



# **Preparing for Life Beyond High School**

**Senior Planning Booklet  
McDonough High School  
Class of 2021**

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# **COLLEGE ADMISSIONS**

# College Prep Checklist

## Senior Year

It's your senior year! Use this checklist to stay organized, focused and connected with everything that needs to be done by graduation.

### Students

#### *Fall*

- ☐ Make sure you're on track to graduate and fulfill all graduation, admissions and academic rigor requirements. Meet with your counselor for any questions or concerns.
- ☐ If you haven't done so, take the necessary admissions tests – SAT, SAT Subject Test or the ACT. Be sure to have your test scores sent to GSFC for Zell Miller Scholarship eligibility.
- ☐ Pay attention to deadlines and apply to the colleges you have chosen.
- ☐ Ask your teachers and counselors to submit required documents (letters of recommendation) to your preferred colleges.
- ☐ Submit a request through your **My GAFutures** account for your high school to send your official transcript to any college you've applied to.
- ☐ Beginning October 1, plan to complete the FAFSA. Attend a FAFSA Completion event with your parents to get help filling it out (don't forget to create your FSA ID before you go).
- ☐ Some colleges require the CSS/PROFILE, a supplemental financial aid form, in addition to the FAFSA. Find out if your college needs this form.
- ☐ Stay involved in after-school activities and work hard all year. Your grades can still impact scholarship and other financial aid eligibility.

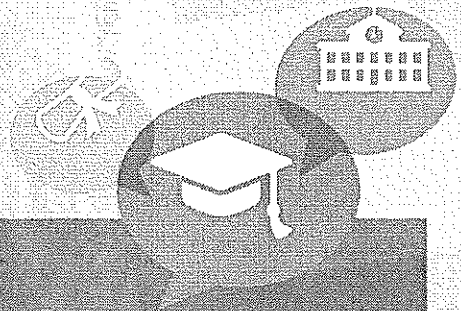
12th Grade Checklist



There's more! Flip it over



# 12th Grade Checklist



## Students *Spring*

- ☐ Complete any additional scholarship applications. If you have chosen not to complete the FAFSA, you must submit the GSFAPPS to qualify for state aid like the HOPE Scholarship.
- ☐ Decision time! Review your college acceptances, compare financial aid offers and plan visits to where you have been accepted.
- ☐ If you have questions about the aid being offered, contact that college's financial aid office.
- ☐ When you decide which college to attend, notify the school and submit any required financial deposits. Also, notify the other colleges you were accepted to and withdraw your application.
- ☐ Upon graduation you will have access to your **My College HOPE Profile** allowing you to check your eligibility while in college.

## Parents

- ☐ Know the importance of completing the FAFSA, create your own FSA ID and attend a FAFSA Completion event with your child beginning October 1.
- ☐ Plan to visit the colleges at the top of your child's list to help make a final decision.
- ☐ Confirm housing plans, freshman orientation dates and course registration. Send any necessary deposits.

## College Choice Guide

### College Research Tips

- **Consult your school counselor.** Your high school guidance counselor can assist you with information on career options, college preparation and choosing a college.
- **Visit the college and university web sites.** This will allow you to learn more about the school's size, location, admissions policies and cost and financial aid information.
- **Go to your local library.** You can find college books and college guides that offer detailed school profiles, programs offered, tuition costs, campus culture and more. Just be sure you are looking at a recent publication.
- **Online College Search.** Fastweb has a free comprehensive college search at <http://colleges.fastweb.com>. Other Internet sites also provide a free college search. Look for college blogs online to give you an inside look at campus life and activities.
- **Talk with a college / university admissions representative.** An admissions representative can answer just about all of your questions with a single phone call.
- **Call the college's alumni association.** Schedule an interview with an alumnus of the school who can offer advice and share his/her collegiate experience, including activities in which you may be interested in participating.

### Campus Visit Tips

- **Pick a regular day to visit.** Visit the college when classes are in session. Check the college's online calendar when planning a visit. Avoid major events or holidays, such as Spring Break. Ask for a guided tour. Arrange to speak to other students, alumni, faculty members, financial aid, admissions and career offices. Send a thank-you note to all those you meet!
- **Pack smart.** Pack less formal clothing for walking around campus and something more formal for an interview with the admissions office.
- **Stay in a dorm overnight.** Sit in on a class to see how it is conducted. Speak with current students and professors about what life on campus is like.
- **View other campus buildings.** Check out residence hall rooms, cafeterias, computer labs, health and recreational facilities, the library, etc.
- **Take pictures and/or video.** Capture your visit with pictures of the campus, the buildings, the dorms and the town.
- **Eat in the dining hall.** This is a great place to see students and even see what you could eat if you attend.
- **Record your experience.** After your campus visits, make a list of the good and bad points about each school while your memory is still fresh. Use the questions provided here to guide you in your college choice.
- **Meet current students from your school.** Meet with a student from your school or your local area to get a better idea about the transition.

### Academics and Career Planning

- Does the college offer the academic major that interests me? What's the reputation of the program? Can you graduate in four years, or does the program take longer?
- What is the average class size? What is the student-to-faculty ratio? Are most classes taught by full-time professors or by a teaching assistant or part-time adjunct?
- What kinds of career-planning services are available? How many graduates find jobs in their field of study? Does the school offer internships and opportunities in your major?
- How easy is it to switch academic majors? Will it mean spending more time in school?

### Finances

- What is the out-of-pocket as a true bottom line cost (difference between the cost of attendance and gift aid, such as grants and scholarships)?
- What is my actual cost? Other expenses beyond just the "sticker price" for tuition can include:
  - Application fees, add/drop a course fees, food and clothing expenses, health insurance, student activity fees, transportation expenses (insurance, gas, parking fees)
- What is the average yearly increase in tuition and other costs.
- If I'm offered financial aid, how might the award or package change with new each year? What is the average loan indebtedness of those who graduate?

### Student Life

- Do you feel you fit in and feel comfortable on campus?
- Is the campus diverse?
- What student organizations are on campus? Does the school offer a variety of recreational activities, varsity and intramural and club sports? Are they ones you would want to join?
- What's the social scene like? What is the campus like on the weekends? Do many students leave campus? What kinds of student activities are planned?
- Do you need a car? Are jobs close to campus? Do you need to drive to any classes? Is public or campus transit accessible?

