



GETTYSBURG HIGH SCHOOL
A Great Place To Learn

Gettysburg Area High School Post-Secondary Planning Guide

GAHS Counseling Center

Mrs. Leigh Walton

Mrs. Beth Polk

Ms. Anna Palmer

Mrs. Carrie Myers, Secretary

1130 Old Harrisburg Road

Gettysburg, PA 17325

(717) 334-6254 extension 26248

CEEB Code - 391510



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Introduction

As you approach the end of your high school career, there are many questions that we in the GAHS Counseling Center can help you answer. This booklet was designed to help reinforce what we review in your Junior Interview and then reinforce as a follow-up in your Senior Meeting. In addition, please use this booklet to refer back to when questions/concerns arise throughout your post-secondary research and then ultimately, the application process.

Keep in mind, the decision on what to do after you graduate is never one to take lightly. Whether your decision is to go to a 4-year college, a 2-year trade or technical school, a community college, enlist in the military or enter the work force you need to have all the facts and be aware of the steps to do so effectively and successfully. Here are some steps/questions to consider:

1. Think about what type of college you want to attend. Large or small, public or private, 2-year or 4-year. What do you want your school to look like and where do you see yourself being most comfortable?
2. How far away from home do you want to go? Do you want to be able to commute or do you want to live on campus? Do you want to come home on weekends regularly? All important questions.
3. Have a very frank discussion with your parents to make sure you are all on the same page.
4. Keep your academic interests and your extracurricular interests in mind. What do you want your major to be? Do you want to minor in something? If you know your major (if you don't, look for colleges with programs to help you figure it out) and you know what type of extracurricular activities you want to participate in, look for a college with those specifications.
5. Do your research! Make sure you are attending our annual **College & Career Fair at Gettysburg College** (normally in the middle of September each year) and meet with admission reps that visit our school (see our website for a complete listing). Also look at the college's website and Career Cruising (more info on page 8). Develop a list and then narrow that list down to 3-6 schools.

6. Collect information on each of the schools on your final list including application deadlines, open house schedules, and admission criteria.
7. Schedule college visits, open houses and meet with admission representatives that visit our school. If military, speak with a recruiter from the different branches.
8. Prepare yourself to speak with colleges. Some require an interview, some do not. Interview tips and sample questions are included later in this booklet.
9. Complete application and financial aid information by required deadlines according to the individual schools. Keep in mind, they will more than likely be different.
10. Assess your admission offers and select the college you will attend. Make sure you are contacting any college with any unanswered questions. When you have made your selection, let us know in the Counseling Center so we know where to send your final transcript.

GOOD LUCK and remember, see your counselor if you need assistance with any of these steps.



Chapter 1

Timeline

Here's a brief timeline of what you should be doing and when, during your 11th and 12th grade school years.

Junior Year

Fall

- Start brainstorming possible majors and research potential colleges that have that major(s).
- Research colleges.
- Take the PSAT in October.
- If appropriate, start gathering material for your portfolio if interested in majoring in art, music, drama, etc.
- Start to learn about financial aid (online resources are listed on page 20-21)
- Attend the College & Career Fair at Gettysburg College.

Winter

- Meet with your counselor for your junior interview to discuss college options and your senior schedule.
- If you haven't done so already, sign up to take the SAT and/or the ACT at least once in the Spring and then again next Fall.

Spring

- Start visiting some colleges – visit different types (small, large, public, private) to get a sense of what you are interested in.
- Begin researching scholarships. Know where to look (check out the GAHS Counseling Center website).
- Start listing possible colleges.
- If you are considering military academies or ROTC scholarships, make sure you are aware of their application process (more information on page 25-27).
- If you are interested in playing a college sport (especially for a Div. I or II school) register with the NCAA (more on page 18-19).
- Take the SAT/ACT.

Senior year

September

- Narrow your list of colleges to 3 – 6 schools. Plan to visit as many of these schools as possible.
- Make a list of important dates/deadlines, forms needed, fees due, etc. for each school you plan to apply to.
- Finish your college visits.
- Attend Financial Aid Night.
- Begin exploring scholarships on GAHS Counseling Center website.

October

- Finalize your college choices.
- Prepare Early Decision, Early Action, or rolling admissions applications as soon as possible. Make sure you are checking out each of your interested college's websites and then creating an application account.
- Ask for counselor and/or teacher recommendations if you need them. Give each teacher a "Recommendation Request Form" (more information see Appendix and "Application Process" pages 10-15).
- Begin writing application essays. Make sure you have teachers read them to provide feedback.
- Attend College & Career Fair at Gettysburg College if you have additional questions for admission representatives.
- Take the SAT/ACT for the 2nd time.
- Complete the FAFSA to apply for financial aid beginning October 1.
- Complete CSS Profile if required by the college in which you are applying.
- Continue scholarship search.

November

- November 1-15, for Early Decision admissions, colleges may require test scores and applications between these dates.
- Complete at least 1 college application by Thanksgiving.
- Request transcripts through Parchment.

December

- Continue to complete college applications. Send transcripts as you go.

January

- Continue to research and apply for scholarships.
- Keep in mind, if you are dropping courses from your schedule, colleges will want to know what those changes are. If you've been accepted, they may base some of that decision on your senior schedule.

March

- Watch your grades. Colleges do take a very close look at 2nd semester grades and activities. If you are wait-listed, they will want to know how you are doing.

April

- You should start receiving acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April. Make sure you are visiting your final college before accepting their offer. As soon as you decide, inform your counselor.

May

- Send a deposit to the school you have chosen to attend.
- Inform your counselor where you are planning on attending if you have not done so already. We will send them a final transcript.
- Notify the colleges that will not be attending, as a courtesy.



