877-NOW-USCG

Merchant Marines
www.usmma.edu
1-866-546-4778



The ASVAB

Your decision to enter college, technical school, military, or the civilian world of work is an important one. The ASVAB Career Exploration Program is designed to help you, no matter what future educational and career plans you may be considering.

What is ASVAB?

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a multi-aptitude test battery that is designed to measure your aptitudes (abilities) at this time in your life. It consists of eight short individual tests covering verbal skills, math skill, science and technical skills. It is offered at no cost and no obligation to high school juniors and seniors.

How can the ASVAB be used to explore careers?

You can use your ASVAB results with *Exploring Careers: The ASVAB Career Exploration Guide*. Every student who takes the ASVAB receives a copy of the Guide. It has a series of activities that will enable you to match your interests, abilities, and personal preferences to over 450 civilian and military occupations.

Should you take the ASVAB if you plan to go to college?

Absolutely. *The ASVAB Career Exploration Program* provides you with Math, Verbal, and Science and Technical career exploration scores which can help you gauge your readiness for college. These scores can help you better understand your academic strengths and weaknesses. The **Interest-Finder** results tell you about your career-related interests which can help you choose potentially satisfying courses of study and a major that will hold your interest. The bottom line is that the **ASVAB Career Exploration Program** can help you confirm your current college plans and identify other college options that you may not have considered. Investing a few hours in your future now could save you lots of time later.

What is the relationship between the ASVAB and the military?

If you are a junior or a senior, you can use scores from your ASVAB to enlist in the military after graduation. However, you are under no obligation to join the military because of taking the ASVAB. **Most students take the ASVAB for career exploration and have no interest in the Armed Services.** Others wish to explore military career possibilities. If you have high scores, recruiters may contact you to discuss current career opportunities and available scholarship monies. If you are interested, you may talk with them. If not, just say "Thank you, sorry, not interested." Furthermore, there is no relationship between the ASVAB and Selective Service Registration.





Questions to ask during the college search

Tips for Involved Parents and Students

Before you jump into looking at colleges, you must first begin by thinking about yourself and what you want from your college experience. Here are some questions to ask as you develop a college profile for your search:

Take a look at yourself (and be honest).

- What are your personal strengths and qualities of character? Are you independent, resourceful, creative, motivated, etc.?
- What kind of academic record do you have?
- Do you work to your potential or work to get by?
- Based on your answers, what level of challenge is realistic for you?
- Do you have any particular careers in mind?

Take a look at your finances.

- Do financial limitations affect your choice of college? Keep in mind that scholarships and financial aid may be available. Based on information that you provide about your family's finances; the college will decide if you qualify for financial assistance.
- If you qualify for financial aid, how much debt can you reasonably handle after graduation based on your intended career plans?
- Will your family be able to help financially? Have a serious discussion with your family about finances and everyone's expectations.
- Will you need to work to pay for college? If so, what options will you have and what kind of class load will you be able to handle? If you can only take a part-time load (fewer than 12 hours), be aware that you may not be eligible for some financial aid and scholarships and it will take longer to complete your degree.

Take a look at your preferences.

- Do you want to commute from home, live on campus, or live on your own near campus?
- Do you want to attend college in a city or a small town?
- In what region of the country would you like to attend college?
- Is it important to you to be close to home or will you be coming home just for holidays and breaks?
- What size college appeals to you? How big is too big? How small is too small?
- Would you prefer a single-gender or co-ed college?
- Do schools you're looking at have any rules or regulations of which you need to be aware? Can you handle them for four years?
- Do you want to participate in extracurricular activities? What activities are must-haves?
- Do you want an athletic program? Will it not feel like college to you if the school doesn't have a winning football or basketball program?
- Do you need a gym, a swimming pool, or other recreational amenities?
- Do you want a strong creative arts program?
- Do you want an academically challenging program?
- Does the college offer your desired major?
- Do special programs, internships, work programs, study abroad options interest you?
- Do you want to join a sorority or fraternity? If not, does Greek life dominate the social scene?
- Do you want a campus that's highly social, one that's focused on academics, or something in between?

Take a look at factors for each school.

