
Senior Seminar

Session 1: 4 year and 2 year college/University



CLASS 2025

Who's Your School Counselor?

PHS COUNSELORS

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	FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!	 @ProudPHScounselors

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

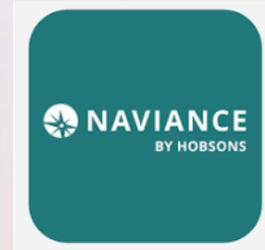
WWW.PROUDPHSCOUNSELORS.COM

Stay Connected!

Website: www.ProudPHSCounselors.com



@ProudPHSCounselors



Access Naviance via Clever



[Invite | BAND](#)

Lesson Overview

PART I

- **Post-Secondary Options:**
 - 4-year College/University
 - 2-year College
- **Naviance**
 - Common App Matching
 - Colleges I'm Applying To
 - Letters of Recommendation
 - Official Transcript Request
 - Sending SAT/ACT Scores
 - College Visits

PART II

- **College Basics**
 - Application Types
 - Application Process
- **Paying for College (Financial Aid)**
 - Scholarships, Grants, & Loans
 - Local + State Funding
 - Federal Funding

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Post-Secondary Options

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4-Year College/University

- Typically have more stringent admission requirements than other post-secondary options
 - Factors for college admission consideration:
Rigor of classes, final grades/GPA, test scores (SAT/ACT), extracurricular activities, essays, letters of recommendation, demonstrated interest
- On average, it takes a student four years to complete after matriculation from high school
- Best to build a college list, with recommendations to include 1-2 “reach schools”, 2-3 “match schools” and at least 1 “safety school”.
 - Reach: Your academic credentials *fall below* the school’s middle 50% range for the freshman class
 - Match: Your academic credentials *fall within or perhaps slightly exceed* the school’s middle 50% range for the freshman class
 - Safety: Your academic credentials *exceed* the school’s middle 50% range for the freshman class, nearly guaranteeing admission
- Check the school’s admission requirements by visiting the school’s website, as requirements vary from school to school and year to year

4-Year College/University

- SAT/ACT test scores are usually required, with explicit score minimums
 - Starting Fall 2026, many USG schools now require the SAT or ACT. Please look for information about testing requirements for each school that you are considering.
- If a school indicates it is test-optional, you get to decide if you would like to submit your scores as a part of the application review process. Most test-optional schools include information on the process on their website.
- Test scores will continue to be required to apply for Zell Miller scholarships in accordance with state of Georgia requirements.

2-year College

- Examples: Georgia Highlands College, Georgia Perimeter at Georgia State, Chattahoochee Tech, Atlanta Metro State College
- GPA minimum 2.0
- Proof of high school graduation is required – providing your final high school transcript will satisfy this. Follow the transcript request process to accomplish this.
- SAT/ACT exams are accepted and sometimes required, however the Accuplacer is accepted and often offered directly from the school.
 - Less expensive than taking the SAT/ACT and serves as a placement exam vs. admissions exam.

PHS Counseling Website



- Counselor contact info
- Senior Resources
- Senior Packet
- SAT/ACT info
- Dual Enrollment
- GPA Calculator
- Grad requirements
- FAFSA
- College info

www.ProudPHSCounselors.com

College Basics

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Understanding Application Types

- **Early Decision I & II (Binding)** – Cannot apply early decision to other colleges, but can apply regular decision. If accepted for early decision, must attend.
- **Early Action (Non-Binding)** – Can apply early to other colleges and can apply regular decision. Will receive admission decision before regular decision deadlines.
- **Rolling Admission** – Open admission, decisions given throughout the year as applicants are received and until limit set by intuition met.
- **Regular Decision** – Standard deadline date established by the institution, with no priority or early
- **Priority Deadline** – Similar to rolling admissions, but priority consideration around financial aid, housing, etc. is typically offered to these applicants