Chapter 2

Career Cruising

All students at GAHS have access to Career Cruising (the QR code above will take you to our login page). Career Cruising is an online service that allows our students to explore their career skills, college options, financial aid information and much, much more. Features of the programs include:

- **Interest and Skills Assessment** to help students identify suitable career options based on their abilities.
- **Career Profiles** that provide up-to-date information on a wide variety of occupations and links to related college programs.
- **Multimedia Interviews** of people in each occupation to provide a first-hand account of what it's like to work within that field.
- **College and Financial Aid Information** which includes information on thousands of 2 and 4-year colleges and career and technical schools across the country.
- **Electronic Career Portfolio** to help students collect career/college information throughout their years in high school so they can access it at any time and any place.
- **Resume Builder** that is integrated with the portfolio to help students create and then print a professional resume.

To find out more about Career Cruising you can click on the QR code above with your smart phone/tablet OR you can visit www.careercruising.com

Username: GASD-student/lunch ID

Password: Birthdate (8 digits, ex. 02191997)

Chapter 3 - Testing Information

SAT

You should begin thinking about taking the SAT test sometime during your junior year if you are interested in college after graduation. The SAT is a college entrance exam that many colleges and universities in the United States use as part of the college admissions process. It measures a student's skill in four core areas: Reading, Writing and Language, and Math. Total testing time is 3 hours and 50 minutes with the essay and 3 hours without the essay. Go to sat.collegeboard.org to register. The essay is optional.

****Testing accommodations may be available for students with disabilities. More information at: <https://sat.collegeboard.org/register/for-students-with-disabilities> Please inform your counselor if you are interested in applying for accommodations at least 10 weeks prior to the date you intend on taking the SAT.**



SAT will be digital starting in 2024

What is staying the same?

What is changing?

| | |
|--|--|
| The digital SAT Suite will continue to measure the knowledge and skills that matter most for college and career readiness. | The digital SAT will be more secure and flexible. Each student will get a unique test form, and states, schools, and districts will have much more flexibility for when they administer the digital SAT. |
| The digital SAT will be scored on a 1600 scale and no concordance is required with the current paper and pencil exam | Students will take the SAT Suite of Assessments on a laptop or tablet. |
| The digital SAT will still be administered in a school or in a test center with a proctor present (not at home). | The SAT will be shorter - about two hours instead of three. |
| Students will still have free, world-class practice resources on Khan Academy®. | Calculators will be allowed on the entire math section. |
| We'll continue to support all students, including those who need accommodations on test day. | Students and educators will receive scores faster - in days, not weeks. |



The ACT is another standardized test that measures a student's skills in five core areas (versus 3 core areas for the SAT): English, Math, Reading, Science, and Writing (optional). It is composed of four multiple choice sections (English, Math, Reading, and Science) and one optional essay section (Writing). Total testing times is 2 hours and 55 minutes for the ACT without the optional Writing and 3 hours and 25 minutes with the Writing. The maximum composite score is 36.

****Testing accommodations may be available for students with disabilities. More information at: <http://www.actstudent.org/register/disab/>**



Chapter 4

Application Process

The application process can seem overwhelming. Here are some things to know before you start. Colleges prefer the application be done online. Some colleges have their own link to apply through their website. Other colleges will participate with Common Application.

- Common Application: www.commonapp.org The Common Application is a not-for-profit membership organization that, since its founding over 35 years ago, has been committed to providing reliable services that promote equity, access, and integrity in the college application process. The Common Application serves students, member institutions, and secondary schools by providing applications that students and school officials may submit to any of our over 900 members. Membership is open to colleges and universities that promote access by evaluating students using a holistic selection process.
- Individual College Websites online applications: You can submit an application online through all college websites directly. Be sure to request your transcript through Parchment.

How do I request my official transcript?

- All current students should request their official transcript via Parchment. The link for Parchment is located on the GAHS Counseling Center website. There is no charge for current GAHS students.



Tips for the Application Process

- Get organized: Have a binder or folder to keep all application materials.
- Read through all materials before getting started. Work on a rough draft for your applications.
- If possible type all parts of the application. This is especially important for your essay. Be sure your final copy is neat.
- Have someone review your application and essay prior to sending it.
- Keep a spreadsheet of deadlines for applications and financial aid forms. Set up a timeline for completing each application (keep schedule holiday breaks in mind).
- If you file an online application, please be sure to notify your counselor that you have done so.
- Try to complete all applications early.
- Give your counselor and teachers two weeks to complete their portion of the application.

Dos and Don'ts on the College Application Essay

Dos

- Keep your focus narrow and personal. The reader should be able to find your main idea and follow it from beginning to end.
- Prove it. Develop your main idea with clear, specific facts, events and examples.
- Be specific. Again, use clear and specific details. Avoid generic predictable writing.

Don'ts

- Don't tell the reader what you think they want to hear. Bring something new, not just what you think they want.
- Don't write a resume. Don't include information that is found elsewhere on the application. Your essay will sound like an autobiography.
- Don't use 50 words when 5 will do. Eliminate unnecessary words.
- Don't forget to proofread. Don't just rely on spell-check to catch misspellings and grammatical errors.

Getting Recommendations

Many colleges will require letters of recommendation. Think of people who know your strengths and achievements. Teachers and counselors are usually the best choices but you may also use an employer or a community leader if the college accepts a personal recommendation. Be sure to ask for recommendations early (at least 2 weeks' notice) so there is enough time to get them in before the deadline (See “Recommendation Request Form” in Appendix). *Please do not wait until the day before the application is due.* Waiting until the last minute does not allow the recommender enough time to do you justice.