### Housing and Campus Resources

- What is the status of student housing? What is the cost? Is off-campus housing available? Is campus housing available for all four years? Are the dorms well-maintained?
- Is the campus safe? What services does campus security provide: safe ride program, call boxes, regular patrols
- What is the surrounding area like? Have there been any campus or safety issues in the past 2 years?
- Are campus facilities up-to-date? Is wireless Internet access available and is there an extra cost for it?
- What meal plans are available? What is served in the dining hall? Are special dietary plans available? Are there after-hours options? Does the meal plan extend off campus? What about money/meals that go unused?

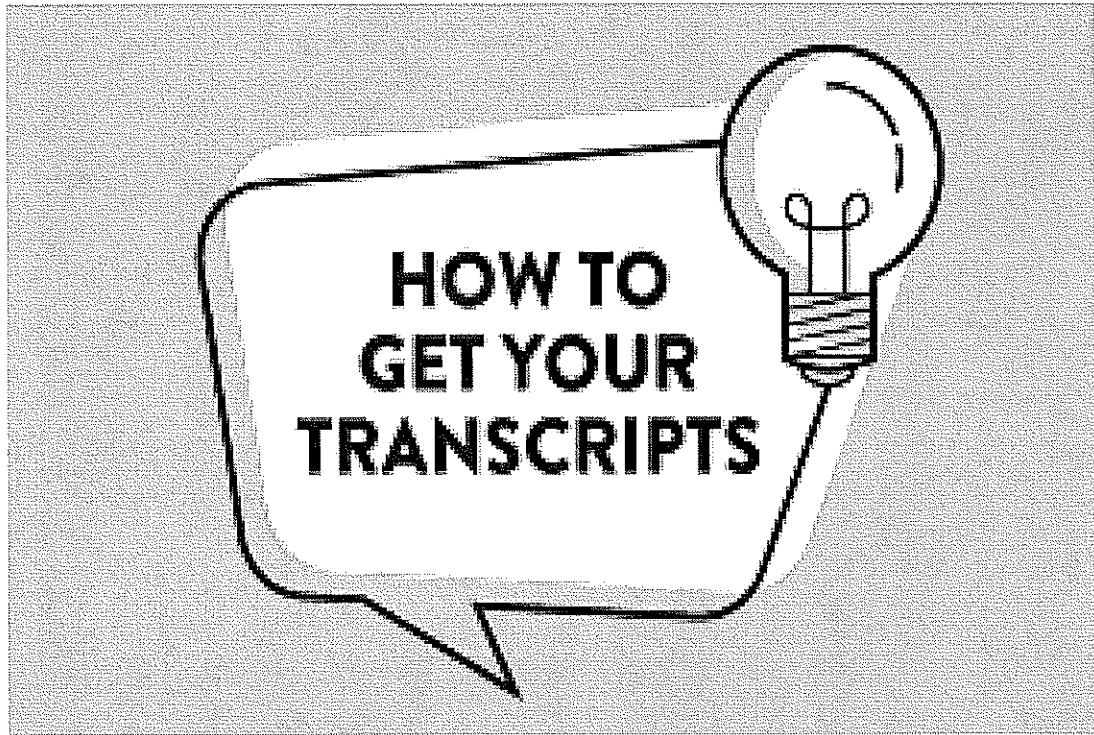
# College Application Checklist

Print and use this checklist to keep track of your college application requirements, tasks, and deadlines.

Application Checklist	College: _____
Create a balanced list of reach, match, and safety colleges	
Get the application	
Make a note of the regular application deadline	
Make a note of the early application deadline	
Request high school transcript sent	
Request midyear grade report sent	
Find out if an admission test is required	
Take an admission test, if required	
Take other required or recommended tests (e.g., SAT Subject Tests™, AP Exams, IB exams)	
Send admission-test scores	
Send other test scores	
Request recommendation letters	
Send thank-you notes to recommendation writers	
Draft initial essay	
Proofread essay for spelling and grammar	
Have two people read your essay	
Revise your essay	
Proofread your revision	
Interview at college campus	
Have an alumni interview	
Submit FAFSA®	
Submit PROFILE, if needed	
Make a note of the priority financial aid deadline	

Make a note of the regular financial aid deadline	
Complete college application	
Make copies of all application materials	
Pay application fee	
Sign and send application	
Submit college aid form, if needed	
Submit state aid form, if needed	
Confirm receipt of application materials	
Send additional material, if needed	
Tell school counselor that you applied	
Receive letter from office of admission	
Receive financial aid award letter	
Meet deadline to accept admission and send deposit	
Accept financial aid offer	
Notify the colleges you will not attend	





# TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS

As of right now, all transcript requests must be submitted to Mrs. Peggy Garrard

at [peggy.garrard@henry.k12.ga.us](mailto:peggy.garrard@henry.k12.ga.us).

Transcript requests for Georgia colleges/universities will be sent electronically through GAFutures.

Transcripts for out of state colleges/universities will be mailed. This process will be in place while we are working virtually. It is subject to change once we are back in the building.



# **COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTS**

# WHERE ARE **YOU** GOING?

ACT will help you get there.

**ACT**

## TEST DATES

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINE

SEP  
**12 | 13 | 19**  
AUG

OCT  
**10 | 17 | 24 | 25**  
SEP

DEC  
**12**  
NOV

FEB  
**6**  
JAN

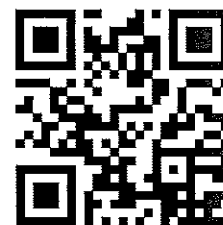
APR  
**17**  
MAR

JUN  
**12**  
MAY

JUL  
**17\***  
JUN

\*No test centers are scheduled in New York for the July test date.

Register online at **act.org/bts**



### HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO REGISTER FOR THE TEST:

- About 45 minutes
- A credit card or fee waiver
- Your high school course list and grades
- Your interests—our interest survey will match you to academic programs and careers you might enjoy
- Up to four colleges and universities to send your score reports for free
- Your photo to upload



**2020-2021 SAT Registration Dates**  
**Register at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)**

SAT Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline	Deadline for Changes
<b>August 29, 2020</b>	July 31, 2020	<p>August 11, 2020 (for mailed registrations)  August 18, 2020 (for registrations made online or by phone)</p> <p><i>Note: The late registration fee has been waived for the August administration.</i></p>	August 18, 2020
<b>September 26, 2020</b>  <a href="#">Register</a>	August 26, 2020	September 15, 2020 (for registrations made online or by phone)	September 15, 2020
<b>October 3, 2020</b>  <a href="#">Register</a>	September 4, 2020	<p>September 15, 2020 (for mailed registrations)  September 22, 2020 (for registrations made online or by phone)</p>	September 22, 2020
<b>November 7, 2020</b>  <a href="#">Register</a>	October 7, 2020	<p>October 20, 2020 (for mailed registrations)  October 27, 2020 (for registrations made online or by phone)</p>	October 27, 2020
<b>December 5, 2020</b>	November 5, 2020	November 17, 2020 (for mailed registrations)	November 24, 2020

