



**POST-SECONDARY  
PLANNING  
PACKET**



# WELCOME TO THE COLLEGE PLANNING PROCESS!

In this packet, you will find many resources designed to help you stay on track and be prepared throughout the college application process.

**To Parents and students: Please read this packet in its entirety prior to attending your Junior Conference and bring with you any questions you may have about this information.**

Please know that we are here to assist you with this process, and we are always happy to answer questions/clarify information. We look forward to working with you and your family during this exciting time!

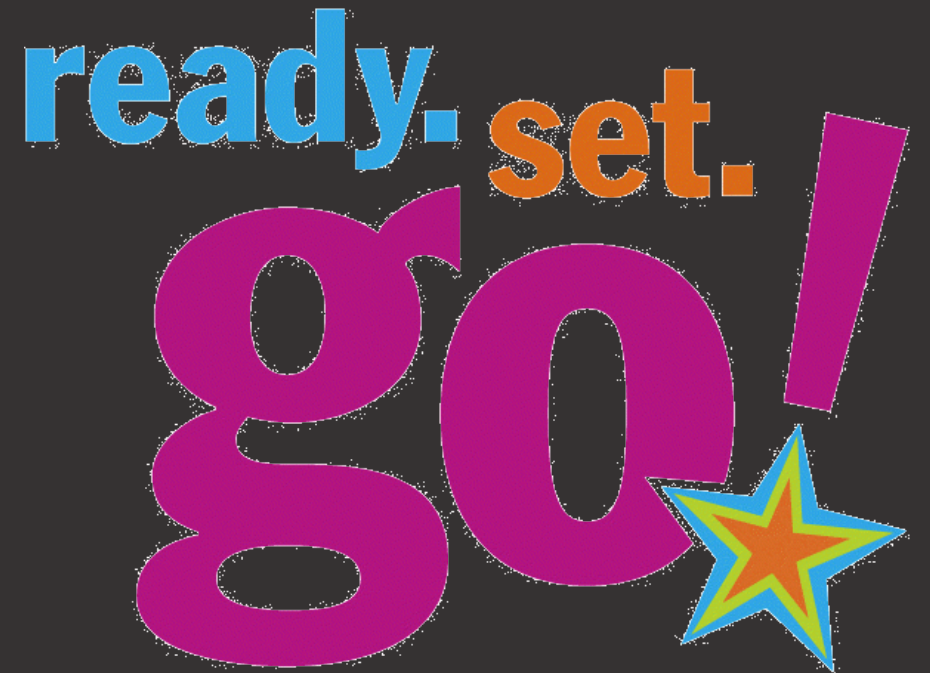
▪ ***Mrs. Gibson and Mr. Grissom, GIA School Counselors***



# INSIDE THIS PACKET

- College Planning Timeline for Juniors
- Comparison of SAT and ACT
- SAT/ACT Testing Dates and Info for 2024-2025
- College Board/ACT Testing Accommodations Info
- GPA Reference Sheet
- HOPE Scholarship Information
- College Credit Now: Dual Enrollment & AP Info
- NCAA Eligibility Information
- Guide for Visiting College Campuses
- Campus Visit Checklist
- College Planning Timeline for Seniors
- Quick Guide to Application Types
- Naviance Information
- Requesting Transcripts
- Financial Aid Checklist
- FAFSA

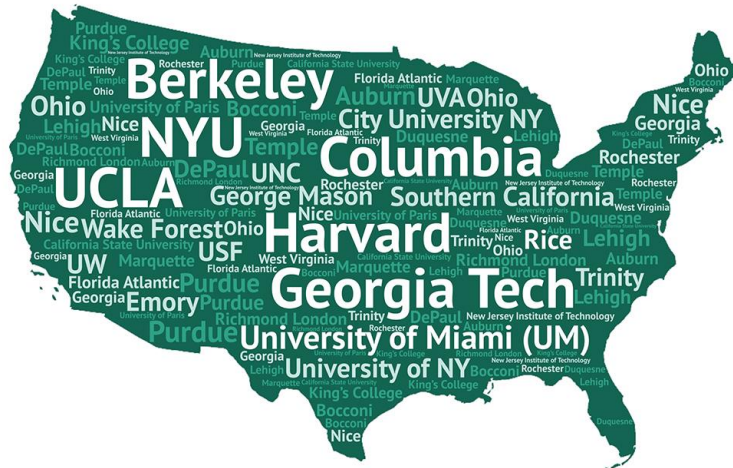
ready. set.  
go!



# COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE FOR JUNIORS

## FALL/WINTER

- Attend your Junior Conference with your family
- Finalize a testing plan for the SAT, ACT, and SAT subject tests (best to test during a spring administration). Refer to testing dates in this packet and on the testing websites



## SPRING

- Begin/continue to develop a list of schools that you are possibly interested in attending. Consider major, distance from home, size of school, region of school, student life (sports, clubs, Greek life).
- Visit schools that you are interested in. Take a tour, go to an informational meeting, sit in on a class and try to get a feel for what it would be like to go to that school. If you visit a school you are extremely interested in, consider making an appointment for an on-campus interview, if available.
- Prepare for and take SAT, ACT (optional SAT subject tests).
- Start thinking about teachers that you would like to ask to write you a recommendation.
- Create and/or access important accounts: GA Futures, Naviance, GCIS/YouScience (through IC).



# COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE FOR JUNIORS

## SUMMER

- If you know the essay prompt for any of your applications, start working on a draft of your college essay.
- Compile your resume, audition portfolio or other evidence of your talents for college admissions or scholarship applications.
- Continue to visit schools.
- Narrow your list of potential college choices.
- Begin to research scholarship opportunities.
- Make use of Naviance in your college search and application process.
- Determine if you are going to take the SAT/ACT in Fall of Senior year and register for the test.



# NAVIANCE: EXPLORE!

NAVIANCE: EXPLORE YOUR INTEREST, CAREERS & COLLEGES

Naviance is a comprehensive college and career readiness tool that can be used to:

- identify student strengths and interests.
- align students to specific career fields and colleges.
- engage students in the college and career planning process through the use of various tools.

**During your junior year, please focus on creating your resume.**



# NAVIANCE OVERVIEW

## The “About Me” Tab:

**Profile:** lists all your personal information

**Account:** parent needs registration code to be added

**Test Scores:** the district puts in tests scores for all students

**Favorite Colleges:** contains your list of prospective colleges, including application deadlines

**Favorite Careers/Clusters:** includes your list of careers/career clusters

**Personality Type:** includes report from the *Personality Type* survey

**Resume:** an easy three-step guide to creating a resume

**Game Plan:** a survey to help guide you in choosing a college/university

## The “Careers” Tab:

**Personality Type:** a survey based on the book “Do What You Are”

**Career Interest Profiler:** a tool that can help you discover the types of work activities careers that match your interests

**Explore Careers and Clusters:** a search engine for exploring different career pathways and clusters

## The Colleges Tab:

**Colleges I’m Thinking About:** your list of prospective colleges

**Colleges I’m Applying To:** the list of colleges applied

**Upcoming College Visits:** the list of colleges visiting Global

**College Match:** selects colleges that are similar to colleges already on your prospective list

**College Lookup:** look up schools by name, alphabet, state, or country

**College Search:** do a basic college search based on the characteristics you are looking for in a college

**College Resources:** provides web links to the Common App, College Board, NCAA, FAFSA, etc.

**Enrichment Programs:** you can view a list and search for special programs for students

**Scholarship List:** provides a list of scholarships and their application deadlines

**National Scholarship Search:** a national scholarship search sponsored by Sallie Mae



**Naviance can be accessed through ClassLink**



| Naviance Feature                         | Estimated Time and Grade level                       | Description  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Career Interest Profiler</b>          | ~45 mins<br>10th 11th grades                         | Align students to the six Holland personality types by using four characteristics: preferred activities, competencies, self-perceptions, and values.   |
| <b>Career Cluster Finder</b>             | ~15 minutes<br>7th, 8th 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th grades | Based on activities students enjoy, personal qualities, and school subjects students like, the survey ranks which career clusters students might find most fulfilling  |
| <b>Roadtrip Nation Interview Archive</b> | ~20-30 min mini lesson<br>7th-12th grade             | The Roadtrip Nation interview archive is a digital career exploration tool that enables students to discover new pathways, interests, and ambitions. The archive includes more than 3,500 full-length video interviews chronicling the diverse personal stories of leaders who have turned their interests into their life's work. Students can access the interview archive by clicking Explore More. |

# NAVIANCE: CAREER TAB





| Naviance Feature          | Estimated Time and Grade level  | Description   |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Resume Builder</b>     | 7th - 12th grade  | Allows students to keep a record of their accomplishments and achievements over the years. A professionally formatted resume can be customized depending on the type of resume students are looking to create in a printable format   |
| <b>Strengths Explorer</b> | ~30 mins plus time for extension activities if desired<br>7th – 10th grades | The Strengths Explorer is a strengths assessment that assesses 10 talent themes for individuals and identifies each student's three strongest emerging talents. During the assessment, students can stop and the assessment will save their answers where they left off. Students will learn how to capitalize on their success and discover what they need to do next to continue building on their strengths. 78 questions in length – short statements that students will rate the degree to which they agree/disagree |

# NAVIANCE: ABOUT ME TAB



| Naviance Feature                   | Suggested Time and Grade level                     | Description  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Colleges I'm Thinking About</b> | 9th 10th 11th grades                               | Allows students to save colleges of interest<br>Can assist with goal planning and helps students to identify levels of achievement needed to be competitive for their colleges of interest.  |
| <b>Supermatch</b>                  | ~20 minutes<br>7th, 8th, 9th 10th 11th 12th grades | Allows students to identify qualities of colleges and universities that are of interest to them<br>Acts as an introduction to college planning<br>Allows students to save their searches and add colleges to their "Colleges I'm thinking about List"  |
| <b>College Search</b>              | ~20 minutes<br>7th, 8th, 9th 10th 11th 12th grades | General college search tools for students to get more information about colleges of their choosing<br>Works with locally defined college groups (i.e. 2 year community colleges in Maryland)<br>Includes the option to find colleges within a certain mile radius.<br>Will eliminate colleges based on selected criteria |
| <b>College Resources</b>           | 7th, 8th, 9th 10th 11th 12th grades                | Provides access to college search, financial aid, standardized test prep, military and college athletic websites and resources   |
| <b>Enrichment Programs</b>         | 9th 10th 11th 12th grades                          | Provides access to Enrichment programs appropriate for high school students to learn more about volunteer, internship, travel and collegiate programs – information sourced from teenlife.com  |
| <b>National Scholarship Search</b> | 11th and 12th grades                               | Allows students to create their own profile to match to 3 million scholarship opportunities around the world<br>Similar to Fastweb   |