- Give your recommender a deadline, allowing at least two weeks.
- Provide a list of activities and awards. You may use the attached Letter of Recommendation Request Form (see Appendix) or a Resume.
- Send thank you notes to your recommenders.
- Let recommenders know your application results.

Common College Application Mistakes

- Students do not read the directions carefully to be sure they know what is needed to complete the application.
- Students write the wrong social security number.
- Students use the wrong college address.
- Students are applying for regular decision but check Early Action.
- Students use the online application but fail to request information from the School Counselor.
- Students have questionable remarks or photos of themselves on social network sites. (Applications and Scholarships have been withdrawn)
- Students exceed the number of words required for the college essay.
- Students miss the application deadline.
- Students do not take the ACT or SAT early enough to get the needed test scores before the deadlines. Students should take the SAT/ACT in the spring of their junior year or fall of the senior year at the latest.
- Students send an application but do not send a high school transcript.
- Students copy or buy essays from the internet. This is plagiarizing. Colleges and many high schools now have software to detect this.
- The student's parent completes the application.

- Students use acronyms. Be sure to spell out each word so others know what it means.
- Students provide incorrect contact information.
- Students don't check emails frequently enough, missing important communications deadlines.
- Students forget to sign and date the application or have parents sign it.
- Students misspell their intended major. Students make other typos.
- Students leave out job experiences. This is important for colleges to know.
- Students send the wrong essay.
- Students do not send updated test scores.
- Students' email addresses are in bad taste, vulgar, or otherwise unprofessional.

Early Action versus Early Decision

Early decision plans are binding — a student who is accepted as an ED applicant must attend the college. **Early action** plans are non binding — students receive an early response to their application but do not have to commit to the college until the normal reply date. Approximately 450 colleges have early decision or early action plans, and some have both. Some colleges offer a nonbinding option called single-choice early action, under which applicants may not apply ED or EA to any other college.

ED applicants

- Apply early (usually in November) to first-choice college.
- Receive an admission decision from the college well in advance of the usual notification date (usually by December).
- Agree to attend the college if accepted and offered a financial aid package that is considered adequate by the family.
- Apply to only one college early decision.
- Apply to other colleges under regular admission plans.
- Withdraw all other applications if accepted by ED.
- Send a nonrefundable deposit well in advance of May 1.

EA applicants

- Apply early.
- Receive an admission decision early in the admission cycle.
- Consider an acceptance offer; do not have to commit upon receipt.
- Apply to other colleges under regular admission plans.
- Give the college a decision no later than May 1, the national response date.

Making the Most of a College Interview

The interview process is an opportunity for you to learn about the college and for the interviewer to learn about you. The interview rarely has a negative impact on your college admission. Use the interview to assist you in your college selection.

- When you schedule an interview, check to see if it is evaluative (used as a factor in admissions) or informational (used in helping the applicant learn more about the college). Knowing the purpose will help you prepare for the interview. Regardless of the purpose, **relax** and be yourself!
- Know who the interviewer is: an admissions counselor, an alumnus, a student, or another professional. Keep this person's perspective in mind.
- The interviewer knows you may be new at interviewing and will try to put you at ease. They will answer your questions but the interview will go more smoothly if you have done some research and ask questions about the college.
- Know yourself. Strengths, weaknesses, what kind of learner you are, your rank and test scores, your areas of interest. If you are undecided, say so. However, make sure you know areas you would like to explore.
- Don't go unprepared. Know about the school. Ask about internships, study abroad, January terms, career counseling, sporting events and other activities on campus.
- Be ready to talk about your interests, extracurricular activities, jobs you have had, books you have read, meaningful experiences, reasons for applying to this particular college.
- Be honest. Everyone has strong and weak points.

Application Process for Community College and Technical School

- Individual college websites online applications: You can submit an application online through all college websites. Many will waive the application fee if the application is done online.
- Visit the schools you are interested in attending.
- Arrange to take placement tests or SAT/ACT if required.
- Request official high school transcripts to be sent to the schools.
- Meet with an advisor.
- Attend new student orientation

***Remember, if you took any HACC CHS course or took courses at the HACC campus, you are already a HACC student. If you wish to attend HACC after you graduate, you will just need to take your placement exams, if not already done, meet with an advisor and enroll in courses.

Chapter 5

Visiting Post-Secondary Schools

Visiting as many of the schools on your “list” is the absolute BEST way of narrowing down the schools you are most interested in. You can receive 3 excused absences per school year if you wish to visit schools during the school day. Just bring back verification (can be a note or something from their admissions office) to verify where you were. Keep these tips/questions in mind when planning your visit.

TIPS

- ✓ Plan at least a full day and stay overnight if possible.
- ✓ Visit when school is in session.
- ✓ Sit through an actual class in the major in which you are interested.
- ✓ Arrange an interview with an admissions officer. A great opportunity for them to see you beyond your transcript and test scores.
- ✓ Take a campus tour. Take a more concentrated tour of where your major of interest is located.
- ✓ Talk with students and faculty.
- ✓ Attend a sporting event.
- ✓ Check out what is most important to you (i.e. dorms, student union, dining halls).
- ✓ Watch how students spend their time (i.e. are they studying, partying, exercising?)

QUESTIONS FOR ATHLETES

- ✓ What clubs/intramural sports are available?
- ✓ Are there separate dorms for athletes?
- ✓ Is this a Division I, II, III, or NAIA school?
- ✓ Will my game/practice schedule interfere with my intended major?
- ✓ What is the graduation rate for your athletes?
- ✓ Do athletes at your school have tutors and do athletes utilize their services?