**2020-2021 SAT Registration Dates**  
**Register at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)**

SAT Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline	Deadline for Changes
<a href="#">Register</a>		November 24, 2020 (for registrations made online or by phone)	
<b>March 13, 2021</b> <a href="#">Register</a>	February 12, 2021	February 23, 2021 (for mailed registrations) March 2, 2021 (for registrations made online or by phone)	March 2, 2021
<b>May 8, 2021</b> <a href="#">Register</a>	April 8, 2021	April 20, 2021 (for mailed registrations) April 27, 2021 (for registrations made online or by phone)	April 27, 2021
<b>June 5, 2021</b> <a href="#">Register</a>	May 6, 2021	May 18, 2021 (for mailed registrations) May 26, 2021 (for registrations made online or by phone)	May 26, 2021

## Fee Waivers

Seniors who meet certain criteria are eligible for fee waivers to cover the cost of test registration and/or college application fees. SAT fee waivers are available to low-income 11th and 12th grade students. Eligible students are able to receive a **TOTAL** of two SAT and/or ACT test fee waivers.

Therefore, if you received one in the 11th grade, you are eligible for one additional fee waiver. You're eligible for fee waivers if you say "yes" to any of the following:

- You're enrolled in or eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).
- Your annual family income falls within the Income Eligibility Guidelines set by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service.
- You're enrolled in a federal, state, or local program that aids students from low-income families (e.g., Federal TRIO programs such as Upward Bound).
- Your family receives public assistance.
- You live in federally subsidized public housing or a foster home, or are homeless.
- You are a ward of the state or an orphan.

<https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/FeeWaiver.pdf>  
(ACT fee waiver requirements)

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/fees/fee-waivers> (SAT fee waiver requirements)

If you meet any of the criteria above, you will have to scan proof of your eligibility to Ms. Willis at [destini.willis@henry.k12.ga.us](mailto:destini.willis@henry.k12.ga.us). If you receive free/reduced lunch, you will have to submit a letter from the Henry County Schools nutrition department indicating you have been approved for free/reduced lunch for the 2020-2021 school year. Please encourage your parents to complete the lunch application at <https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/110494> to complete the free/reduced lunch application for the 2020-2021 school year. Once the proof of eligibility for a fee waiver is received, Ms. Willis will send out the ACT/SAT fee waiver code.

## FREE and LOW-COST SAT AND ACT TEST PREP OPTIONS

**FREE: KHAN Academy** has partnered with the College Board to create free SAT prep available on the Khan Academy website. Link to your PSAT account or, if you've already taken the SAT, to your previous score for prep that is personalized for you and targeted to your specific needs. Visit [www.khanacademy.org/sat](http://www.khanacademy.org/sat).

**FREE: ACT Academy** is offered by ACT. It offers free, personalized ACT prep. Visit <https://academy.act.org>

**March2success.com** offers free online SAT and ACT prep, practice tests, and flashcards. [www.march2success.com](http://www.march2success.com).

### OTHER FREE RESOURCES

**Daily Practice for the SAT:** Download this free app for a daily practice question.

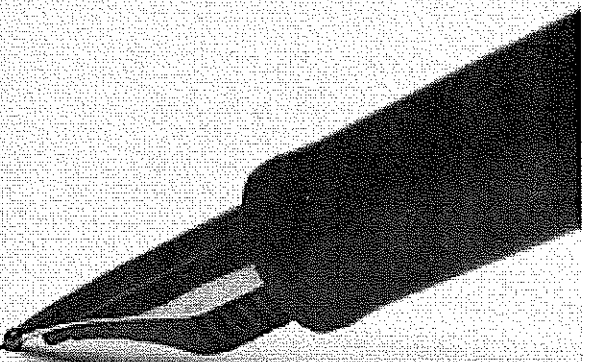
**SAT UP** and **ACT UP:** Two more free apps to download onto your phone.

**The Grading Game:** This app gives you practice finding errors in sample essays.

**Math Brain Booster:** This app helps you practice mental math.



Letter of  
Recommendation



# **LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION REQUESTS**

# How to Get a Great Letter of Recommendation

Colleges often ask for two or three recommendation letters from people who know you well. These letters should be written by someone who can describe your skills, accomplishments and personality.

Colleges value recommendations because they:

- Reveal things about you that grades and test scores can't
- Provide personal opinions of your character
- Show who is willing to speak on your behalf

Letters of recommendation work for you when they present you in the best possible light, showcasing your skills and abilities.

## Get recommendation letters from people who know you well

### When to Ask for Recommendations

Make sure to give your references at least one month before your earliest deadline to complete and send your letters. The earlier you ask, the better. Many teachers like to write recommendations during the summer. If you apply under early decision or early action plans, you'll definitely need to ask for recommendations by the start of your senior year or before.

Remember that some teachers will be writing whole stacks of letters, which takes time. Your teachers will do a better job on your letter if they don't have to rush.

### Whom to Ask

It's your job to find people to write letters of recommendation for you. Follow these steps to start the process:

- Read each of your college applications carefully. Schools often ask for letters of recommendation from an academic teacher — sometimes in a specific subject — or a school counselor or both.
- Ask a counselor, teachers and your family who they think would make good references.
- Choose one of your teachers from junior year or a current teacher who has known you for a while. Colleges want a current perspective on you, so a teacher from several years ago isn't the best choice.
- Consider asking a teacher who also knows you outside the classroom. For example, a teacher who directed you in a play or advised your debate club can make a great reference.
- Consider other adults — such as an employer, a coach or an adviser from an activity outside of school — who have a good understanding of you and your strengths.
- Perhaps most important, pick someone who will be enthusiastic about writing the letter for you.
- If you're unsure about asking someone in particular, politely ask if he or she feels comfortable recommending you. That's a good way to avoid weak letters.

**Your teachers will do a better job on your letter if they don't have to rush.**

### How to Get the Best Recommendations

Some teachers write many recommendation letters each year. Even if they know you well, it's a good idea to take some time to speak with them. Make it easy for them to give positive, detailed information about your achievements and your potential by refreshing their memory.