Online Application Portals

Applying to multiple colleges via one platform

- ▶ www.commonapp.org- 550+ colleges from across the nation. CA is compatible with Naviance & you will have to "match" your accounts.
- ▶ www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org- 144+ organizations
- ▶ www.Sendedu.org - Electronic document submission platform. We will utilize Naviance instead of SendEdu
- ▶ www.commonblackcollegeapp.com Over 55 HBCU's on one application. Pay \$35 one time for all. Register top 4 but can be accepted from any of the 55 colleges.
- ▶ www.universalcollegeapp.com

6 Steps to the College Process

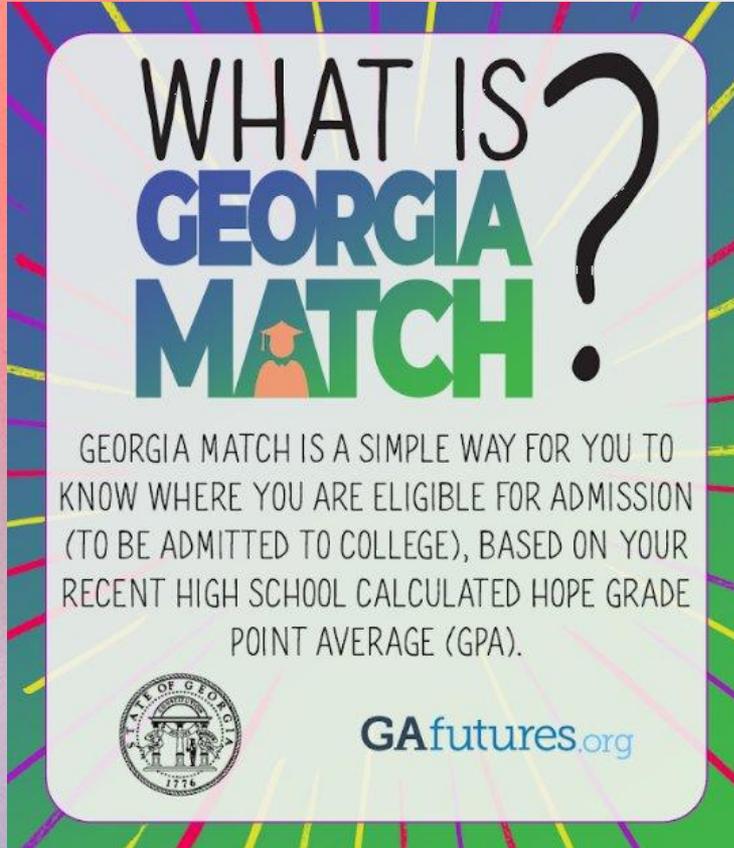
1. *Determine what college(s) you're applying to & know their deadline(s)
2. Determine the application type(s) – i.e., *Common App, Common Black College App, Direct to Institution*
3. Complete your online profile/submit your application(s)
4. Pay application fee(s)
5. Send your test scores directly from the sites (Collegeboard/ACT) – this cannot be done by HS!
6. Use Naviance – our “delivery system” – to: (1) Send your official transcript and/or (2) Obtain teacher letter of recommendations

Remember – as the student/applicant, be sure to track your admissions status directly from the institutions' websites.

***It is highly recommended that you take college campus tours!**

Most (if not all) are free of charge and can easily be scheduled online directly from the college/university's websites.

GEORGIA MATCH



WHAT IS
**GEORGIA
MATCH?**

GEORGIA MATCH IS A SIMPLE WAY FOR YOU TO KNOW WHERE YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ADMISSION (TO BE ADMITTED TO COLLEGE), BASED ON YOUR RECENT HIGH SCHOOL CALCULATED HOPE GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA).



GAfutures.org

The graphic features a white rounded rectangle with a colorful, multi-colored border. The text is in a mix of black, blue, and green. A small orange graduation cap icon is integrated into the letter 'A' of 'MATCH'. The background of the slide is a gradient of light blue and pink.