# NAVIANCE: COLLEGE TAB



## Tasks from My School

Task Or To-Do

Priority

Date



Complete SuperMatch College Search

Task

None

04/30/25



11th Grade Bridge Bill & Junior Survey

Task

None

04/30/25

# IMPORTANT TO-DOS AND TASKS

It's important for students to check Naviance to make sure they are up to date on all tasks found in their planner



# GETTING THE MOST OUT OF COLLEGE VISITS

Being on a college campus, even for a short time, can tell you a lot about the school and how well you might fit in there. Below are some tips for how to get the most out of visiting college campuses.

## Things to Consider Before You Visit:

Try to visit a range of colleges so you can really get a feel for what you like/don't like.

### Good time to visit:

- Any school breaks during 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades
- Summer before 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- You can miss up to three days during each of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades for college visits. Make sure to complete a college visitation form (in the Counseling Center) before you visit.

Check out the admissions office website to see what opportunities are available for prospective students prior to your visit.



## Things to Do During Your Visit:

- Go on a campus tour and participate in an information session
- Visit a class: Many colleges invite prospective students to sit in on a class or two. Sometimes this needs to be pre-arranged. Contact the admissions office or check the website for specific info.
- Overnight Visits: Many colleges arrange for prospective students to stay on campus with a student host. You can eat in the dining hall, visit classes, and spend the night in a dorm.
- Meeting with an Academic Department or Professor: If you have specific questions about a major, try to meet with someone in the department. Make sure to arrange this in advance.
- Meeting with a Financial Aid Counselor: Ask about grants, scholarships, and student loans.
- On-Campus Interviews: If you are visiting a school that offers interviews, and you are very interested in the school, make an appointment ahead of time for an interview. Sell yourself and come prepared with strong questions. Send a thank you not following your interview.

## Making the Most of Your Visit:

- Remember that you're receiving a subjective view of the college. These students love their college and are trained by the admission office to be honest, but to say positive things about the school. Their views may not be the most objective.
- Pay close attention and ask questions of the tour guide. Why did you choose this school? What do you like best? What do you like least? What courses have you enjoyed the most/least and why? What are the big issues on campus right now?
- Things to consider and observe while you are on tour: What are students doing in between classes? Do students look happy? Are people friendly? Read a student newspaper... check out flyers promoting meetings and events... look at the dorms and classrooms... eat the food! Talk to people!
- If there is something you want to see that was not on the official tour, ask!

## Printable College Visit Checklist:

<https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/campus-visit-checklist.pdf>



# Campus Visit Checklist

Visiting a college campus helps you get a sense of what a college — and life at that college — is like. This can help you decide whether the college is right for you.

## GATHER INFORMATION

Find out what you need to do to apply, and see if the college's class and major offerings are what you want:

- Take part in a group information session at the admission office.
- Interview with an admission officer.
- Pick up financial aid forms.
- Sit in on a class that interests you. If classes aren't in session, just see what the classrooms are like.
- Meet a professor who teaches a subject that interests you.
- Talk to students about what they think of their classes and professors.
- Get the names and business cards of the people you meet so you can contact them later if you have questions.

## EXPLORE THE CAMPUS

Get a feel for student life, and see if this college is a place where you will do well:

- Take a campus tour.
- Visit the dining hall, fitness center, library, career center, bookstore, and other campus facilities.
- Talk to current students about the college and life on campus.
- Check out the freshman dorms, and stay overnight with a student, if possible.
- Talk to the coaches of sports that you may want to play.
- Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.

## CHECK OUT CAMPUS MEDIA

Tune in to learn what's happening on campus and what's on students' minds:

- Listen to the college radio station.
- Read the student newspaper.
- Scan bulletin boards to see what daily student life is like.
- Go to the career center and learn what services it offers.
- Browse the school's website and any campus blogs.
- Read other student publications, such as department newsletters, alternative newspapers, and literary reviews.

## GET THE MOST OUT OF A CAMPUS VISIT IN 6 STEPS

### 1 DECIDE WHERE AND HOW

See if your school arranges group trips to colleges or if you could get a group of friends together and visit the campus. A family trip is another option and allows you to involve your family in the process.

### 2 PREPARE FOR YOUR VISIT

Before you set out, get a map of the college campus and pick out places of interest. Call the college's admission office to schedule a guided tour of the campus.

### 3 TAKE YOUR OWN TOUR

Just wandering around the campus on your own or with friends can be the best way to get a feel for what a college is like.