Here's how:

- Talk to them about your class participation.
- Remind them of specific work or projects you're proud of.
- Tell them what you learned in class.
- Mention any challenges you overcame.
- Give them the information they need to provide specific examples of your work.
- If you need a recommendation letter from a counselor or other school official, follow these guidelines:
- Make an appointment ahead of time.
- Talk about your accomplishments, hobbies and plans for college and the future.
- If you need to discuss part of your transcript — low grades during your sophomore year, for example — do so. Explain why you had difficulty and discuss how you've changed and improved since then.

Whether approaching teachers, a counselor or another reference, you may want to provide them with a resume that briefly outlines your activities, both in and outside the classroom, and your goals.

## **Final Tips**

The following advice is easy to follow and can really pay off:

- Waive your right to view recommendation letters on your application forms. Admission officers will trust them more if you haven't seen them.
- Give your references addressed and stamped envelopes for each college that requested a recommendation.
- Make sure your references know the deadlines for each college.
- Follow up with your references a week or so before recommendations are due to make sure your letters have been sent.
- Once you've decided which college to attend, write thank-you notes. Tell your references where you're going and let them know how much you appreciate their support.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

*Last Legal First E-mail address*

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM**

Please complete this form to request a letter of recommendation. If you are completing online applications, you still need to complete this recommendation so your counselor can complete an online recommendation. Once you have completed the form in its entirety, please return it to your counselor or with your application. ***This form needs to be completed only once.*** Each counselor keeps this form on file. If you need a copy to submit to other teachers, please ask your counselor to make a copy for you. **PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. Please allow a minimum of seven business days for your counselor to complete the recommendation. The counseling department does not mail recommendation letters so you are responsible for picking them up.**

**ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS BELOW SO WE CAN WRITE A DETAILED RECOMMENDATION**

1. Briefly describe your plans after graduation (college, college program of study, career, military, and/or etc.). What is your anticipated college major if you are planning to enroll in a post-secondary school?

**2. To whom does the recommendation need to be addressed? List below with complete information.**

Contact Person/Organization	Purpose of Recommendation	Recommendation Deadline

**3. List clubs, activities, and service organizations you have participated in at high school.**

[illegible]



4. List non-school activities (community, religious, employment, etc.).

Name of non-school activity (Volunteer, Community Activity)	Length/Grade of participation	List any leadership roles

***\*COMPLETE INFORMATION ON THE REVERSE SIDE\****

5. List any honors and awards you have received in or out of school.

Name of Honor/Award	Year Received

6. Please list hobbies, interests and special talents you have.

7. Three words that best describe you are ...

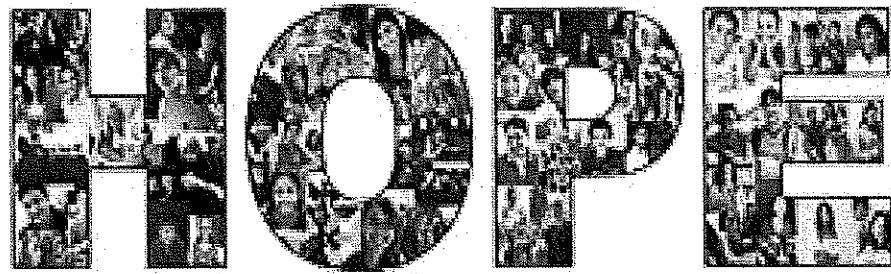
8. Please write a short general statement about yourself (your strengths) that will help me know you better.

9. Other comments/experiences you would like to share that will help me write your recommendation, such as an obstacle you overcame academically, physically, or personally.

10. Name four teachers at **MHS** who know you best – who I can ask for additional feedback about you.

_____	_____
_____	_____

***ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAPER IF NECESSARY.***



**SCHOLARSHIP**

**HOPE  
SCHOLARSHIP**

HOPE  
SCHOLARSHIP

ZELL MILLER  
SCHOLARSHIP

HOPE  
GRANT

ZELL MILLER  
GRANT

HOPE CAREER  
GRANT

HOPE  
GED GRANT



HELPING OUTSTANDING PUPILS EDUCATIONALLY

# HOPE AND ZELL MILLER SCHOLARSHIPS

## ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FROM HIGH SCHOOL

### HOPE Scholarship

- 3.0 HOPE GPA as calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) in core curriculum courses (English, math, science, foreign language, social science)
- Rigor requirements

### Zell Miller Scholarship

- Rigor requirements and one of the following:
- Designated valedictorian or salutatorian
- 3.7 HOPE GPA as calculated by GSFC in core curriculum courses
- AND
- Test component: 1200 SAT combined score (Critical Reading and Math) or 26 ACT composite score

OR

### WHAT ARE RIGOR REQUIREMENTS?

Rigor courses: *Advanced Math, Advanced Science, Foreign Language, Advanced Placement (AP) in core subjects, International Baccalaureate (IB) in core subjects, degree-level Dual Credit Enrollment courses in core subjects taken at an eligible postsecondary institution.*

**Students graduating from high school must earn four full credits from the above list.**

## AWARD AMOUNTS

	HOPE Scholarship*	Zell Miller Scholarship*
Public Institution	Portion of standard tuition <sup>1</sup>	Full standard tuition <sup>1</sup>
Private Institution	\$2,152 per semester (fall, spring, summer)	\$2,808 per semester (fall, spring, summer)
Full-time	\$1,436 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)	\$1,914 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)
Private Institution	\$1,077 per semester (fall, spring, summer)	\$1,404 per semester (fall, spring, summer)
Half-time	\$719 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)	\$957 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)

\*Complete award amounts available on [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org). <sup>1</sup>Up to 15 credit hours.

## MAINTAINING

### HOPE Scholarship

- Students must maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA\* at designated checkpoints (end of every spring semester and at 30, 60 and 90 attempted semester hours; end of every spring quarter and at 45, 90 and 135 attempted quarter hours). If a student's GPA falls below a 3.0, they will lose the HOPE Scholarship and will only be eligible to regain it once.

### Zell Miller Scholarship

- Students must maintain a cumulative 3.3 GPA\* at designated checkpoints (end of every spring semester and at 30, 60 and 90 attempted semester hours; end of every spring quarter and at 45, 90 and 135 attempted quarter hours). If a student's GPA falls below a 3.3, they will lose the Zell Miller Scholarship but may still be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship. Students can regain the Zell Miller Scholarship only once.

\*Postsecondary GPA calculation refers to all attempted hours after high school graduation. Approved postsecondary STEM courses taken fall 2017 and later receive .5 weight to grade B, C or D. Approved courses can be found at [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org). STEM courses taken during high school are not given the STEM weight for postsecondary GPA calculation.