- GEORGIA MATCH is a simple way for you to know where you are eligible for admission (to be admitted to college), based on your high school calculated HOPE grade point average (GPA) through 11th grade.
- A senior's GEORGIA MATCH colleges are found on one's [GAfutures Student Dashboard](#).

Naviance



Naviance is a delivery system and college/career search engine and also how we communicate with YOU and your parents throughout the school year.

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Multiple Uses for Naviance

Available to you online, 24/7!

College Planning

College Search, College Visits, Colleges Applying To, Letters of Recommendation

Career Planning & Resume Building

Explore Careers, Clusters & Pathways

Self-Discovery

Personality, Skills, and Strengths Assessments

Communicating with your School Counselor

E-Mail Capabilities

Scholarship Searches

College-specific, National Search, CCSD-specific

Logging into Naviance

1. Log into the school computer
2. Open Google Chrome (*this is the preferred browser for Naviance*)
3. Go to <https://www.cobbk12.org/>
4. Click the down arrow from “**Find it Fast**” in the top red header
5. Click “**Naviance**” in the right-side column – *second link from the bottom*
6. You should be taken to your **Naviance** Student homepage automatically
 - If not automatically logged in to your account, select: (1) **Student** → (2) **Continue With Clever**

The image shows a screenshot of the Cobb Schools website. The top navigation bar is red and contains the text "ONE TEAM. ONE GOAL. STUDENT SUCCESS." on the left, and "LOGIN", "TRANSLATE", "FIND IT FAST", and social media icons on the right. Below this is a white header with a red "MENU" button, the "COBB SCHOOLS" logo, and a search bar. A large black arrow points from the "FIND IT FAST" dropdown menu to the "Naviance" link in the right-side column of the dropdown menu. The "Naviance" link is circled in red. The background of the website features a photo of a young girl with curly hair, and the text "ONE TEAM. ONE GOAL" is visible.

Your Naviance Homepage – Select Your Path

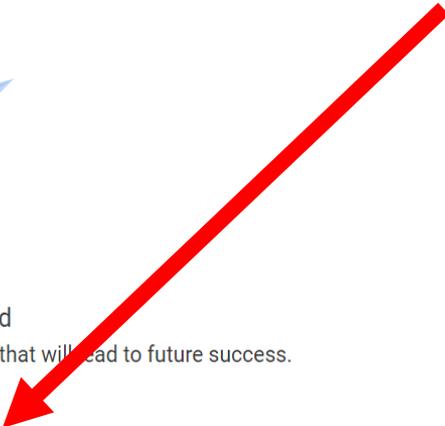
Demo's Future Planning



No Path Selected

Plan for life after high school and select the path that will lead to future success.

Select Path



Welcome to Naviance

Check out what Naviance Student has to offer the Class of 2025!

****Please press 'Read more' below to expand & get started!****

- Naviance Student is designed to help guide you through College

[Read More](#)

Additional Information from Your School



Tasks from My School

Career Essentials

Update Your E-Mail Address

- Updating your account with your personal e-mail address is imperative so we can communicate important information with you.

1. Click on the “About Me” link at the top.
2. Click on “My Account.”
3. Click on the Pencil Icon in the “Contact” box.
4. Enter your personal email address.
5. Click “Save.”

- REPLACE your CCSD e-mail address with your personal e-mail address so that you do not miss out on pertinent information in relation to your senior year!

The screenshot shows a user profile page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'leges', 'Planner', a heart icon, a search box containing 'Demo', and a user profile icon 'DJ'. Below this is a menu with 'About Me Home', 'Account', and 'My Account' (highlighted with a red box). To the right, there is a list of 'Documents and Notes' including 'Document Resources', 'Resume', 'Goals', 'Portfolio', 'Journal', 'Test Scores', and 'Documents Shared with Me'. Below the menu is a 'Contact' section with a black header bar. In the top right corner of this section, there is a pencil icon and the word 'EDIT' (highlighted with a red box). Below this, there are fields for 'Home Phone', 'Mobile Phone', and 'Address', each followed by a hyphen. The 'Address' field is set to 'United States'. At the bottom, there is an 'Email' field followed by a hyphen, with a large red arrow pointing to it from the right.