### 4 EXPLORE THE FACILITIES

Find the spots on campus where students gather or ask a student where the best place to eat is to get a feel for the character of the college. Visit the library and check out the gym or theater. Ask an admission officer if you can tour a dorm and a classroom.

### 5 MAKE CONNECTIONS

Talk to current students. Ask the students at the next table or sitting nearby what they like best about the college.

### 6 TAKE NOTES

During your visit, write down some notes about your experience. What did you see that excited you? Are there aspects of the college that you don't like? If so, what are they?

## Questions to Ask During Your Visit:

### ASK TOUR GUIDES/STUDENTS

- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- What's it like to go from high school to college?
- What do you do in your free time? On the weekends?
- What do you love about this college?
- What do you wish you could change about this college?
- Why did you choose this college?
- What is it like to live here?
- What does the college do to promote student involvement in campus groups, extracurricular activities, or volunteerism?

### ASK PROFESSORS

- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- Can a student be mentored by professors, graduate students, or upperclassmen?
- How are professors rated by the college? Does the college think mentoring and meetings for project guidance are important?
- How does the college help students have access to professors outside class? Do professors join students for lunch, help with community service groups, or guide student organizations?
- How many students do research or other kinds of projects for a semester or more?

### ASK THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

- How much has your total college cost for each student risen in the past year?
- How much do your students usually end up owing when they graduate?
- What is the average income of graduates who had the same major that interests me?
- Will my costs go up when your tuition goes up, or can we use the same tuition rate I started with so I'll know the costs for four years?
- How many students usually graduate in the major that interests me? How long do these students usually take to get their degree? In what ways does the college help students graduate in four years?

**To play sports in college, students must be cleared through the NCAA Eligibility Center. Please visit**

**[www.NCAA.org/playcollegesports](http://www.NCAA.org/playcollegesports)**

**For a quick snapshot and registration checklist please visit this link:**

**[http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility\\_center/Student\\_Resources/Registration Checklist.pdf](http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility_center/Student_Resources/Registration_Checklist.pdf)**



**NCAA ELIGIBILITY**





HOPE  
CAREER  
GRANT

# 17 TUITION-FREE career fields

- Automotive Technology
- Aviation
- Certified Engineer Assistant
- Commercial Truck Driving
- Computer Programming
- Computer Technology
- Construction
- Diesel Equipment Technology
- Early Childhood Care & Education
- Electrical Line Worker
- Health Science
- Industrial Maintenance
- Logistics
- Movie Production/Set Design
- Practical Nursing
- Precision Manufacturing
- Welding & Joining Technology



Attending a four-year college or university isn't the only route to success. Technical colleges are another option that can lead to many of the fast-growing careers in Georgia in two years or less. And with the HOPE Career Grant, eligible students can receive FREE tuition to pursue a certificate or diploma program in high-demand industries where there are currently more jobs than workers in Georgia.

**Program Eligibility** - All eligibility requirements for the HOPE Grant and Zell Miller Grant apply to the HOPE Career Grant.

**Programs of Study** - Students enrolled in an approved program of study (see list below or visit **GAfutures.org**) who are eligible for, and receiving, HOPE or Zell Miller Grant funding, may also be eligible for funding from the HOPE Career Grant.

**Award Amounts** - A student's HOPE Career Grant award is a fixed amount per term based upon the student's program of study and number of hours of enrollment. Visit **GAfutures.org** for details.

# TECHNICAL COLLEGE & CAREERS



- Choosing a military career requires careful consideration and planning. To start your research, we've organized military career fields to help you find one that matches your skill set and interests. Each listing below includes that field's typical careers, required training, daily responsibilities and even associated civilian careers.
- To join any branch of the military you must take and score at least 31 on the ASVAB. **ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery):** Used by all branches of the military to determine how qualified you are to enlist, as well as your qualification for certain military jobs and your signing bonus.
- Learn more: <https://youtu.be/wB0FI7t5QbI>



# CAREERS IN THE MILITARY







[Access Naviance through ClassLink.](#)

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) (SAT)

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/> (College Planning)

[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) (ACT)

[Fulton Schools Classlink\(Naviance access\)](#)

<https://campus.fultonschools.org/campus/portal/students/fulton.jsp>  
(GCIS/YouScience)

<https://www.gafutures.org> (College/Career Planning; HOPE information; Dual Enrollment information)

[www.military.com](http://www.military.com) (Career)

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) (Scholarship database)

[www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov) (Financial Aid)

[www.meritaid.com](http://www.meritaid.com) (Scholarship database)

[www.ctcl.org](http://www.ctcl.org) (Colleges That Change Lives)

[www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) (Financial Aid)

[www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com) (Test Prep)

[www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org) (Test Prep)

[www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) (College Athletes)

[gafutures-guide-fy22\\_digital.pdf](#)(GA Career & College Planning)

<https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/campus-visit-checklist.pdf> (College Planning)