- What will it cost?
- Where is it located?
- What scores, GPA, etc., are required for admissions?
- What percentage of applicants are admitted?
- What percentage of freshman receive financial aid?
- What is the school's reputation for academics?
- What are the strongest programs or departments?
- Does the school have my likely major? Is the program well regarded?
- Will the school accept my AP/IB classes for credit?
- What is the average class size for underclassmen? For upperclassmen?
- Does the school offer additional programs (study abroad, internships, etc.) that are important to me?
- What percentage of graduates are in graduate school or have a job within six months of graduation?
- What is campus life like?
- Is it a commuter school where most students live at home or live nearby and go home on weekends?
- What are options for housing? (on-campus: single-gender dorms, co-ed dorms, apartment-style dorms; off-campus: apartment, condo, house, co-op.



Finalize your college search and selection

After considering these questions and developing a profile of what's important to you in a college, start assembling a list of schools to consider. Talk to your counselor, your advisor, and your family to decide which schools offer you a good shot at admissions, are a good fit academically, and are possible with your family finances/financial aid options. Narrow your list to a handful of schools you could definitely get into, schools that you'd probably get into, and schools you would like to get into. Decide how many schools from each category you'll apply to and develop a plan, noting deadlines, required materials, and application costs. Remember to budget how much you can afford for application submissions.

Colleges/universities where you feel you could definitely get in (Safety Schools). *I'm at the high end academically for admitted students*

at... _____

Colleges/universities where you probably would be admitted (Reach Schools). *I'm in the middle academically so I feel pretty good about my chances*

at... _____

Colleges/universities where you would like to be admitted (Dream Schools). *These schools would be an academic stretch for me, but I'd like to try to go*

to... _____

Take a final look at your schools to make sure they meet your career plans. Make sure you meet the schools' admissions requirements (GPA, exam scores, etc.). For schools that made the cut, find an application online or contact the college to request an application. Be aware of deadlines, required fees, etc. (Note: Some schools offer free or discounted fees).

Types of Admissions Decisions

The following are some of the most frequently mentioned admissions practices.

Early Decision Through this program offered by many post-secondary schools, students willing to commit to a school if accepted submit their application by a date well before the general admission deadline. If accepted, the student must enroll in that school, so students should only apply early decision to their first-choice school.

Please keep in mind that if you apply for Early Decision and are accepted, IT IS BINDING!

Early Action is when a prospective student applies for admission by early deadline (before the regular admission deadline) and receives notice of acceptance, denial, or deferment with no obligation to the university to enroll, if accepted for admission.

Deferred Admission category of admission used in conjunction with early (action, decision, notification, or acceptance) plans to indicate that a student has not been admitted early but will remain in the applicant pool for reconsideration during the review of applications for regular admissions.

Rolling Admissions This is a practice used by some institutions to review and complete applications as they arrive, rather than according to a set deadline. The college will notify the applicant as soon as the application has been processed. It is to the student's advantage to apply early.

Deferred Enrollment This is a category of admission available at some institutions for fully accepted students who wish—for a justifiable reason—to take a semester or year off before enrolling in college.



Don't just HOPE you're ready for the future... plan now!

HOPE eligibility requirements in this flyer reflect House Bill 326 (Preserving HOPE and Georgia Pre-K for Future Generations), passed in 2011. Talk to your counselor if you have other questions.

What are the requirements for earning a HOPE Scholarship or a Zell Miller scholarship?

To qualify for the HOPE Scholarship, a student must earn a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average in all academic classes in high school. Students must earn high school credit in advanced courses to qualify. HOPE recipients must be enrolled in an eligible postsecondary institution. They must meet Georgia residency requirements and be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen. Applicants must be registered for selective service, if applicable, and may not have a drug conviction or be in default on a school loan. In addition to meeting the requirements above, Zell Miller Scholars must be their high school's valedictorian or salutatorian, or earn a 3.7 high school GPA or higher and post, in one sitting, an SAT combined score of 1200 or higher in math and reading or an ACT score of 26 or higher.

What high school courses will count in determining HOPE eligibility?