College Visits

- This is your opportunity to hear from various college admission representatives who visit our school to share about their college/university and its respective admissions process.
- You must sign up through your Naviance account **at least 24 hours in advance.**
- **To register to attend:**
 - Go to **Naviance Student**.
 - Click “**Colleges**” from the header.
 - Under ‘**Research Colleges**’, Click ‘**College Visits**’.
 - Click “**Register Now**” for the session(s) you would like to attend.
 - **Please take a screen shot of the green confirmation banner to show for your pass out of class.**

The screenshot displays the 'College Visits' registration interface. At the top right, there is a search bar labeled 'Search for colleges'. Below this, four session cards are listed, each with a date, time, college name, location, registration deadline, and a 'Register Now' button. The first session is on August 21 at 12:30 PM at Sewanee: The University of the South in the Counseling suite, with a registration deadline of August 20, 2018. The second session is on August 23 at 09:00 AM at Southern Methodist University in the Counseling suite, with a registration deadline of August 22, 2018. The third session is on August 23 at 10:00 AM at Georgia Institute of Technology in the Information center - Lecture hall, with a registration deadline of August 22, 2018, and a note that 0/120 seats are taken. The fourth session is on August 23 at 02:30 PM at Mercer University in the Counseling suite, with a registration deadline of August 22, 2018.

Date	Time	College	Location	Registration Deadline	Action
AUGUST Tue 21	12:30PM	Sewanee: The University of the South	Counseling suite	REGISTER BY AUG 20 2018	Register Now View Details
AUGUST Thu 23	09:00AM	Southern Methodist University	Counseling suite	REGISTER BY AUG 22 2018	Register Now View Details
AUGUST Thu 23	10:00AM	Georgia Institute of Technology	Information center - Lecture hall	REGISTER BY AUG 22 2018	Register Now View Details
AUGUST Thu 23	02:30PM	Mercer University	Counseling suite	REGISTER BY AUG 22 2018	Register Now View Details

Common App Matching

- The Common App is an undergraduate college admission application that applicants may use to apply to any of the 1,000+ member colleges and universities.
- For Common App schools, students are required to match their Common App and Naviance Student accounts.
- In order to match the Common App account, students must:
 - (1) Create a Common App account
 - (2) Complete the Education section of the Common App
 - (3) Sign the FERPA Release Authorization in the Common App
- Once completed, select “Match Accounts” from Naviance – pictured below.
- NOTE: Not all colleges and universities are on the Common App and have their own, individual applications that, in most cases, are web-based and can be found via the school’s undergraduate admissions website.

Naviance Home Self-Discovery Careers **Colleges** Planner 12th Grade EN [Close](#) [Demo](#)

Colleges I'm Applying To

It looks like you are not currently able to apply to Common App schools. Match your Common App account to Naviance Student account to get started.

[Match Accounts](#)

Common App Fee Waivers

The screenshot shows the Common App user interface. At the top left is the Common App logo. A navigation bar includes 'Dashboard', 'My Colleges', 'Common App', 'College Search', and 'Financial Aid Resources'. The 'Common App' tab is active. On the right, a welcome message for Gregory, CAID 14445456, includes a 'Sign Out' button. The main content area is titled 'Profile' and contains several expandable sections: Personal Information, Address, Contact Details, Demographics, Geography, Language, and Citizenship. The 'Common App Fee Waiver' section is highlighted in green and is currently expanded. It contains the following text: 'Our member colleges want to make sure that application fees do not pose a barrier for any student who wishes to apply for admission. Do you feel that your financial circumstances might qualify you for an application fee waiver?' Below this is a 'Learn more*' link and two radio button options: 'Yes' (which is selected) and 'No'. A 'Clear answer' button is also present.