QUESTIONS FOR MUSIC/ART/THEATRE MAJORS

- ✓ When are your audition dates?
- ✓ How soon will I hear about the results of my audition?
- ✓ What is the timeline/application process when submitting a portfolio?

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Housing/Dining

- ✓ How many students live on campus?
- ✓ Is housing guaranteed all 4 years?
- ✓ Is there special housing for freshmen?
- ✓ Can you stay in the dorm for more than freshman year?
- ✓ How does the dining plan work?
- ✓ How many dining options are there?

Financial Aid/Scholarships/Tuition

- ✓ What is your average financial aid package?
- ✓ What is your average award for a merit scholarship?
- ✓ What is the average college debt that students leave with?
- ✓ What extra fees are added to my tuition?
- ✓ When is your financial aid deadline?
- ✓ Do I need to complete the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE?

Academic/Career

- ✓ Is there a language requirement?
- ✓ How do you provide academic advising?
- ✓ Do you offer assistance with career services/placement?
- ✓ What services do you offer for learning disabilities?
- ✓ What is your 4-year graduation rate?
- ✓ Do you have an honors college?
- ✓ What percentage of freshmen return for their sophomore year?
- ✓ What type of tutoring is available?

Other

- ✓ What's available off campus? (Restaurants, theaters, museums, job opportunities)
- ✓ Are there fraternities/sororities on campus?
- ✓ Can you have a car freshman year?
- ✓ How safe is the campus? Where are the campus police? Are there emergency phone boxes around campus?
- ✓ What is the student to teacher ratio in my major/in general education courses?
- ✓ What ROTC opportunities does your campus have?

Chapter 6

NCAA Information (Quick Reference Guide)

DIVISION I

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Full Qualifier

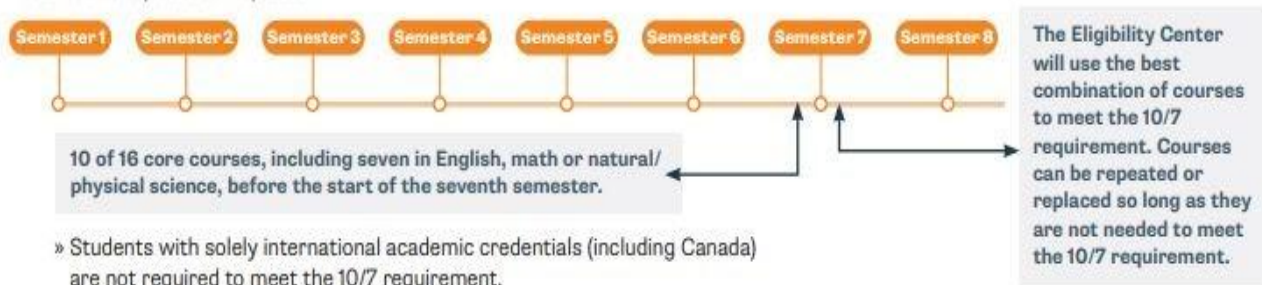
As a Division I qualifier, you may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division I school.

- Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the right areas.
- Complete 10 of your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits, including seven in English, math or science, before the start of the seventh semester.
- Complete your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in eight academic semesters or four consecutive academic years from the start of ninth grade.
- Earn a minimum 2.3 core-course GPA.
- Submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

1. Complete a total of 16 core courses in the following areas:



2. Complete 10 of your 16 core courses, including seven in English, math or natural/physical science, before the start of your seventh semester. Once you begin your seventh semester, any course that is needed to meet the 10/7 requirement cannot be replaced or repeated.



Test Scores

- In January 2023, NCAA Divisions I and II adopted legislation to remove standardized test scores from initial-eligibility requirements. Check with the NCAA school you plan to attend regarding whether standardized test scores are necessary for admission or scholarship requirements.

Grade-Point Average

The NCAA Eligibility Center calculates your core-course grade-point average based on the grades you earn in NCAA-approved core courses. Only your best grades from the required number of NCAA core courses will be used. This means that the cumulative GPA listed on your high school transcript could be different from the NCAA core-course GPA used in your certification. Your core-course GPA is based solely on the grades you received in NCAA-approved core courses. To find your high school's NCAA-approved core-course list, visit [eligibilitycenter.org/course list](https://eligibilitycenter.org/course-list).

Your core-course GPA is calculated on a 4.000 scale. Numeric grades such as 92 or 87 are changed to letter grades such as A or B. As part of this calculation, each grade received is assigned “quality points”. The Eligibility Center does not use plus or minus grades when calculating your core-course GPA. For example, grades of B+, B and B- will each be worth three quality points. Weighted honors or advanced placement courses may improve your core-course GPA but your high school must notify the Eligibility Center that it awards weighted grades in these classes.

In “Pass/Fail” grading situations, the Eligibility Center will assign your high school's lowest passing grade for a course in which you received a “Pass” grade. For most high schools, the lowest passing grade is a D, so the Eligibility Center generally assigns a D as a passing grade. For information on the impact of COVID-19 on “Pass/Fail” grades, visit on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Fall2022.

DIVISION II ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Full Qualifier

As a Division II qualifier, you may practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship during your first year of full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division II school.