All academic courses attempted in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and modern and classical languages, including both required and elective courses in these subjects, would count toward HOPE eligibility. If a student fails a class in a core subject, then retakes the class, both grades would be included in the student's HOPE grade point average. In order to qualify for the HOPE Scholarship, students are required to earn four or more credits in rigorous high school coursework. Students earning credit for courses in GCPS' standard sequence for math and science (as well as foreign language or college-level Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate classes) would meet the HOPE rigor requirements.

Will an "80" average in academic classes qualify a high school student for the HOPE Scholarship?

No. Each individual course grade (expressed as a percentage) must be converted to a 4.0 scale, based on Gwinnett County Public Schools' grading scale. For instance, a 77% has a value of 2.0, an 88% converts to 3.0, and a 94% is a 4.0. See "The Choice Book," your "Student/Parent Handbook," or your transcript for Gwinnett's grading scale.

Are any high school classes given extra weighting?

For HOPE purposes only, grades in Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) classes will be weighted in the following manner:

- Gwinnett students get a weight of 10 points added to their earned numerical grades in AP and IB courses for determining class rank and GPA for college applications.
- In determining HOPE Scholarship eligibility, the 10 points added by GCPS will be subtracted from the AP or IB numerical grade (for HOPE purposes only).
- For the HOPE average only, the "unweighted" numerical grade will be converted to a 4.0 scale, then .5 points will be added to the converted score. No grades higher than a 4.0 will be awarded.

Example: A student earns an 88 in AP Biology, and has a weighted numerical average of 98 with the 10 points. For determining class rank and GPA for college applications, the grade would be considered an "A" with a 98 numerical average and a 4.0 on the GCPS grading scale. For HOPE Scholarship eligibility only, the *unweighted* numerical average of 88, considered a "B," would be converted to a 3.0, then .5 would be added back for a 3.5. If the student had a 92 unweighted average (102 with the 10 points), the converted score would be a 4.0 both for class rank purposes and for HOPE purposes.



Who calculates the HOPE average and determines eligibility for the Scholarship?

The Georgia Student Finance Commission, a state agency, calculates HOPE averages based on transcript information provided by Gwinnett County Public Schools. The school system does **not** calculate HOPE averages.

Will the HOPE average be included on Gwinnett transcripts or report cards?

No. Because the HOPE average is not computed by GCPS, it will **not** appear on a student's transcript or report card.

How and when do families learn a student's HOPE eligibility status?

Students will **not** receive automatic or direct notification of their HOPE eligibility status. Students and/or their parents may sign on to the new website from the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC)— www.GAfutures.org— and create a “My GAFutures Student Account.” Students with a My GAFutures account may access their HOPE GPA anytime, beginning in January of their 9th grade year. The state generally makes HOPE eligibility available for graduating seniors through these personal accounts in mid-June. After the state posts HOPE eligibility information on www.GAfutures.org, families may contact the financial aid office of the college or postsecondary school the student is registered to attend in the summer or fall. Financial aid staff will have access to this information directly from the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC).

What do students have to do to keep the HOPE Scholarship?

To keep the scholarship, college students must maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher during the semesters in which they reach 30-, 60-, and 90-hours of credit earned. A student who loses the scholarship by dropping below a 3.0 average has one year to regain the scholarship by bringing his or her GPA back to a 3.0. Students may regain the scholarship only one time. Zell Miller Scholars must maintain a 3.3 average in college. If the student falls below the required 3.3 GPA, but maintains a 3.0 or higher, the student remains eligible for the regular HOPE award. Only undergraduates are eligible for HOPE funds, up to 127 semester hours.

What does the HOPE Scholarship Program cover for eligible students?

Qualifying students may use HOPE award funds—the HOPE Scholarship and the Zell Miller Scholarship— toward tuition in degree-granting programs at *eligible* public, private, and for-profit colleges and universities in Georgia. A HOPE Grant may be used toward tuition for an *eligible* certificate or diploma program. The HOPE Scholarship Program is funded by the state lottery, and award amounts are adjusted annually based on lottery revenues.