You must meet at least one of the following indicators of economic need to qualify for an application fee waiver. Select all that apply.*

- I have received or am eligible to receive an ACT or SAT testing fee waiver
- I am enrolled in or am eligible to participate in the Federal Free or Reduced Price Lunch program (FRPL)
- My annual family income falls within the Income Eligibility Guidelines set by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service
- I am enrolled in a federal, state, or local program that aids students from low-income families (e.g., TRIO programs such as Upward Bound)
- My family receives public assistance
- I live in federally subsidized public housing, a foster home or am homeless
- I am a ward of the state or an orphan
- I can provide a supporting statement from a school official, college access counselor, financial aid officer, or community leader

I certify that I understand and meet the eligibility requirements to request an admission application fee waiver. I also understand if I am a first year student my counselor will be asked to verify my eligibility.

Fee Waiver signature*

Anita Waiver

I would like to receive information from [Strive for College](#) (US residents only)

- Yes
- No

Clear answer

Continue

“Colleges I’m Applying To”

- Many seniors spend most of their time in this section.
- After matching your Common App account, your colleges/universities listed there will auto populate here.
- Just because a school is not on the Common App, does not mean that they do not accept the transmission of important documents, like letters of recommendation and official transcripts, through Naviance.
 - Be sure to indicate “Direct to Institution” for these non-Common App schools.
- This is also where you will request Teacher Letters of Recommendation.

Colleges I’m Applying To

[Application Milestones](#)[Compare Me](#)