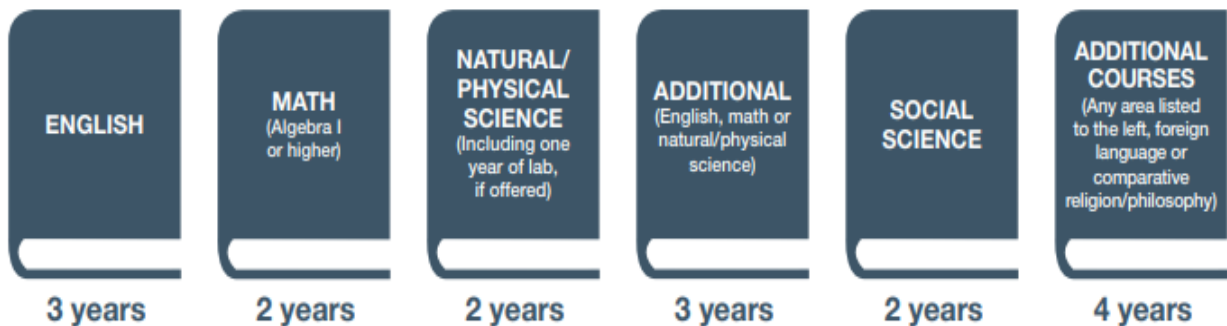
- Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the right areas.
- Earn a minimum 2.2 core-course GPA.
- Submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

Partial Qualifier

If you have not met all of the Division II academic standards, you will be deemed a partial qualifier. As a partial qualifier, you may practice and receive an athletics scholarship, but may NOT compete, during your first year of full-time enrollment at an NCAA Division II school.

CORE-COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Complete 16 core courses in the following areas:



Test Scores

In January 2023, NCAA Divisions I and II adopted legislation to remove standardized test scores from initial-eligibility requirements. Check with the NCAA school you plan to attend regarding whether standardized test scores are necessary for admission or scholarship requirements.

Grade-Point Average

The NCAA Eligibility Center calculates your core-course grade-point average based on the grades you earn in NCAA-approved core courses. Only your best grades from the required number of NCAA core courses will be used. This means that the cumulative GPA listed on your high school transcript could be different from the NCAA core-course GPA used in your certification. Your core-course GPA is based solely on the grades you received in NCAA-approved core courses. To find your high school's NCAA-approved core-course list, visit [eligibilitycenter.org/course list](https://eligibilitycenter.org/course-list)

Your core-course GPA is calculated on a 4.000 scale. Numeric grades such as 92 or 87 are changed to letter grades such as A or B. As part of this calculation, each grade received is assigned “quality points,” as shown below. The Eligibility Center does not use plus or minus grades when calculating your core-course GPA. For example, grades of B+, B and B- will each be worth three quality points. Weighted honors or advanced placement courses may improve your core-course GPA but your high school must notify the Eligibility Center that it awards weighted grades in these classes.

In “Pass/Fail” grading situations, the Eligibility Center will assign your high school's lowest passing grade for a course in which you received a “Pass” grade. For most high schools, the lowest passing grade is a D, so the Eligibility Center generally assigns a D as a passing grade. For information on the impact of COVID-19 on “Pass/Fail” grades, visit on.ncaa.com/COVID19_Fall2022.

Online Courses/Nontraditional

Nontraditional courses are classes taught online or through distance learning, hybrid/blended, independent study, individualized instruction, correspondence or similar means.

These types of courses may be acceptable for use in the NCAA initial-eligibility certification process; however, it is important to make sure the nontraditional program has been approved and appears on the high school's list of NCAA approved core courses.



Chapter 7

Online Resources

The GAHS Counseling Center website is the best source of information when you have questions about many components of the application process. The QR code above will take you directly to our website if you are using a smartphone or a tablet. Or you can log on to the GASD homepage and select the high school. Our link is on the left. Here are more websites that may prove very helpful with the post-secondary application/financial aid process:

www.careercruising.com – more information on page 8 of this booklet.

<https://studentaid.gov/>- the ONLY website you need to complete and submit the FAFSA. Beware, www.fafsa.com is NOT the official website. You should never pay a fee to submit the FAFSA.

<http://www.fastweb.com/> - college and scholarship search engine.

<http://www.meritaid.com/> - search engine for merit scholarships.

<http://www.educationplanner.org/> - website to help with career exploration, college/scholarship searches, and financial aid information.

www.collegeboard.org – SAT registration, college information, “BIG Future”, CSS Profile, PSAT information, AP information, etc.

www.raise.me – new program that helps you turn good grades, community service, and extracurricular activities into scholarship money.

www.petersons.com – features a college match tool.

www.cappex.com -create a student profile and then you can search for schools, save schools to your list, search for scholarships, plan campus visits, read student reviews and gauge your chances at getting into a school.

www.mykidscollegechoice.com - use in the early stages of the college search when you want to develop a college search spreadsheet. You will find most, if not all, of the data you want to track about a school right on the US News site.

<https://colleges.niche.com/> - has a criteria-based college search feature, college “grades” by current students and actual current student reviews. There is also scholarship information and the ability to gauge your chance of getting into a college basing your grades and test scores against what the site has compiled for comparison data (from actual admitted students).

<http://talk.collegeconfidential.com/> - has a college search feature that has a wide variety of search criteria. Each college has a discussion forum and a place where people can rate the school based on a college visit.

www.nacacnet.org/studentinfo - has a special section for Students and Parents with a search tool and a lot of good advice on things like paying for college, applying to college, college preparation and succeeding in college.

www.collegedata.com - has a college search tool and [College Chances Calculator](#). The search tool allows you to get data on average student debt, percentage of students receiving merit awards, freshman satisfaction rate, and more.

<https://hacc.emsicareercoach.com/> - explore local employment data to make informed decisions, complete assessments to find “best fit” careers

Chapter 8

Common College Terms

Below are some common terms you may see throughout the college application and financial aid process.

Early Action: A non-binding application that typically has a deadline in November. Occurs before a regular or rolling decision. If accepted, you are not required to attend (see pages 13-14 for more information).