## 2024-25 SAT Test Dates and Registration Deadlines

All registration is done online using a credit card or fee waiver if eligible

| SAT Test Dates   | Regular Registration Deadline | Late Registration Deadline |
|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| August 24, 2024  | August 9, 2024                | August 13, 2024            |
| October 5, 2024  | September 20, 2024            | September 24, 2024         |
| November 2, 2024 | October 18, 2024              | October 22, 2024           |
| December 7, 2024 | November 22, 2024             | November 26, 2024          |
| March 8, 2025    | February 21, 2025             | February 25, 2025          |
| May 3, 2025      | April 18, 2025                | April 22, 2025             |
| June 7, 2025     | May 22, 2025                  | May 27, 2025               |

SAT REGISTRATION: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) \*SAT Registration cost \$60

## 2023-24 ACT Test Dates and Registration Deadlines

| ACT Test Dates     | Registration Deadline | Late Registration Deadline<br>(additional cost to register late) |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|
| September 14, 2024 | August 9, 2024        | August 25, 2024  |
| October 26, 2024   | September 20, 2024    | October 7, 2024  |
| December 14, 2024  | November 8, 2024      | November 22, 2024  |
| February 8, 2025   | January 3, 2025       | January 20, 2025   |
| April 5, 2025      | February 28, 2025     | March 16, 2025   |
| June 14, 2025      | May 9, 2025           | May 26, 2025   |
| July 12, 2025      | June 6, 2025          | June 20, 2025  |

ACT REGISTRATION: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) \* Please keep in mind most colleges will recommend you take the ACT plus Writing and not just the ACT alone. Test cost is \$93 with WRITING & NO WRITING is \$68.

# ADMISSIONS TESTING INFORMATION

Please refer to the following website for additional test information and registration:

- SAT: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- ACT: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

**ACCUPLACER:** an **untimed, multiple choice test** which is taken on a computer, and consists of three question sections—reading comprehension, sentence skills, and math. Some students will also be asked to write an essay, depending on the college's wishes. Most people complete the Accuplacer test in **60-90 minutes**. This test is scheduled at the 2-year or technical school.

Practice Materials

ACCUPLACER: <https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/>

Fee waivers are available for students who receive free/reduced lunch. Contact your counselor for additional information.

**GIA CEEB Code: 110-398**



# REQUESTING COLLEGE BOARD ACCOMMODATIONS

## CollegeBoard:

- Contact GIA's 504 Coordinator, for the required forms you will need to complete. If your child has an IEP, speak with the case manager. Return the required forms **at least two weeks prior to the registration deadline for the test your child is planning to take (see previous page for date); however, the earlier, the better.** GIA can access active IEPs and 504 plans, but you'll need to provide a copy of the most recent psychological testing and/or medical documentation. Once students are approved for CollegeBoard accommodations, they will receive those on all future CollegeBoard exams. Simply having a disability is not enough to qualify for testing accommodations.

*Having a history of receiving accommodations at school is usually an important part of their decision process. In general, the College Board looks for the following to determine if accommodations are granted: Student has a documented disability; participation on the exam is impacted; the requested accommodation is needed; the accommodation is received on school tests.*

- If your child has an IEP or 504 plan, and receives testing accommodations at GIA, GIA can assist with submitting a request for accommodations to the College Board (SAT, SAT Subject Tests, PSAT, AP) and ACT. **If your child receives accommodations at school, he/she does not automatically receive accommodations on the College Board exams and the ACT.** Students must apply for – and be granted – accommodations on these tests by the testing agencies. Please be aware of the following processes:

**For more questions, go to <https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities>**



# REQUESTING ACT ACCOMMODATIONS

## **ACT:**

ACT is committed to serving examinees with documented disabilities by providing reasonable accommodations appropriate to the examinee's diagnosis and needs. ACT has established policies regarding documentation of an examinee's disability. If you currently receive accommodations in school due to a professionally diagnosed and documented disability, see [ACT Policy for Documentation](#), which will prepare you and guide you through the process of requesting test accommodations on the ACT test.

*Note: The ACT and ACT with writing are offered only in English. Accommodations (including extended time) are not available solely on the basis of limited English proficiency.*

## **Requesting Accommodations**

*To request accommodations for an administration of the ACT, examinees must first:*

- Create an [ACT web account](#) or log in to an existing account
- Register for a test date
- When registering to test, examinees must determine what accommodations will meet their needs (and should match accommodations being received at school). Refer to the comparison chart within the [Accommodations on the ACT Test](#) to review the requirements and features of National Extended Time (50%-time extension) and Special Testing (at examinee's school) to decide which is most appropriate for you. (The basic fees for accommodated testing are the same.)
- Once an examinee has registered online for the ACT, ACT will automatically email instructions (with Subject: Requesting Accommodations on the ACT) regarding how to work with a qualified school official to request accommodations and submit supporting documentation via the Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA). You will need to sign a consent form allowing us to submit information to the ACT, along with a copy of the most recent psychological testing and/or medical documentation.
- <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/taking-the-test/services-for-examinees-with-disabilities.html>



# THE SAT VS THE ACT

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

## KEY

Differences

- Lots of Geometry
- Faster Paced
- Tough Science Section



Overall Time

### TIMING & SCORING

Overall Time



Reading

65m

200 - 800 points

Writing

35m

Math  
(No Calculator)

25m

200 - 800 points

Math  
(Calculator)

