



WEBSITES OF INTEREST FOR SENIORS

Researching Colleges & Careers:

- Explore careers, compare colleges, and learn about financial aid. gafutures.org, collegeconfidential.com, bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- College planning guide, especially helpful for first-generation students. admissions.gsu.edu/bachelors-degree/first-generation-students/
- See how you compare to students admitted previously to the college of your choice. collegedata.com
- Virtually tour hundreds of campuses; free scholarship search and financial aid resources. ecampustours.com For dates and locations of local college fairs visit gaprobe.org
- Filter your preferences in various areas such as location, size, extracurricular interests, sports, and major to find good college matches. princetonreview.com/college-search
- Compare colleges against the national median on measures including net price and average dept. collegescorecard.ed.gov
- Wanting to explore careers? O*NET (Occupational Information Network), sponsored by the US Department of Labor, is the nation's primary source of occupational information. onetonline.org. Also, [Virtual Job Shadow](#) in eClass, under Additional Resources, includes a career interest survey, career clusters, and specific details relating to careers of interest.
- Interested in starting your career and building your skillset through apprenticeship? Apprenticeship Finder: apprenticeship.gov

College Entrance Exams:

- Register for the SAT and locate free SAT prep material. collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat, collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice/khan-academy, collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice/full-length-practice-tests
- Register for the ACT and locate free ACT prep material. act.org, academy.act.org, kaptest.com/act/free/act-free-practice-test
- Register for the ACCUPLACER (commonly used for placement at 2-year schools) and locate free prep material. accuplacer.collegeboard.org, accuplacer.collegeboard.org/students/prepare-for-accuplacer/practice

Financial Aid:

- HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship & Grants website and resource for Georgians seeking financial aid assistance. gsfc.georgia.gov/programs-and-regulations/hope-programs
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Apply at studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa October 1st through mid-March. Use this site to apply for federal student financial aid, student loans, and work-study opportunities.
- Scholarship search engines. fastweb.com, scholarships.com, scholarshipinformer.com, salliemae.com/college-planning/college-scholarships/, goingmerry.com, cappex.com/scholarships
- Explanation of different types of financial aid, estimate your financial aid, and project the cost of attending college. finaid.org
- Financial aid resources for undocumented students. maldef.org, hsf.net, immigrantsrising.org/resource/undergraduate-scholarships/, bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-undocumented-students, finaid.org/otheraid/undocumented/, mydocumentedlife.org/about/, dreamersroadmap.org/, unitedwedream.org
- Earn micro-scholarships to partner colleges based on high school achievements at raise.me. Also, start the College Board program for Opportunity Scholarships (no minimum GPA) at opportunity.collegeboard.org.
- Apply online for nonfederal financial aid from almost 400 colleges, professional schools, and scholarship programs using the CSS Profile (beginning Oct. 1). cssprofile.collegeboard.org
- Scholarship America offers resources for students and families, including eBooks on How Much Does College Really Cost? & Decoding Financial Aid. scholarshipamerica.org/students/resources/.



SENIOR YEAR TIMELINE: PLANNING FOR COLLEGE

Fall:

- Watch PRIDE Senior Advisement Videos (posted in eClass: Peachtree Ridge HS Counseling Office)
- Attend Senior Parent Night & Financial Aid Night
- Complete and sign Senior Application for Graduation with your counselor
- Finish visiting colleges of interest. Visit campus virtually if needed.
- Finalize the list of colleges you will apply to. It is recommended that you apply to 3-5 schools, including a safety school, match school, and reach school.
- Gather admissions requirements for each school, such as: application deadline, required test scores and GPA, essay questions, etc. Remember, every college will have different deadlines for merit-based scholarships, so check websites early if you plan to apply.
- Begin filling out college applications (if necessary based on deadlines)
- Finish taking SAT & ACT tests (college entrance exams) or ACCUPLACER test (technical colleges).
- Request transcripts and letters of recommendation (if required). See below for more information.
- Apply for federal financial aid at studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa beginning Oct. 1st

Winter:

- Submit all remaining college applications. Pay attention to deadlines. Late applications are not accepted.
- Apply for the HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship if applicable: <https://www.gafutures.org/hope-state-aid-programs/state-aid-applications/>
- Completion of the FAFSA or GSFAPP is how you apply for HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship and Grant.

Spring:

- Apply for scholarships
- Review Award Letter/Financial Aid offers from colleges you have been accepted to (may be shared via student's email or online application portal)
- Graduate!

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- **Transcripts:** Colleges require a transcript for admission. Most transcripts will be requested through your Naviance account free of charge. For in-state colleges, you may also request free transcripts electronically through gafutures.org. **You MUST have your social security number on file at PRHS in order to submit an electronic transcript.** For out of state schools, you may request paper copies of your transcript on mypaymentsplus.com. Paper transcripts are \$5 each and will be ready within 2 school days. It is the student's responsibility to **pick up** documents and **mail** to the college.
- **Counselor Recommendations:** Plan ahead! If schools you are applying to require a counselor recommendation/counselor evaluation form/school report, 1. Submit your counselor's email address in the "school counselor" field in your application so that your counselor has access to complete the recommendation. 2. In Naviance, go to Surveys, Surveys from my School, and complete the Counselor Letter of Rec form. This process must be completed at least 10 school days before the deadline. If the application deadline is over winter break, you must have your request submitted **before** Thanksgiving Break!
- **Test Scores:** An SAT or ACT score is required for admission to the majority of colleges/universities and must be sent electronically from the testing agency's website.
- **HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarships:** You can access your Preliminary HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship GPA by creating an account at gafutures.org. **Also, you MUST have your social security number on file at PRHS in order to be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship or to access your preliminary HOPE Scholarship GPA.**