Early Decision: A binding application; should be used if you are absolutely sure that is your number one choice of college. If you are accepted you are required to go to that school (see pages 13-14 for more information).

Regular Decision: Standard admissions deadline.

Rolling Admission: As applications are received, they will be reviewed; typically, a faster review process (4-6 weeks).

Superscore: If you take the SAT or ACT multiple times, the admissions office will only see your best scores from each section.

Test-Optional: A college may not require standardized test scores for admission; however, you may need test scores to be eligible for Merit Aid.

Wait List: The list of applicants who may be admitted to a college if space becomes available. Colleges wait to hear if all the students they accepted decide to attend. If students don't enroll and there are empty spots, a college may fill them with students who are on the waitlist.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC): How much money your family is expected to pay towards your college education.

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid): How EFC is determined; indicates how much federal student aid a family is eligible for.

Grant/Scholarship: A form of financial aid that does NOT require the student to pay back the amount of money.

Merit Aid: Financial aid award given based on high school GPA, SAT scores, or sometimes leadership/community involvement.

Need Based Aid: Form of financial aid based on how much of the total cost of a college is leftover after factoring out the EFC; may come in the form of grants, scholarships, or loans.

Net Price: What the remaining cost of paying for college is after factoring out the EFC and any grants and scholarships.

Work-Study: Financial aid given in exchange for work (typically at a job on campus). To qualify for the Federal Work Study (FWS) program, you must complete the FAFSA.

Subsidized Loan: Government pays the interest on a loan while the student is in school.

Unsubsidized Loan: Interest is added to the balance of the loan while you are in college; the government does not pay interest on this type of loan.



Chapter 9

Financial Aid/Scholarships

September

- ❖ When you write or email colleges that interest you, ask for financial aid info, including what forms to file and their due dates.
 - All colleges ask you to fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).
- ❖ Some colleges require the CSS/Financial Aid Profile. Go to: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>.
 - Ask if the college requires their own forms.
 - If you plan to apply for Early Decision, ask whether the college offers an early estimate of financial aid eligibility and which forms to file.

October

- ❖ FAFSA is available as of Oct 1. Start your application at studentaid.gov
- ❖ Investigate aid opportunities using financial aid books and Web sites including but not limited to careercruising.com, educationplanner.org, fastweb.com, meritaid.com, and raise.me. Your counselors may have other resources, too. Look for the following:
 1. --federal financial aid sources
 2. --private scholarships
 3. --state and local programs
 4. --scholarships, including merit and departmental scholarships, offered by colleges
- ❖ Use financial aid calculators to estimate your family's college costs

December

- ❖ You and your family may want to save final pay stubs for the year. You can use the stubs to estimate income.

January

- ❖ Colleges will have a financial aid deadline, make sure you know when it is and complete the forms by that date. Men 18 or older must register for the Selective Service to receive financial aid. To register, complete a check –off box on your FAFSA, register at any post office, or go to sss.gov.

February

- ❖ Parents and students are encouraged to complete and file income tax returns as soon as possible. Colleges may request copies of your tax returns to finalize aid offers.

March

- ❖ As you receive letters of acceptance, check with aid offices to see if additional documentation must be submitted.

April

- ❖ Use online tools to help you understand and compare your aid packages

May

- ❖ Be sure to accept the offer from the college you will attend as instructed in your award letter.
 - Let the other colleges you applied to know you will not be attending.

Student Scholarships

For Students with Disabilities

- 1- Microsoft Disability Scholarship: HS Senior with a major disability declaring a major in science, business, law, or math. Must demonstrate financial need and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0.
<http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/diversity/programs/microsoftdisabilityscholarship.aspx>
- 2- LD Resources Foundation Award: HS student with a learning disability, including dyslexia and ADHD. Its purpose is to provide assistive technology resources for students.
<http://ldrfa.org/?portfolio=awards-programs>
- 3- 1800wheelchair.com Scholarship: For students in their final year of high school, or enrolled in an undergraduate program. Must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0.
<http://www.wheelchair.com/scholarship>
- 4- American Council of the Blind Scholarship: Must be legally blind, as examined by an ophthalmologist, optometrist, or other physician. A GPA of 3.3 is required.
http: <https://www.acb.org/scholarships>

Scholarships for Undocumented Students

- 1- <http://genprogress.org/about/scholarships-for-undocumented-students-2/>

Scholarships for Minority Students

- 1- <https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/minority>
- 2- <https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-type/minority-scholarships/>
- 3- <http://www.collegescholarships.org/other-minority-scholarships.htm>
- 4- <http://www.fastweb.com/directory/scholarships-for-african-american-students>
- 5- <http://www.bestcolleges.com/financial-aid/african-american-scholarships/>
- 6- <https://colleges.niche.com/scholarships/?minorities=african-american>

Scholarships for Military Dependents

- 1- <http://www.militaryscholar.org/sfmc/index.html>
- 2- <http://www.military.com/education/money-for-school/military-spouse-and-family-educational-assistance-programs.html>
- 3- <http://www.finaid.org/military/veterans.phtml>

Scholarships for Adopted Children

- 1- <http://www.nacac.org/adoptionsubsidy/factsheets/tuition.html>
- 2- <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/faq/adoption6>
- 3- <http://www.fastweb.com/directory/scholarships-for-adopted-students>

Scholarships for Children of Single Parents

- 1- <https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarship-directory/special-attributes/child-of-single-parent>
- 2- <http://www.fastweb.com/directory/scholarships-for-single-parents>

Scholarships for Gay or Lesbian Students

- 1- <http://www.fastweb.com/directory/scholarships-for-lgbtq-students>
- 2- <https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-type/scholarships-for-gay-or-lesbian-students/>
- 3- <http://www.collegescholarships.org/scholarships/lgbt-students.htm>
- 4- <https://www.pridefoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/scholarship-funds/>

Scholarships for Students Who Received Foster Care

- 1- <http://www.fastweb.com/directory/scholarships-for-students-who-received-foster-care>
- 2- <http://www.fc2success.org/programs/scholarships-and-grants/>
- 3- <http://nfpaonline.org/youthscholarship>

Chapter 10

Military Information

If you have decided to enlist in a branch of the US military or are interested in applying to a US service academy, or join ROTC in college, below are some things to keep in mind.