 = extended profile available

College

App
Type 

Deadline

Transcripts

Office
Materials

Submission 
Type Application

Georgia Military College - Milledgeville

Regular Decision

N/A

No
request

Final
submitted

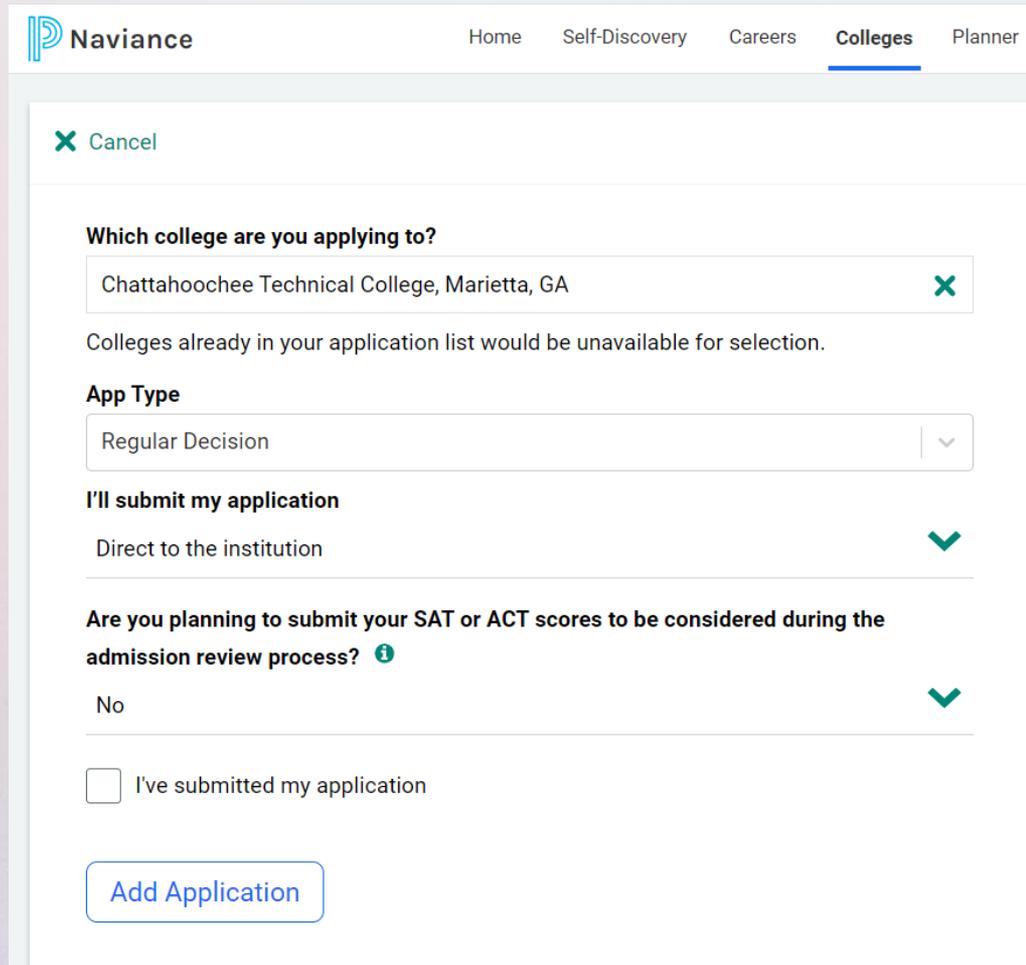


Submitted 

More 

“Colleges I’m Applying To”

This is how to “manually” add colleges/universities to your Naviance account, should the college/university not be a Common App school **or** not auto populate from your Common App account.



The screenshot shows the Naviance website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Naviance logo and links for Home, Self-Discovery, Careers, Colleges (which is underlined), and Planner. Below the navigation bar, there is a modal form titled "Add Application". The form has a "Cancel" button at the top left. The main content of the form includes:

- A question: "Which college are you applying to?" with a text input field containing "Chattahoochee Technical College, Marietta, GA" and a green "X" icon on the right.
- A note: "Colleges already in your application list would be unavailable for selection."
- A section titled "App Type" with a dropdown menu showing "Regular Decision" and a downward arrow.
- A section titled "I'll submit my application" with a radio button selected for "Direct to the institution" and a green checkmark on the right.
- A section titled "Are you planning to submit your SAT or ACT scores to be considered during the admission review process?" with an information icon and a radio button selected for "No" and a green checkmark on the right.
- A checkbox for "I've submitted my application" which is currently unchecked.
- A blue "Add Application" button at the bottom.

Official Transcript Requests*

1. Add the college you are applying to Naviance.

- Log onto your Naviance student account.
- Select the COLLEGES tab.
- Under COLLEGES select “Colleges I’m Applying To”
- Click on “+”, add each college/university, including application information
- Click “Add Application”

2. For Common App documents, you **must MATCH your Common App** account to your Naviance account before your counselor can send your transcript.

Your “Applying to” list should only contain colleges you are applying to. If you are still deciding to apply, please do not add them to your Applying to list until you are 100% sure you are going to apply. This prevents unnecessary documents with sensitive information from being sent to colleges.

**Students are responsible for completing ALL parts of the above process, or transcripts will not be sent.*

Letters of Recommendation

- Allow **at least 3-4 school weeks** for your teachers to complete their recommendation portion of your application!
- Students “invite” their teachers to upload and send letters of recommendation in two steps:
 - (1) Provide your teachers with a copy of your senior brag sheet/academic resume (*if not already completed in Naviance*) to include a list of colleges/universities to which you are asking the teacher to write.

(2) Add the request under your “Colleges I’m Applying To” tab from Naviance.

- **IMPORTANT: ASSIGN YOUR TEACHERS TO INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS – NOT “All Applications”.**
-If the school does not require a teacher letter of recommendation, they do not use it in the admissions process.
DO NOT ASK YOUR TEACHER FOR ONE IF THIS IS THE CASE!