55m

1-36

35m

Reading

1-36

45m

English

1-36

60m

Math

1-36

35m

Science

Total Points

400 - 1600

1 - 36

Total Points

Time per Question

75s

48s

83s

Reading

Writing

Math

Time per Question

53s

36s

60s

Reading

English

Math

# ADMISSION TESTING FACTS & PREP SUPPORT



# MATH

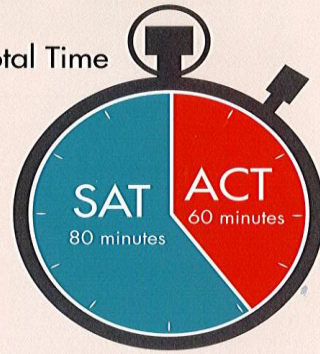
Number of Questions

SAT **58** | ACT **60**

Number of Sections

SAT **2** | ACT **1**

Total Time



Time Per Question



## Formulas

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

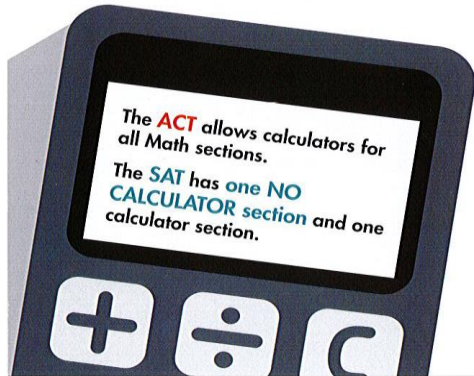
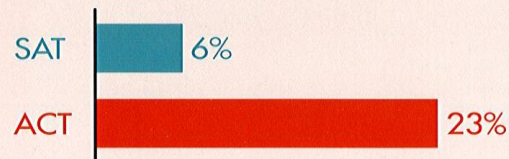
The **ACT** does not provide formulas for reference.



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

## Geometry Focus

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



# READING



Time Per Question



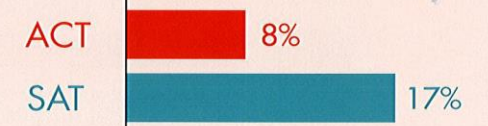
Number of Questions

SAT **52** | ACT **40**

Total Time

## Vocabulary

What percent of questions test vocabulary?



## Do the Reading sections have Graphs and Charts?

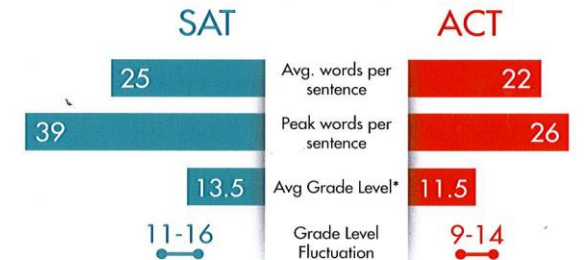


Yes, relating to two passages



No, only on the Science section

## Passage Complexity



\*Flesch-Kincaid readability assessment

Number of Passages

SAT **5** comparison

ACT **4** comparison

Topics Covered

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

# WRITING/ENGLISH

Number of Questions

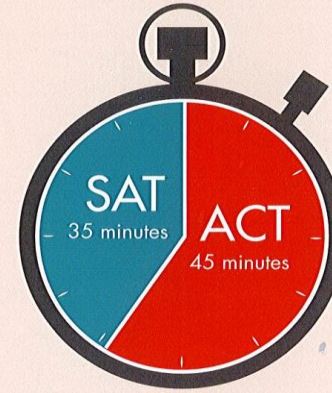
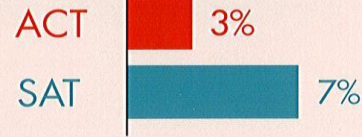
SAT **44** | ACT **75**

Time Per Question



Vocabulary

What percent of questions test vocabulary?



Total Time

Do the Reading sections have **Graphs and Charts?**



Yes, relating to two passages



No, only on the Science section

GRAMMAR VS. RHETORICAL SKILLS

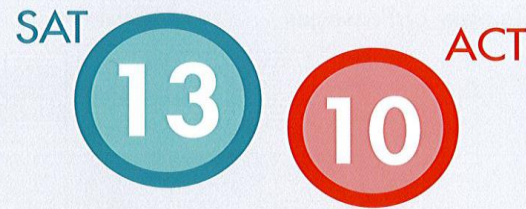


\*The difference between the 49% Rhetorical Skills on the ACT and 55% on the SAT feels even greater in practice, as the questions on the SAT require a fuller understanding of the passage.