Military Entrance Requirements

- ✓ No drug violations
- ✓ No felonies
- ✓ ASVAB (see next page for more information)
- ✓ HS diploma
- ✓ All branches have strict medical qualifications and differ with each branch. For more specific and up-to-date information, speak to a military recruiter (list of military recruiters is on page).

US Service Academies

There are 5 services academies (list below). All of which have a very rigorous application process which must be started no later than junior year in high school. You should start familiarizing yourself with the application process by freshman year, which may include securing a nomination by a member of the US Senate or Congress or the Vice President or President of the United States. Each service academy is quite competitive with the acceptance rates generally somewhere between 8-17%. Please make sure you research and visit the service academies in which you wish to apply.

- The United States Military Academy, West Point, New York
- The United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland
- The United States Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut
- The United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, New York
- The United State Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado

ROTC

Participating in a Reserve Officer Training Corp while attending a participating college or university can provide valuable military leadership training that will allow students to become officers once they graduate with a bachelor's degree. The United State Army, Air Force, and Navy have ROTC programs throughout the country. There are many scholarship opportunities that will help with tuition as well. There is more specific information on each of the branches' websites including participating colleges/universities.

- www.goarmy.com/rotc
- www.afrotc.com
- www.nrotc.navy.mil

ASVAB

The Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) is used by all of the Services to determine if an applicant is eligible for the military. Four of the ASVAB subtests are combined to form the AFQT. It measures general cognitive ability and is composed of verbal and mathematics subtests. AFQT scores are grouped into categories for reporting purposes. The table below shows the AFQT categories and the percentile score ranges corresponding to the categories. Applicants that score in AFQT category IIIA or higher may qualify for enlistment incentives.

| AFQT Category | Percentile Score Range |
|---------------|------------------------|
| I | 93-99 |
| II | 65-92 |
| IIIA | 50-64 |
| IIIB | 31-49 |
| IV | 10-30 |
| V | 1-9 |

The minimum AFQT score required to qualify for enlistment varies across the different branches of service. Contact a military recruiter or visit one of the Service-specific websites listed below to find out more about the required minimum AFQT score.

Air Force: www.airforce.com

Army: www.goarmy.com

Coast Guard: www.uscg.mil

Marine Corps: www.marines.com

Navy: www.navy.com

Military Recruiting Offices

Army National Guard
10025 South Mountain Road
Fayetteville, PA 17222
(717) 749-7237

Air National Guard
81 Constellation Court
Middletown, PA 17057
1-800-532-0858

US Air Force
1000 Carlisle Street
Hanover, PA 17331
(717) 632-9663

US Army Recruiting Center
1000 Carlisle Street
Hanover, PA 17331
(717) 852-0087

US Coast Guard
4337 Union Deposit Road #A
Harrisburg, PA 17111
(717) 561-0972

US Marine Corps
26 Springs Avenue
Gettysburg, PA 17325
(717) 334-1392

US Navy
2159 White Street
York, PA 17404
(717) 848-4171

Chapter 11

Joining the Workforce

- Develop a Career Plan: Think about what you want to do and research the type of training, education, and skills you will need to achieve your goal.
- Assess your Skills and Interests: Consider what you enjoy, what you are good at, and what type of personality you have. You want to be sure that the job you have is a good fit with who you are. Consider also if you enjoy working with people, working indoors or out, and if you enjoy set hours or flexible hours.
- Research Occupations: Find out more about the jobs that interest you, the educational requirements, the salary, the working conditions, future outlook and anything else that will help you narrow your focus.
- Learn about job-hunting tips as you prepare to graduate: where to look, contacts in the community.
- Prepare your Resume and Practice Job Interview Skills: Use Career Cruising to assist you in putting together a professional resume. Job Interview skills are also available on Career Cruising.
- Connect with a representative from Career Link

Each of these topic areas is covered in some way on Career Cruising. This is a program that is free to you as a student of Gettysburg Area School District. The link is www.careercruising.com and your login is GASD-lunch ID and your password is your birthdate with no dashes or slashes (all 8 digits). Some other great websites are O*Net Online www.onetonline.org , the Adams County Career Link www.pacareerlink-adamsco.org , and <https://hacc.emsicareercoach.com/> . We also have many books on jobs and careers. Please see your School Counselor with any additional questions.

Chapter 12

How can I earn college credits in high school?

1. College in the High School (CHS) – These are HACC courses taught at GAHS by GAHS teachers. You are able to earn credit from both HACC and GAHS (HACC credit values below). They can be applied towards GAHS graduation requirements. The cost of any CHS course is \$83.50 per HACC credit (2022-2023 cost). Our available HACC CHS courses are:
 - HACC CHS English 101 (3 HACC credits, ENGL 101)
 - HACC CHS English 102 (3 HACC credits, ENGL 102)
 - HACC CHS Health (3 HACC credits, HLTH 101)
 - HACC CHS Environmental Science (3 HACC credits, BIOL 103)
 - HACC CHS Anatomy and Physiology (4 HACC credits, BIOL 121)
 - HACC CHS Intro to Software for Business (3 HACC credits, CIS 105)
 - HACC CHS Principles of Management (3 HACC credits, MGMT 201)
 - There are opportunities to earn CHS college credits through Carlow University (**Accounting**) or Harrisburg University (**Speech Communications**).