## LOSING ELIGIBILITY

A student will lose eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship and the Zell Miller Scholarship due to one of the following:

- GPA requirement not met
- Maximum attempted and/or paid hours reached (127 semester/190 quarter)
- Funds not used within seven years of high school graduation or equivalent (military exception)
- Bachelor's or first professional degree received



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# HOPE GRANT

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## ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- No high school graduation requirement
- Must be enrolled in a certificate or diploma program at a University System of Georgia (USG) or Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) school

## AWARD AMOUNT

- Portion of standard tuition, up to 15 credit hours; award amounts available on **GAfutures.org**

## MAINTAINING

- Cumulative 2.0 postsecondary GPA or higher at designated checkpoints (30/60 paid semester hours; 45/90 paid quarter hours)
- Only eligible to regain the HOPE Grant once

## LOSING ELIGIBILITY

- GPA requirement not met
- Maximum paid hours reached (63 semester/95 quarter)
- Bachelor's or first professional degree received

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# ZELL MILLER GRANT

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## ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- No high school graduation requirement
- Must be enrolled in a certificate or diploma program at a University System of Georgia (USG) or Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) school
- First term awarded retroactively after earning a 3.5 or higher postsecondary GPA

## AWARD AMOUNT

- Full standard rate of tuition, up to 15 credit hours; award amounts available on **GAfutures.org**

## MAINTAINING

- Cumulative 3.5 or higher postsecondary GPA required at the end of every semester/quarter
- Eligible to regain Zell Miller Grant if minimum GPA earned at the end of the next term

## LOSING ELIGIBILITY

- GPA requirement not met
- Maximum paid hours reached (63 semester/95 quarter)
- Bachelor's or first professional degree received

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# HOPE CAREER GRANT

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## ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- Enrolled in certain high-demand certificate and diploma programs at a University System of Georgia (USG) or Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) school
- HOPE Grant and Zell Miller Grant eligibility requirements apply
- Dual credit and/or joint enrollment students not eligible

## AWARD AMOUNT

- Awards are a fixed amount per term based on the program and number of hours enrolled
- Approved programs and award amounts available on **GAfutures.org**

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# HOPE GED GRANT

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## ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- Earned a GED diploma from Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG)

## AWARD AMOUNT

- \$500 voucher that can be used for tuition, books or other educational costs at an eligible postsecondary institution
- Voucher expires 24 consecutive months after issue date

*Students eligible for any of the HOPE Programs must complete a GSFAPPS or current year FAFSA.*

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## OTHER STATE FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

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In addition to the HOPE Program, GSFC administers other state financial aid programs for the state of Georgia. These programs are designed to assist students with the cost of their postsecondary education.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ● Dual Enrollment                                    | ● Scholarship for Engineering Education                      |
| ● Georgia Military College State Service Scholarship | ● Student Access Loan  |
| ● Georgia National Guard Service Cancelable Loan     | ● Tuition Equalization Grant                                 |
| ● HERO Scholarship                                   | ● University of North Georgia Military Scholarship           |
| ● Public Safety Memorial Grant                       | ● University of North Georgia ROTC Grant                     |
| ● REACH Scholarship                                  | ● University of North Georgia ROTC Grant for Future Officers |

*For more information on state financial aid programs, visit [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org).*

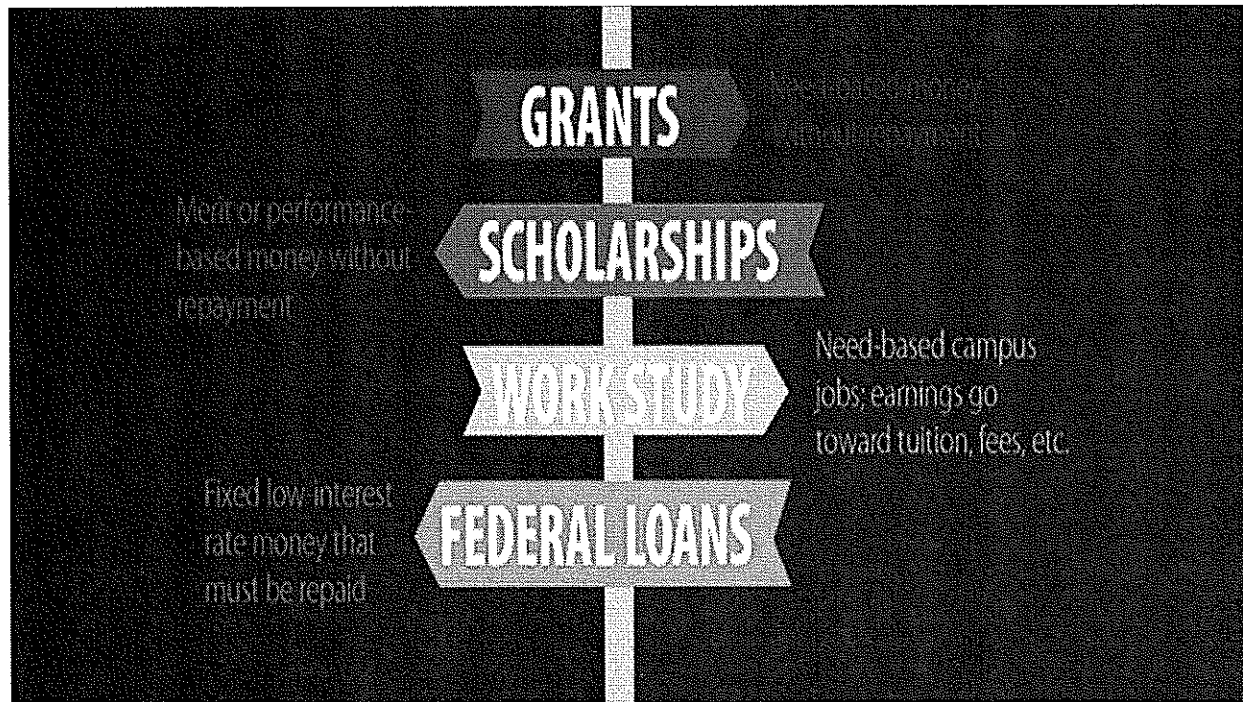
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## ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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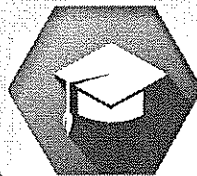
In addition to meeting the requirements for specific state financial aid programs, students must meet the following basic eligibility requirements:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ● Be a legal resident of Georgia  | ● Meet U.S. citizenship or eligible non-citizen requirements                     |
| ● Meet academic achievement standards required by the program or college          | ● Be in good standing on all student loans or other financial aid programs       |
| ● Be registered with the Selective Service, if required                           | ● Not have exceeded the maximum award limits for any state financial aid program |
| ● Be in compliance with the Georgia Drug-Free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990 | ● Meet enrollment requirements   |
|   | ● Attend an eligible postsecondary institution                                   |