Students attending **public** colleges or universities receive a HOPE award amount based on a per-hour rate at the institution he or she is attending. The money provided to HOPE Scholars varies, depending on the type of institution a student attends and the number of hours enrolled. *For instance, a HOPE Scholar carrying 15 hours at a research university with higher tuition would receive a larger award than a student taking 12 hours at a community college with lower tuition costs.* The per-hour rate is based on a projection of qualifying scholarship recipients and expected lottery revenues for the school year. Students may not use HOPE funds to pay for remedial or developmental courses, and have a seven-year window in which to use HOPE after high school graduation.

Typically, the HOPE Scholarship award covers the bulk of a student's tuition costs, but does not cover fees, books, room, or board. That said, the HOPE Scholarship Program remains a significant source of college funding for many Georgia families.

The state's top students may qualify for the **full-tuition** Zell Miller Scholarship, reserved for high school valedictorians, salutatorians, and graduates with strong GPAs and test scores who plan to attend an eligible **public** college or university.

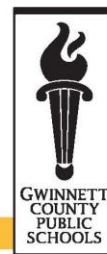
The **private** school award for both HOPE Scholars and Zell Miller Scholars is a set amount, regardless of hours enrolled.

Students qualifying for needs-based aid could qualify for a low-interest (1%) Student Access Loan (SAL), administered by GSFC. Find an application at www.GAfutures.org. The SAL program provides interest rate and repayment incentives to those who complete their program of study within the designed program length, and students who work in designated public service sector jobs or in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) fields after graduation.



Questions? Call 1-800-505-GSFC (4732) or 770-724-9000 or check online at www.GAfutures.org.

Gwinnett County Public Schools • 437 Old Peachtree Road, NW • Suwanee, GA 30024-2978 • www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us



HOW DO I FIND MY HOPE GPA?

My HOPE GPA

GAfutures
Explore. Plan. Succeed.

Quick Guide
Student

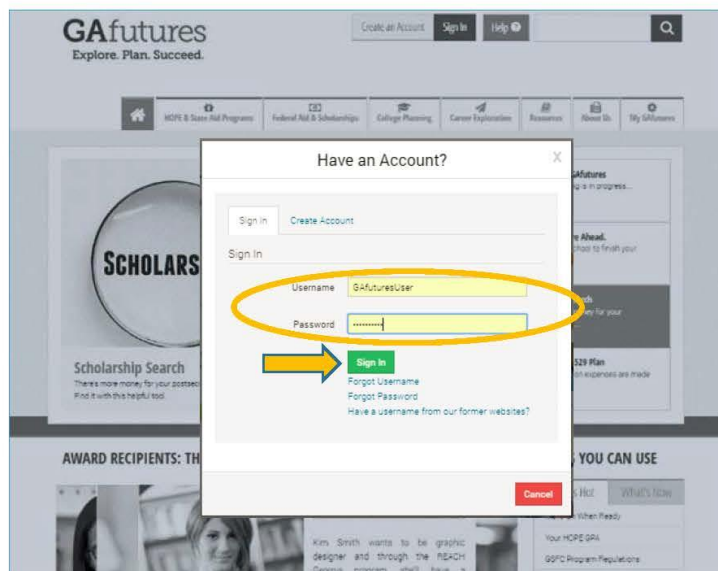
Step 1:

Select the **Sign In** option at the top of the GAfutures homepage.



Step 2:

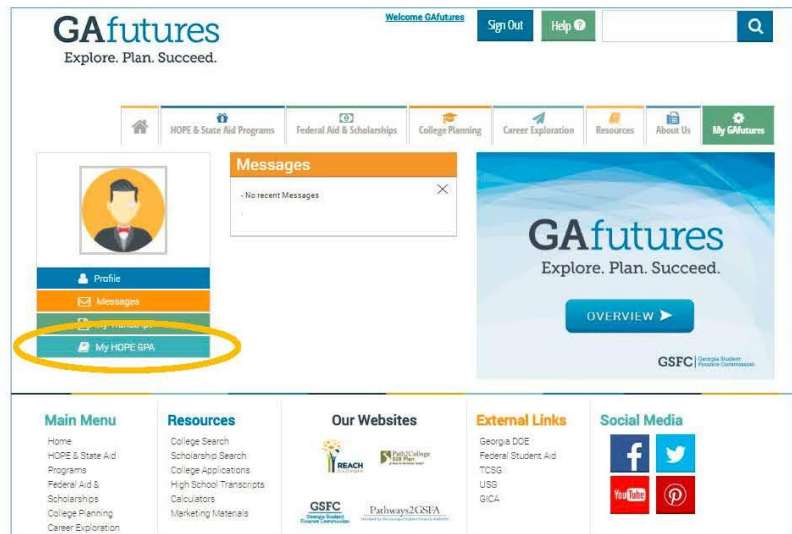
Enter your **Username** and **Password** information, then select **Sign In**.