Passage Complexity



Average words per sentence



Average grade level\*

\*Flesch-Kincaid readability assessment



There are MANY different definitions grading averages. It is best to refer to each individual college/scholarship organization to understand how they calculate grading averages. Here are a few definitions:

- **Numeric Grade Average (NGA)**: Fulton County calculates cumulative numeric averages for students by adding up all grades in all classes and dividing by the total number of classes taken. This numeric average is on a 100-point scale. Remember, failed grades, summer school grades, and online grades are **all included** – all courses listed on the transcript are averaged together. Please remember that Fulton County adds 7 points to the final *passing* grade for each Honors, AP, IB, and college courses taken; therefore, the NGA is a weighted average.
- **Academic (Core) GPA**: Fulton Count does NOT calculate GPAs on a 4.0 scale. The best place to start is to contact each college to find out how they calculate GPAs. Some will include all courses taken, others will include core academic courses only. Some will use your weighted grades; others will remove the honors points before calculating GPA.
- ❖ To calculate GPA, most school use the following conversion scale: A = 4.0; B = 3.0; C = 2.0; and F = 0. For academic GPA, assign a 4, 3, 2, or 0 for each academic course (courses in math, science, literature, social studies, and world language), add them together and divide by the total number of academic courses (each semester of a class counts as one course. This produces and estimated academic GPA. *Fulton County counselors will not calculate GPAs for you.*
- **HOPE Scholarship GPA**: the GPA for the HOPE Scholarship is calculated by averaging all academic courses (Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies, and World Language) taken in high school, including failed courses. Be aware that “non-academic” AP elective courses are not included in HOPE calculations (i.e. AP Comp Sci/Principles). Grades from high school classes taken in middle school are not calculated in HOPE GPA. All core courses are averaged, and students need to earn a 3.0 GPA to be eligible. Please be aware the all honors points are removed before the calculation and .5 weighting is added back in for AP, and college courses (not honors classes). A = 4.0; B = 3.0; C = 2.0; and F = 0. If it is an honors, AP or college course, remove the 7 points before converting to the 4.0 scale and then add back .5 (e.g. an 85 in an AP class is an unweighted 78 = 2.0. Because it is an AP class, it becomes a 2.5; the max is a 4.0).

*Please note: a 2.99 GPA does not qualify the student for HOPE, and students are not eligible for HOPE until the day they graduate, as second semester senior grades are included. Official HOPE calculations are done by the GA Student Finance Commission.*

# GRADING AVERAGES





# COLLEGE CREDIT NOW: AP & DUAL ENROLLMENT

There are several ways in which students may earn college credit while still in high school:

- **Advanced Placement (AP) Courses:** Advanced Placement courses allows students to take college-level courses and potentially earn college credit and/or achieve “advanced placement” in college. AP courses better prepare students for college as they become accustomed to the demands of university level work. Students are enrolled in AP courses throughout the year, and AP Exams are taken during the first two weeks of May (at GIA). AP Exams are scored on a 1-5 scale; individual colleges determine the score needed to earn credit in specific courses, but most schools give students credit if they earn a four or a five (some also give credit for a score of three).

## Currently, GIA offers the following AP Courses:

- AP Computer Science Principles
- AP Computer Science
- AP World History
- AP United States History
- AP Human Geography
- AP English Language/American Literature
- AP Literature
- AP Language Composition
- AP Computer Science
- AP Seminar ELA
- AP Calculus AB
- AP African American Studies
- AP Environmental
- AP Physics
- AP Biology



# COLLEGE CREDIT NOW: DUAL ENROLLMENT

**Dual Enrollment:** Through the Dual Enrollment program 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students may take approved college classes, allowing them to get an early start to their college careers. Dual Enrollment students earn concurrent credit toward both their high school diploma and college degree.

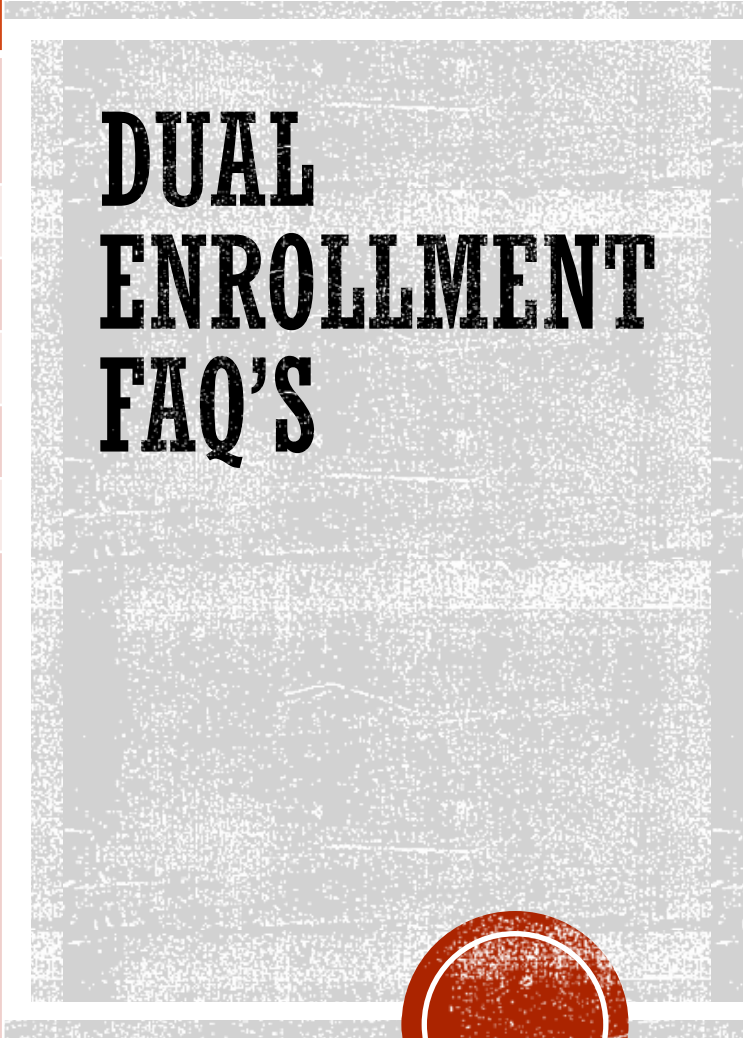
*\*\*Make sure you check the colleges your student is interested in applying to see how they view Dual Enrollment classes and how they grant credit.*