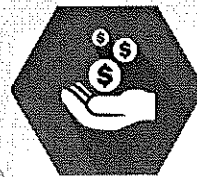
# FINANCIAL AID

SCHOLARSHIPS

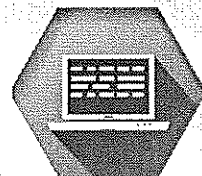


GRANTS

LOANS



GSEAPPS



FAFSA



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## WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

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Financial aid is money to help pay for your postsecondary education. Financial aid can be grants, scholarships, loans or work-study programs. Types and sources of financial aid include:

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID	SOURCES OF FINANCIAL AID
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Merit-based Scholarships (e.g., HOPE Scholarship)</li><li>• Need-based Grants (e.g., Pell Grant)</li><li>• Non-need Based Grants (e.g., HOPE Grant)</li><li>• Student or Parent Loans</li><li>• Work-Study Programs</li><li>• Military Aid Grants</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Federal Government</li><li>• State Government</li><li>• Colleges &amp; Universities</li><li>• Private Foundations</li><li>• Employers &amp; Private Companies</li><li>• Professional &amp; Service Organizations</li></ul>

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## BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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In order to determine eligibility for federal and some state financial aid programs, students must:

- Demonstrate financial need or exhibit academic merit, depending on the type of financial aid
- Have a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED) diploma
- Be enrolled in, or accepted to, an institution participating in federal financial aid programs
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident or eligible non-citizen
- Have a valid Social Security number
- Meet the drug conviction criteria
- Not be in default or owe a refund on any federal or state student grant or federal or state student loan
- Be registered with the Selective Service, if required

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## THE FAFSA: YOUR KEY TO FINANCIAL AID

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With the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you can apply for financial aid for multiple colleges and funding sources. Simply visit [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) to begin your online application.

The FAFSA is available beginning October 1. If you are planning to attend college fall 2021, you should complete the 2021-2022 FAFSA after October 1, 2020.

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## HOW IS YOUR FINANCIAL NEED CALCULATED?

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In general, your financial need is determined by two factors:

- Cost of Attendance (COA) is tuition, fees, room and board, transportation and other costs associated with attendance established by the school
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is determined from what you report on the FAFSA

$$\text{COA} - \text{EFC} = \text{FINANCIAL NEED}$$

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## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

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- Once you have completed and submitted your FAFSA, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) in 3-5 days. Your SAR is a summary of the information you reported on the FAFSA.
- Colleges listed on your FAFSA will receive and review the Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) after your FAFSA has been submitted. This is the information schools use to determine your aid eligibility.
- Once the school has reviewed the ISIR, an award letter is generated and sent to you via email or regular mail. Contact the school about their timeframe for this process.

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## OTHER FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS

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The FAFSA may not be the only application you have to submit in order to receive financial aid. You may also need to complete other institutional applications. Be sure to contact your school(s) of interest or visit their website(s) to find out what other forms or applications are required.

The Georgia Student Financial Aid Application System (GSFAPPS) is also an acceptable application method for some of the scholarship and grant programs administered by the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC), such as the HOPE Scholarship. You can complete the GSFAPPS on [Gafutures.org](https://Gafutures.org).

SAMPLE FINANCIAL AID AWARD					
Housing: On Campus		Estimated Cost of Attendance 2 Semesters		\$16,855	
Residency: In-State		Expected Family Contribution		- \$0	
				<hr/>	
Established Financial Need				\$16,855	
Type of Aid	Fall	Spring	Summer	Total	Accept?
Federal Pell Grant	\$3,172.50	\$3,172.50	\$0	\$6,195	Yes or No
HOPE Scholarship*	\$2,505	\$2,505	\$0	\$5,010	Yes or No
Federal Direct Loan – Sub <sup>†</sup>	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$0	\$3,500	Yes or No
Federal Direct Loan – Unsub <sup>†</sup>	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$2,000	Yes or No
Total for Academic Year				\$16,855	

\*HOPE Scholarship award based on 15 semester hours per term at a regional university in Georgia. The actual award amounts vary by eligible institution. <sup>†</sup>Loan amount based on dependent student status.

## FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

The Federal Government has financial aid programs that include grants and work-study awards that do not need to be repaid, as well as various loans that require repayment. For more information on the types of federal aid, visit [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov).

- Federal Grants and Work Study
  - Pell Grant
  - Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
  - Work-Study Award
- Federal Direct Loan Programs
  - Subsidized loan – the government pays the interest on the loan while you are in school, during the six-month grace period after you graduate or drop below half-time enrollment, and during deferment periods. Subsidized loans are awarded based on financial need.
  - Unsubsidized loan – you are responsible for paying the interest while enrolled in school. You can decide not to pay the interest while in school and it will be added to the loan balance until repayment begins.

ANNUAL LIMITS	SUBSIDIZED AND/OR UNSUBSIDIZED LOAN
1 <sup>st</sup> Year Undergraduate	\$5,500 - No more than \$3,500 can be subsidized
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Undergraduate	\$6,500 - No more than \$4,500 can be subsidized
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year and Beyond Undergraduate	\$7,500 - No more than \$5,500 can be subsidized
Graduate or Professional Student	\$20,500 (unsubsidized only)

*With the exception of a graduate or professional student, the loan amounts included in the chart are based on dependent student status. To learn more about whether a student is dependent or independent, visit [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov).*

## GEORGIA FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

In addition to federal financial aid programs, Georgia residents may also be eligible for state-specific financial aid programs administered by GSFC.

- Dual Enrollment
- Georgia Military College State Service Scholarship
- Georgia National Guard Service Cancelable Loan
- HERO Scholarship
- HOPE Career Grant
- HOPE GED Grant
- HOPE Grant
- HOPE Scholarship
- Public Safety Memorial Grant
- REACH Scholarship
- Scholarship for Engineering Education
- Student Access Loan
- Tuition Equalization Grant
- University of North Georgia Military Scholarship
- University of North Georgia ROTC Grant
- University of North Georgia ROTC Grant for Future Officers
- Zell Miller Grant
- Zell Miller Scholarship

For more information on any of these programs, visit [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org).

## IMPORTANT RESOURCES

**GAfutures.org** – Learn about federal and Georgia-specific financial aid programs, search for colleges and scholarships, and explore various career paths.