Step 3:

Your HOPE GPA can be found by selecting **My HOPE GPA**.

Note: This HOPE GPA is based on courses completed while in high school. If you are a college student and want to find out about your college GPA as it applies to qualifying for HOPE, contact the financial aid office at your institution.

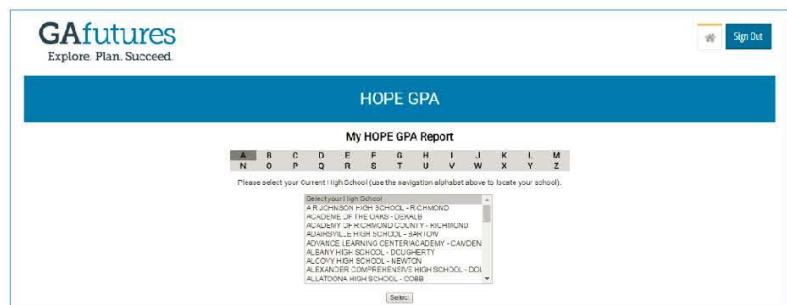


Step 4:

Your HOPE GPA report can be generated by selecting your current high school.

Note: You will only have information regarding HOPE GPA if your high school has sent GSFC your transcript for calculation.

Also, Your GAFutures profile must include your high school name, your Social Security number and your date of birth.



HOPE Academic Rigor Requirements





CHALLENGE

Beginning with students graduating from high school on or after May 1, 2017 and beyond, in order to be eligible to receive a HOPE Scholarship, a student must receive at least **four credits** in courses from the following categories listed below, prior to graduation from high school.

- ▶ Advanced Math, or an equivalent or higher course taken at an eligible high school including: Alg. II, Pre-Cal., Accel Geometry, Accel Pre-Cal, AP Cal., AP Stat., or degree level credits at an eligible postsecondary institution.
- ▶ Advanced Science, such as Chemistry, Physics, AP Biology, AP Chem., AP Physics, or an equivalent or higher course taken at an eligible high school or taken for degree level credit at an eligible postsecondary institution.
- ▶ Advanced Placement (AP) courses in core subjects (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language)
- ▶ Advanced Foreign Language courses Including Spanish II, III, IV, French II, III, IV or courses taken for degree level credit at an eligible postsecondary institution.
- ▶ Courses taken at a unit of the University System of Georgia in core subjects where such classes are not remedial and developmental courses.

Sending An Electronic Transcript

A student can request that electronic transcripts be sent to participating Georgia colleges using the www.GAfutures.org website.

1. Log into your account
2. Click on "COLLEGE PLANNING" tab at the top
3. Scroll down through the list and select "HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS"
4. Click the college(s) to which you want your transcript sent
5. Enter your SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER and DATE OF BIRTH if not displayed. Remember to return to your PROFILE and add your Social Security Number & Date of Birth if it was not displayed.
6. Select SOUTH GWINNETT HIGH SCHOOL in the section requesting your high school where your final transcript will be located.
7. Select your graduation year in the next section.
8. Click the ACKNOWLEDGE square
9. Select  button to see the transcript the college will receive.
10. Select  to send your transcript.

- ▶ **South Gwinnett must have your social security number on file to send transcripts or see your HOPE GPA through GAFutures**

- ▶ This option is only available for colleges and universities within the state of Georgia.

Paying For College

It all starts with the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

With this one application, you can apply for financial aid at multiple colleges and from multiple funding sources. You will need to complete the FAFSA every year, starting December 1st.