- It is the student’s responsibility to research/know which schools require a letter of recommendation.

Adding Teacher Recommendation Requests in Naviance

- How to:

'Colleges' header → 'Letters of Recommendation' from under the 'Apply to College' tab.

1. Who would you like to write this recommendation?*

Select A Teacher ▼

2. Select which colleges this request is for:*

Choose **specific** colleges from your *Colleges I'm Applying To* list

	Colleges ^	Due ^
<input type="checkbox"/>	Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) -- required / 1 allowed / 0 requested	Jan 01 2018
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kennesaw State University -- required / -- allowed / 0 requested	Mar 01 2018
<input type="checkbox"/>	University of Georgia -- required / -- allowed / 0 requested	Jan 01 2018

All current and future colleges I add to my *Colleges I'm Applying To* list ⓘ

Senior Brag Sheet (for Letters of Recommendation)

Located in Naviance

- Students **must** complete the Counselor Letter of Recommendation Survey for counselors to write a counselor recommendation on one's behalf.
 - Access Naviance
 - Click on "About Me"
 - Click on "Surveys from your School"
 - Under "My Surveys" click on "Counselor Letter of Recommendation Survey"
 - *If you are a CCCEPA student, please choose "CCCEPA Counselor LoR Survey"*
 - Tell us all about you! The more you "brag," the better your LoR
 - Click "Update" when completed
 - Email your counselor after you have completed your survey so they can start on your LoR
- WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU to type your answers in a word doc and then transfer them over to the survey once you are ready to submit so you don't lose any work.

STARS (Self-reported Transcript and Academic Record System)

 Brown University ▼	 Auburn University ▼	 Caltech California Institute of Technol... ▼
 Stanford University ▼	 The University of Chicago ▼	 Amherst College ▼
 Case Western Reserve Unive... ▼	 Colby College ▼	 Dartmouth College ▼
 Duke University ▼	 Georgia Institute of Technology ▼	 Southern Methodist University ▼
 Spelman College ▼	 The Ohio State University ▼	 The University of Texas at Au... ▼
 University of Alabama ▼	 University of California, Berke... ▲	 University of Notre Dame ▼

Some require and some will accept. You will need your transcript to complete it

All Scholarships listed in Naviance

The screenshot shows the Naviance website interface. At the top, the Naviance logo is on the left, and navigation tabs for Home, Self-Discovery, Careers, Colleges (highlighted), Planner, and About me are in the center. On the right, there is a heart icon, a dropdown menu set to '12th Grade', and icons for notifications, help, and user profile. Below the navigation, a large menu is open under the 'Colleges' tab. It is divided into four columns: 'College Home' (with sub-items like Find Your fit, SuperMatch College Search, etc.), 'Research Colleges' (with sub-items like Colleges I'm Thinking About, College Visits, etc.), 'Apply to College' (with sub-items like Colleges I'm Applying To, Manage Transcripts, etc.), and 'Scholarships & Money' (with sub-items like College-Specific Scholarships, National Scholarship Search, Scholarship Search (highlighted), and Favorite Scholarships). The background of the page features a stylized illustration of a school building and graduation caps.

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Sending Official Test Scores

- ACT/SAT scores can only be sent directly from the testing agencies websites.

-SAT: <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/>

- ACT: www.actstudent.org

- Our School's CEEB code:

111925

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Paying for College (Financial Aid)

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Paying for College (Financial Aid)

- Financial Aid is said to be the overarching umbrella to paying for college.
- There are various types of financial aid/ways to pay for college at the local and federal levels, to include:
 - Scholarships
 - Loans (Federal & Private)
 - Federal Student Grants Pell Grants are awarded to undergraduate students who have exceptional financial need and who have not earned a bachelor's or graduate degree.
 - Federal Work-study *The Federal Work-Study (FWS) Program provides part-time jobs for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay some of their education expenses. The program encourages community service work and work related to the student's course of study.*
- Scholarships and grants **do not** have to be repaid.
- Loans **do** have to be repaid and typically include the amount borrowed plus interest.