Please see our course selection guide for more information and a detailed description of the course.

2. Advanced Placement (AP) – All AP courses are designed to prepare students for the AP exam given in May each year. Students enrolled in an AP class must take the AP exam. The cost of the exam is around \$95. You can choose to take an AP exam for a subject that we do not offer, however, this is not usually recommended. Most colleges/universities will award credits for an AP score of 3 or higher but that is determined by each college/university. Our available AP courses are:

- AP English 11 Language
- AP English 12 Literature
- AP US Government & Politics
- AP Psychology
- AP Human Geography
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Physics
- AP Biology
- AP Computer Science
- AP Art (2D, 3D, & Drawing)
- AP Spanish
- AP US History
- AP World History
- AP Statistics
- AP Chemistry I & II

3. Dual Enrollment/Early College Pathway (See Appendix for more information on Early College Pathway) – During your junior and senior year, you have the opportunity to take courses at the HACC Campus in Gettysburg depending on the flexibility of your senior year schedule. Most HACC credits will transfer to other colleges/universities but make sure you are checking with the college/university you plan on attending. You will be charged the dual-enrollment HACC tuition rate of \$175.00 per credit (2022-2023 cost). See your counselor for more information about the difference between Early College Pathway and Dual Enrollment and how it can fit into your schedule.

IMPORTANT *** To ensure your credits from HACC transfer to the college/university you plan to attend, you must contact HACC directly to send your official transcript. Though your HACC CHS courses will show on your GAHS transcript, the college/university will only accept a HACC transcript to apply your credits towards your degree requirements. For AP courses, you must send your AP exam scores from your CollegeBoard account.

Chapter 13

Going to College with a Disability

- Section 504 plans and an IEP do NOT transfer over to college automatically; you would need to reach out to the Office of Disabilities Services to obtain accommodations.
 - Under the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Amendments of 2008, a person is entitled to accommodations if they meet the criteria
 - Maintain documentation of your disability
 - Put a transition plan in place with realistic long-term goals.
- Fun fact - the ACT and SAT are required to comply with ADA requirements
 - Some examples of accommodations include:
 - Preferential seating
 - Extra time for assignments
 - Use of a note taker
 - Use of a tape recorder

➤ Some things to look for in colleges include:

Program for students with Learning Disabilities, mentors, writing specialist, instructor-tutors, advocacy help, assisted technology, special summer orientation programs, support groups, LD specialists, ADHD coaches, ASD specialists, BRIDGE program

➤ Some of Universities that include these accommodations:

- Edinboro University,
- Gannon University
- Mercyhurst University
- Misericordia University

➤ Helpful Website

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html>

- Become informed about the law
- Browse through frequently asked questions about things like loans & grants
- How to act against discrimination

➤ Last Bits About the Journey

- I. Hold on to what makes you who you are
- II. Maintain flexibility so you are open for growth
- III. Don't be afraid to ask for help and gain new connections
- IV. Trust the journey and that there are people there to help you

APPENDIX OF FORMS

GETTYSBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL

PLANNING GUIDE

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Name: | Post Secondary Goal: |
| Career Goal: | <input type="checkbox"/> Entry-Level Job (workforce) <input type="checkbox"/> Technical/Trade School/Community College/2-Year <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> 4-Year College |

| Credit Requirements: (28 Credits) | Grade 9 (9.0 credits) | Grade 10 (9.0 credits) | Grade 11 (9.0 credits) | Grade 12 (8.0 credits) |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| English (4 credits) | | | | |
| Social Studies (4 credits) | | | | |
| Mathematics (3 or 4 credits) * - 2 Math credits recommended in 9 th gr. | | | | |
| Science (3 or 4 credits) * | | | | |
| Physical Education & Wrap Around Courses (4 credits) | <i>Physical Education 9 (.5 cr.) & F.A.C.S. (.5 cr.)</i> | <i>Physical Education 10 (.5 cr.) & Safety Education (.5 cr.)</i> | <i>Physical Education 11 (.5 cr.) & Health (.5 cr.)</i> | <i>Physical Education 12 (.5 cr.) & Personal Finance (.5 cr.)</i> |
| Career/Research | | | | |
| Electives | | | | |
| Electives | | | | |

* A MINIMUM total of 7.0 credits are required between Mathematics and Science. Three credits in the one subject and four credits in the other (Student's choice).

** In 11th Grade, students earn 9.0 credits for coursework.

*** It is possible to earn a maximum of 35.0 credits in grades 9-12, which allows the students to have 11.0 credits in elective courses.

Letter of Recommendation Request Form

Person being asking to write the letter: _____

Student's Name: _____

Date of Request: _____ Date letter is needed: _____

Purpose of letter: _____ college application _____ scholarship _____ job application
_____ internship _____ other (describe: _____)

Will you, the student, pick up the letter on the date the letter is needed?

_____ yes (letter will be in a signed/sealed envelope with Mrs. Myers)

_____ no

If **no**, do you want the letter mailed directly to the person/post-secondary school requesting it?

_____ yes (indicate address below) _____ no

Name and address to whom the letter is to be addressed:

Please indicate below any information about yourself that you feel would be beneficial to include in the letter (i.e. sports, clubs, leadership positions, awards or obstacles you have overcome):