- ☐ **Scholarships:** An award that does not have to be repaid. Scholarships are generally granted based on an applicant meeting certain eligibility criteria.
- ☐ **Grants:** A grant is a financial award given to a student for the purposes of paying for all or part of college expense. A grant does not need to be repaid by the student.
- ☐ **Loans:** Financial Aid awards that the student or parent borrows from a lender, the school or other third party. Loans must be repaid by the borrower, usually with interest.
- ☐ **Work Study:** Allows a student to earn money by working part time somewhere on campus.

Sources of Financial Aid:

- ☐ **Federal Government:** The federal government is the largest source of financial aid. Awards are based on financial need. Students fill out the Federal Application for Student Aid each year. Visit www.fafsa.gov for additional information.
- ☐ **Colleges and Universities:** Schools offer a wide variety of aid and scholarships to students. These awards are both merit-based and need-based. Students might need to complete an additional application for scholarships or it may be offered as part of the admissions process. Contact your school of interest for additional information.
- ☐ **Private Sources:** Churches, companies, and other organizations offer a variety of scholarships for students. Each organization has a specific set of qualification requirements. For additional information contact local organizations or visit scholarship search websites.

Georgia's Hope Program:

- ☐ The **HOPE Scholarship** program is for students that are seeking a college degree and plan on attending college in Georgia. A 3.0 GPA in academic courses (Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, Science, and Foreign Language) is required. A part of your college tuition will be covered. This amount will vary depending on projected lottery revenues and expenditures.
- ☐ The **HOPE Grant** program is for students seeking a technical certification or diploma, regardless of the student's high school grade point average or graduation date. This will cover a certain percentage of tuition at a Georgia public technical college or public college or university.
- ☐ The **Zell Miller Scholarship** program is for students who have demonstrated academic achievement and that are seeking a college degree in Georgia. To become eligible, a student must graduate with a 3.70 GPA in academic courses and a minimum score of 1200 on the SAT (Critical Reading and Math, one sitting) or 26 on the ACT in one sitting.



STATE COLLEGES / UNIVERSITIES

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College	www.abac.edu
Agnes Scott College	www.agnesscott.edu
Albany State University	www.asurams.edu
American Intercontinental University	www.aiuniv.edu
Andrew College	www.andrewcollege.edu
Art Institute of Atlanta	www.artinstitutes.edu
Atlanta Metropolitan College	www.atlm.edu
Augusta University	www.augusta.edu
Bainbridge State College	www.bainbridge.edu
Berry College	www.berry.edu
Brenau University	www.brenau.edu
Brewton-Parker College	www.bpc.edu
Clark Atlanta University	www.cau.edu
Clayton State University	www.clayton.edu
College of Coastal Georgia	www.ccca.edu
Columbus State University	www.columbusstate.edu
Covenant College	www.covenant.edu
Dalton State College	www.daltonstate.edu
Darton State College	www.darton.edu
DeVry University	www.atl.devry.edu
East Georgia State College	www.ega.edu
Emmanuel College	www.ec.edu
Emory University	www.emory.edu
Fort Valley State University	www.fvsu.edu
Georgia College	www.gcsu.edu
Georgia Gwinnett College	www.ggc.edu
Georgia Highlands College	www.highlands.edu
Georgia Institute of Technology	www.gatech.edu
Georgia Military College	www.gmc.cc.ga.us
Georgia Southern University	www.georgiasouthern.edu
Georgia Southwestern State University	www.gsw.edu
Georgia State University	www.gsu.edu
Gordon State College	www.gordonstate.edu
Kennesaw State University	www.kennesaw.edu
LaGrange College	www.lagrange.edu
Life University	www.life.edu
Mercer University	www.mercer.edu
Middle Georgia State College	www.mga.edu
Morehouse College	morehouse.edu
Oglethorpe University	www.oglethorpe.edu
Oxford College of Emory University	www.oxford.emory.edu
Paine College	www.paine.edu
Piedmont College	www.piedmont.edu
Point University	www.point.edu
Reinhardt University	www.reinhardt.edu
Savannah College of Art and Design	www.scad.edu
Savannah State University	www.savannahstate.edu
Shorter University	www.shorter.edu