Paying for College - Scholarships

- There are a number of different types of scholarships: Academic, Community, Athletic, Extracurricular/Hobby, Employer, Military, Need-based, etc.
- Remember, these (scholarship) funds do not have to be repaid.
- There are varying scholarship deadlines, so pay attention to when they are and apply by deadline.
- Where to find scholarships for college?
 - Naviance (Colleges → Scholarships & Money)
 - GA Futures (Federal Aid & Scholarships → Scholarship Search)
 - Scholly (App. Store & Google Play)
 - College/University Financial Aid Office websites
 - Online search engines, i.e. Going Merry, FastWeb, BigFuture/Collegeboard
- NOTE: A scholarship and a sweepstakes are not the same thing.

Paying for College - FAFSA

- **FAFSA** – Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- It is an online application that is completed by students who want the opportunity to receive federal funding to pay for college
 - Pell Grant (Need based)
 - Student Loans
- Must be completed on an annual basis and determines how much money one's family would be able to contribute to the student's cost of attending college
- Requires federal tax information from student's family for application completion/submission
- This application can be used to also satisfy the request to receive state funding for the HOPE program as well – HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship, HOPE/Zell Miller Grant, and HOPE Career Grant

Paying for College – HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship

- HOPE Scholarship – Basic eligibility requirements:
 - Graduate high school with a minimum 3.0 calculated HOPE GPA
 - Earn a minimum of four (4) full rigor credits from the [Academic Rigor Course List](#)
 - Meet U.S. citizenship or eligible non-citizen requirements
- Zell Miller Scholarship– Basic eligibility requirements:
 - Graduate with a minimum 3.7 calculated HOPE GPA
 - Earn a minimum of four (4) full rigor credits from the [Academic Rigor Course List](#)
 - Earn a qualifying test score on a single administration of the ACT or SAT prior to high school graduation.

Current Test Score Requirements: A minimum score of **1200** is required for the SAT or **25** composite score for the ACT.

NOTE: The equivalent ACT composite score (as of the most recent concordance guide published by the College Board and ACT each January 1). The ACT score requirement can change each year. The equivalent is posted by January 15 each year for the upcoming/award school year.

Paying for College – HOPE Program FAQ

- **How to apply for the HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship or Grant?**
 - Complete the FAFSA (Annually)
 - or
 - Complete the GSFAPP (Valid for 10 years)
- **HOPE Program Application Deadlines:** The last day of the school term or a student's withdrawal date, whichever occurs first.

Note: Additional college-specific application and deadline requirements may be required, so check with your postsecondary institution.
- **What's my HOPE GPA?**
 - Viewable from the **Your HOPE GPA** tab from logging in to your GA Futures profile
 - Not the same as your CCSD weighted or unweighted GPA
- *It is recommended to frequent the GAFutures website for the most up-to-date and official information about the HOPE program.*



Your Social Security Number (SSN) must be on file in the Cobb County student record system in order to receive any HOPE/Zell Miller funds!

Helpful Websites for Senior Year

- ACT: <https://www.act.org/>
- Big Future: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
- Cobb County School District: <https://www.cobbk12.org/>
- Common App: <https://www.commonapp.org/>
- Common Black College App: <https://commonblackcollegeapp.com/>
- FAFSA: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- GAFutures: <https://www.gafutures.org/>
- SAT (Collegeboard): <https://www.collegeboard.org/>

BRIDGE Law

December Graduates:

May Graduates:

This survey will be made available to you in November.

This survey will be made available to you in March 2025.

NOTE:

This survey is required to be completed by every senior before graduation, so be sure to complete it when available.

Thanks in advance!



Have a Great Senior Year!

*“Do not go where the path
may lead, go instead where
there is no path and leave a
trail.”*

— *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

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