**FAFSA.gov** – Complete and track your FAFSA.

**studentaid.gov** – Find information to help get ready for college and learn more about federal student aid.

## BASIC FINANCIAL AID TERMS

**Education Loans** – money borrowed by a student or parent from the federal government or a private lender to fund postsecondary education; requires repayment with interest.

**EFC (Expected Family Contribution)** – amount considered reasonable for your family to contribute to your educational expenses according to FAFSA calculations.

**FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)** – application completed by students and parents to apply for federal financial aid, along with some state programs.

**Federal Financial Aid** – money offered by the federal government to assist eligible students in funding their post-secondary education.

**Grants** – money available to eligible students based upon financial need, past academic performance, service to the community or special areas of study; does not require repayment.

**GSFAPPS (Georgia Student Financial Aid Application System)** – financial aid application created by the Georgia Student Finance Commission that enables students to apply for most state-based financial aid programs. Available on [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org).

**ISIR (Institutional Student Information Record)** – contains the information submitted on the FAFSA and the EFC as well as other information regarding financial aid eligibility. The ISIR is electronically transmitted to the school.

**SAR (Student Aid Report)** – document you will receive after your FAFSA is processed. Your SAR will contain a summary of information reported on the FAFSA as well as your EFC.

**Scholarships** – money for college that does not have to be repaid. This money can come from many sources, including the government, community groups, schools and corporations. Awards may be based on academic merit, artistic or athletic talent, major or hobbies. Search for scholarships on [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org).

**Service Cancelable Loans** – student loans that will not have to be repaid if certain conditions are met. Examples of service cancelable loans are the Georgia National Guard Service Cancelable Loan and the Scholarship for Engineering Education.

**Work-Study Programs** – provide part-time jobs for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay educational expenses.

## CHECKLIST FOR FINANCIAL AID

- ☐ If the college's application materials did not include a financial aid application, contact the college's Financial Aid Office to ask if one is required.
- ☐ Keep a copy of every application you submit, along with any correspondence you receive.
- ☐ Investigate private aid sources such as civic groups, clubs, religious organizations and businesses. Check out the scholarship search on [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org) for more possibilities.
- ☐ Students and parents should create their FSA ID then complete the appropriate FAFSA.

	2020-21 FAFSA	2021-22 FAFSA
Income Tax Year	2018	2019
Semester Attending	Fall 2020	Fall 2021

- ☐ If the college's Financial Aid Office requests additional documents in connection with your application, submit them in a timely manner and confirm they have been received.
- ☐ If you and the college's Financial Aid Office has determined you will need a loan, follow their application procedures.
- ☐ Reminder: You must apply for financial aid every year!

## WHAT IS THE GEORGIA STUDENT FINANCE COMMISSION (GSFC)?

GSFC is the state agency committed to helping Georgia residents achieve their higher education dreams by providing a wide range of financial aid programs and services. We work closely with high school and college administrators to ensure that Georgia students are able to take full advantage of all available financial aid opportunities.



# FAFSA

Don't leave money on the table! More than \$24 billion of financial aid goes unclaimed each year.\* Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and find out what federal and state financial aid you may be eligible for to help pay for your college education.

\*National College Access Network

## Step 1

### Create your FSA ID

- Go to [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov) to create your FSA ID.
- Create a username and password then enter your email address. Enter your name, date of birth, Social Security number, contact information, and challenge questions and answers.
- Review your information and read and accept the terms and conditions.
- Confirm your email address using the secure code, which will be sent to the email address you entered when you created your FSA ID.
- ID. Once you verify your email address, you can use it instead of your username to log in to complete your FAFSA.

## Step 2 Need Help?

### Find a FAFSA Completion Event

Check with your school counselor about financial aid nights or FAFSA completion events at your school or in your community. Each year, GSFC partners with schools, colleges and community organizations to host these FREE events across the state to help students and their families complete the FAFSA. Before heading to an event, you'll need to bring:

- Your Social Security Number.
- Your Alien Registration Number (if you are not a U.S. citizen).
- Your (parent's) most recent federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned.
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable).
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable).
- Your FSA ID to sign electronically.



Visit [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org) for more information.  
Do not pay anyone to complete the FAFSA for you!  
Free means FREE!

## Step 3

### Filling out the FAFSA

Below are the basic steps for completing the FAFSA. Remember, the application is available October 1 for the following academic year. The earlier you submit it, the more opportunity you have to receive financial aid to help pay for your education after high school.

1. Go to [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov) and login using your FSA ID.

Applying online is quicker, easier and ensures your information will be saved for next year. Don't forget, you will need to fill out a FAFSA every school year to be eligible for federal funds.

2. Enter personal information.

Make sure everything you enter is exactly how it appears on official government documents.

3. Enter your financial information.

The IRS Data Retrieval Tool can transfer your tax data to your application automatically.

4. Choose up to 10 schools.

Be sure to include schools you are seriously considering, whether you've applied or have been accepted yet. You will get an estimate of your financial aid eligibility.

5. Think you're finished? Double check.

You can check the status immediately after submitting your FAFSA online. You'll receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) within three weeks from **FederalStudentAidFAFSA@cpsemail.ed.gov** or in the mail if you did not provide an email address. Check it to make sure there are no mistakes. Make sure you receive a confirmation page indicating your FAFSA has been submitted.



**APPLY FOR  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

## Key Scholarship Application Information Quick Reference Guide

### Tips for Applying for and Managing the Scholarship Search

- Start searching for scholarships as soon as possible. There are many scholarships available to students in grades K-11, so don't wait until spring of your senior year. Continue searching for scholarships even after you are enrolled.
- Use a free scholarship matching such as Fastweb.com. The Fastweb database is updated daily and the site will email notifications of new scholarships that match your profile.
- Answer all of the optional questions on a scholarship matching web site to create as many matches as available.
- Look for local scholarships on bulletin boards near the guidance counselor or financial aid offices, or the library's jobs and careers section. Improve grades for more matches.
- To win more scholarships, apply to every scholarship for which you are eligible. It gets easier after several applications. Also, pursue small awards and essay contests. Essays can be reused and tailored to each new application.
- Don't miss deadlines. Use checklists to get organized.
- Tailor your application to the sponsor's goals. Read and follow the instructions carefully.
- If you have difficulty writing essays, record yourself as you answer the question out loud and transcribe the recording. Most people think and speak faster than they can write or type. Write an outline afterward to organize your thoughts.
- Personalize your essay and be passionate. Write about something of interest to you. Make your application stand out from the crowd, talk about your impact on other people and give specific examples.
- Check your online presence to ensure that it looks professional. Review your social media profiles and remove inappropriate and immature material. Use a simple email address, such as [firstname.lastname@gmail.com](mailto:firstname.lastname@gmail.com).
- Proofread a printed copy of your essay and the application for spelling and grammar errors.
- Make a copy of your application before mailing it. Send by certified mail, return receipt or with delivery confirmation.