STATE COLLEGES / UNIVERSITIES

South Georgia State College	www.sgc.edu
Spelman College	www.spelman.edu
Thomas University	www.thomasu.edu
Toccoa Falls College	www.tfc.edu
Truett McConnell College	www.truett.edu
University of Georgia	www.uga.edu
Wesleyan College	www.wesleyancollege.edu
Young Harris College	www.yhc.edu
Valdosta State University	www.valdosta.edu

TECHNICAL COLLEGES

Albany Technical College	www.albanytech.edu	Lanier Technical College	www.laniertech.edu
Athens Technical College	www.athenstech.edu	North Georgia Technical	www.northgatech.edu
Atlanta Technical College	www.atlantatech.edu	Oconee Fall Line Tech	www.oftc.edu
Augusta Technical College	www.augustatech.edu	Ogeechee Technical College	www.ogeecheetech.edu
Central Georgia Tech	www.centralgatech.edu	Savannah Technical College	www.savannahtech.edu
Chattahoochee Technical	www.chattahoocheetec.edu	South Georgia Technical	www.southgatech.edu
Coastal Pines Tech	www.coastalpines.edu	Southeastern Technical	www.southeasterntech.edu
Columbus Technical	www.columbustech.edu	Southern Crescent Tech	www.sctech.edu
Georgia Northwestern	www.gntc.edu	Southern Regional Tech	www.southernregional.edu
Georgia Piedmont Tech	www.gptc.edu	West Georgia Technical	www.westgatech.edu
Gwinnett Technical	www.gwinnetttech.edu	Wiregrass Georgia Tech	www.wiregrass.edu



COLLEGE & CAREER

PLANNING

www.sreb.org/academic-common-market

www.GAfutures.org

www.aie.org

www.collegegreenlight.com

www.collegeboard.org

www.collegevine.com

www.eCampusTours.com

www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org

www.myfootpath.com

www.collegeconfidential.com

www.gocollege.com

www.collegedata.com

www.educationplanner.org

www.knowhow2go.org

www.careeronestop.org

www.mymajors.com

www.gcic.peachnet.edu

www.nacacnet.org

www.petersons.com.com

FINANCIAL AID

Guide to Student Financial Aid - www.finaid.org

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) - www.fafsa.ed.gov

FAFSA ID - fsaid.ed.gov

Georgia Student Finance Commission - www.gsfc.org

CSS Profile – css.collegeboard.org



SCHOLARSHIPS & SEARCH ENGINES

www.fastweb.com

www.cappex.com

www.cb.org/opportunity

www.unigo.com

www.thegatesscholarship.org

www.hsf.net

www.weeklyscholarshipalert.org

www.possefoundation.org

www.highscholarships.com

www.findtuition.com

www.scholarships.com

www.gocollege.com

www.blackexcel.org

www.uncf.org

www.gcps-foundation.org

MISCELLANEOUS

Board of Regents of the University of Georgia - www.usg.edu

National Junior College Athletic Association - www.njcaa.org

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics - www.naia.org

National Collegiate Athletic Association - www.ncaa.org

Selective Service Registration - www.sss.gov

Academic Common Market - www.sreb.org (Study in a Specialized Field at an Out-of-State School while paying In-State Tuition)

21st Century Leaders – www.21stcenturyleaders.org (Leadership and Community Service Program for rising 10th, 11th and 12 grade students).

SAT/ACT PREPARATION

**Please note the following web sites may require a fee for use:*

www.khanacademy.org/test-prep

www.princetonreview.com/sat

www.totallearningconcepts.com

www.mysatreview.com

www.kaplan.com

www.cornerstoneacademic.com

www.4tests.com

www.march2success.com

www.applerouth.com

Personalized practice, anytime, anywhere—for FREE.



<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>



Practice tests and more
8 official full-length practice tests, plus
study and test-taking tips



A tailored practice plan
We'll import your PSAT/NMSQT results
and pinpoint your areas for practice



Interactive practice
Thousands of practice questions, video
lessons, and hints



Instant feedback
Get constant feedback and progress so
you know where you stand

Disclaimer: Please be aware that websites can be subject to tampering and that while the above websites are known to be reputable, we cannot guarantee their content.

Register for SAT @ www.collegeboard.org

Register for ACT @ www.actstudent.org



Enter SGHS Code: 112755