### Common Scholarship Application Mistakes

- Missing deadlines
- Failing to proofread the application
- Failing to follow directions, especially regarding essay length and the number of recommendations
- Omitting required information
- Applying for an award when you don't qualify
- Failing to apply for an award for which you are eligible
- Failing to tailor the application to the sponsor
- Writing a boring essay
- Writing an essay that may offend the reviewer
- Including exaggerations or lies on your application

### Beware of Scholarship Scams

- If you have to pay money to get money, it's probably a scam.
- Never invest more than a postage stamp to get information about scholarships or to apply for a scholarship.
- Nobody can guarantee that you'll win a scholarship.
- Do not give out personal information like bank account, credit card or Social Security numbers.
- Beware of the unclaimed aid myth. The only money that goes unclaimed is money that can't be claimed

### Essential Scholarship Resources

- Fastweb Free Scholarship Matching Service: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- FinAid's Scholarships Section: [www.finaid.org/scholarships](http://www.finaid.org/scholarships)
- Search for Scholarships on the Web: [www.finaid.org/websearch](http://www.finaid.org/websearch)
- Beware of Scholarship Scams: [www.finaid.org/scholarshipscams](http://www.finaid.org/scholarshipscams) and [www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams](http://www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams)
- Education Tax Benefits: [www.finaid.org/taxbenefits](http://www.finaid.org/taxbenefits) and [www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf)
- Federal Student Financial Aid: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

## Key Scholarship Application Information Quick Reference Guide

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### Top Scholarships by Category

#### Most Unusual Scholarships

- Scholarship for Left-Handed Students
- Duck Brand Duct Tape Stuck at Prom Contest
- David Letterman Telecommunications Scholarships
- Zolp Scholarships
- Patrick Kerr Skateboard Scholarships
- Scholar Athlete Milk Mustache of the Year Award
- National Marbles Tournament Scholarships
- Klingon Language Institute Scholarships
- National Beef Ambassador Program
- Vegetarian Resource Group Scholarships

#### Most Prestigious Scholarships

- Marshall Scholarships
- Rhodes Scholarships
- Winston Churchill Scholarship Program
- Harry S. Truman Scholarships
- Henry Luce Foundation Scholarships
- Morris K. Udall Foundation Undergraduate Scholarships
- Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program
- Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships
- Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest
- National Merit Scholarship Corporation

#### Most Generous Scholarships

- Intel Science Talent Search
- Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology
- NIH Undergraduate Scholarship Program
- Elks Nat'l Foundation Most Valuable Student Competition
- Davidson Fellows
- Intel International Science and Engineering Fair
- Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships
- Collegiate Inventors Competition
- Coca-Cola Scholars Program Scholarships
- Gates Millennium Scholars

#### Scholarships for Age 13 and Under

- National Spelling Bee
- National Geography Bee
- National History Day Contest
- Jif Most Creative Peanut Butter Sandwich Contest
- Scholastic Art & Writing Awards
- Christopher Columbus Community Service Awards
- Dick Blick Linoleum Block Print Contest
- Gloria Barron Prize for Your Heroes
- Patriot's Pen
- Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

#### Scholarships for Community Service

- Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards
- The Do Something Awards
- Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarships
- Discover Card Tribute Awards
- Echoing Green Fellowships
- The Heart of America Christopher Reeve Awards
- Kohl's Kids Who Care Program
- Samuel Huntington Public Service Awards
- National Caring Awards
- Youth Action Net

#### Scholarships that Don't Need an A

- US Department of Education (Federal Student Aid)
- AXA Achievement Scholarship Program
- Horatio Alger Association Scholarships
- Ayn Rand Institute
- Girls Going Places Scholarships
- Holocaust Remembrance Project Essay Contest
- Americanism Essay Contest
- AFSA National Scholarship Essay Contest
- Red Vines Drawing Contest
- Community Foundation Scholarships

# Scholarship Search Worksheet

for scholarship search: [www.SayStudent.com](http://www.SayStudent.com)

Scholarship Name Address	Potential Award	Award Qualifications	Award Requirements	Filing Deadline
1:				
2:				
3:				
4:				
5:				



**Need Extra Money for College:**  
link to: [www.SayStudent.com/extra-aid](http://www.SayStudent.com/extra-aid)

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**SayStudent College Financing Network:**  
includes: [www.SayScholarships.com](http://www.SayScholarships.com) for scholarship search



# **SENIOR COMMUNICATION TOOLS**



# **SENIOR COMMUNICATION TOOLS**

## **SENIOR REMIND**

Join Senior Remind by texting @e3f2e4 to  
81010

## **GOOGLE CLASSROOM**

classroom.google.com

Enter code: kgwymr4

## **SENIOR WEBPAGE**

**<https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/18379#calendar42702/20200903/month>**

## **TWITTER**

@HighMcDonough

\*Information will also be sent out via parent and student e-mails.

## **HELPFUL WEBSITES**

### **College/Career Exploration Websites**

<http://www.gafutures.org>

<http://mappingyourfuture.org/>

### **Military Recruiting Stations**

U.S. Army Recruiting Station  
2099 Jonesboro Road  
McDonough, GA 30253  
(770) 320-7895

U.S. Marines Recruiting Station  
2097 Jonesboro Road #5993  
McDonough, GA 30253  
(770) 898-8455

US Navy Recruiting Station  
1510 Southlake Pkwy, Ste 1-A  
Morrow, GA 30260  
(770) 960-1578

US GA Army National Guard  
5248 North Henry Blvd Suite 100  
Stockbridge, GA 30281  
(470) 725-3007

### **Scholarship Websites**

<http://www.scholarships360.org>

<http://www.fastweb.com>

<http://collegeboard.org/scholarships>

<https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/93116>

<http://www.collegegreenlight.com>

[hsf.net](http://hsf.net)

<http://www.DiscoverStudentLoans.com/Scholarship>

<https://www.collegecovered.com/do/amoe/live>

<http://www.varsitytutors.com/college-scholarship>

<http://www.TuitionFundingSources.com>

<https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-type/minority-scholarships/african-american-scholarships/>

<http://scholarships.com>

<http://collegescholarships.org>

<http://scholarshipsandgrants.us>