For information on Dual Enrollment, go to:

<https://www.gafutures.org/hope-state-aid-programs/scholarships-grants/dual-enrollment/>



|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>What To Do First?</b>         | <p><b>Attend Dual Enrollment Night in December to learn about requirements and graduation requirements and how your year would play out. Talk to parents about transportation, responsibility, and costs required.</b></p> <p><b>*Apply by March 31<sup>st</sup> (FCS deadline)</b></p>   |
| <b>Course Selections</b>         | <p>Any approved Core Academic Course (Math, Science, Social Studies, English, World Language) or Elective Courses *See the Dual Enrollment Course Directory:<br/> <a href="https://apps.gsfc.org/securenextgen/dsp_accel_course_listings.cfm">https://apps.gsfc.org/securenextgen/dsp_accel_course_listings.cfm</a></p>   |
| <b>Course Load</b>               | <p>Minimum of 1 class at college. Must take a minimum of 6 classes per semester (if not full time at college). If full-time at college, must take 4 classes per semester.</p>   |
| <b>Credits Earned</b>            | <p>One 3- or 4-hour course earns 1 full high school credit. Students must still take 2 semester of English (FCS requirement).</p>   |
| <b>Academic Requirements</b>     | <p>3.0 GPA and SAT/ACT score vary. GPC: 970 (min CR = 480 and Math = 440) SAT and 20 ACT (minimum Eng = 20 and Math = 18)</p>   |
| <b>GIA Registration</b>          | <p>Register for a full schedule at GIA. Schedule will be adjusted as needed in August.</p>  |
| <b>Schedule Considerations</b>   | <p>Register at college early for more scheduling options. GIA Master Schedule is not finalized until August. May run into conflicts, especially with non-popular GIA courses.</p>   |
| <b>Additional Considerations</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College grading is based on far fewer exams, assignments, and projects than high school classes.</li> <li>• Students are totally responsible for the application process, registration, report cards, etc.</li> <li>• Parents are NOT involved nor contacted due to attendance, grades, etc.</li> <li>• College classes are typically held 2x per week. More work is expected between classes.</li> <li>• Not being at school all day can lead to feelings of being disconnected from friends and senior activities. Students may participate in sports and clubs.</li> <li>• Some colleges may not accept college classes as credit toward a degree.</li> </ul> <p>Grades are converted to the HS transcript using this scale:<br/> A = 95 + 7 honors points = 102<br/> B = 85 + 7 honors points = 92<br/> C = 75 + 7 honors points = 82<br/> D = 70 + 7 honors points = 77<br/> F = 60</p> |



# COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE FOR SENIORS

## FALL

### August/September

- Use a planner/spreadsheet to keep track of college-related dates
- Finalize the list of colleges you are applying to
- Ask teachers to write letters of recommendation. Requests are made through Common App OR whichever mode student is applying to schools. Be sure to ask your teachers and counselors **at least 10 school days** in advance.
- Review list of college reps visiting GIA (on Naviance, GIA Counseling website) and sign up to attend sessions with colleges you are interested in
- Visit college campus if possible; “tour” online
- Register for the SAT/ACT if you would like to retest this fall or if you have not tested yet
- Begin to fill out admissions applications
- Complete “Senior Survey” on Naviance so counselors can write your recommendations
- Work on/complete applications essays

### October/November

- Continue to visit potential colleges, if possible
- Continue meeting with college reps at GIA. Consider attending a college fair
- Prepare final drafts of applications essay(s)
- Take the SAT or ACT, if applicable
- Check all application deadlines and submit materials on time. Stay organized!
- ***Request transcripts and counselor recommendations, at least 10 school days prior to deadline***
- Follow-up to make sure all early action or early decision application materials have been received
- Remind teachers of early deadlines for recommendations
- **December**
- Take the SAT or ACT, if applicable
- Request transcripts and counselor recommendations for any regular decision applications. For January 1st deadlines, requests must be made by December 1st



# COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE FOR SENIORS

## Spring

- **January/February**
  - Continue to submit materials to meet application deadlines
  - Request mid-year reports (if applicable)
  - Confirm that all your application materials have been received by each school to which you applied
  - Write thank you notes to teachers who wrote recommendations on your behalf
- **April**
  - Maintain organized files of all admissions correspondence you receive
  - Make sure you accept an offer of admission before May 1st (or school's deadline) and send in any required deposits and paperwork
- **May**
  - Take AP Exams (if applicable) and request your scores are sent to the college that you will be attending
  - Request your finals transcript, through Common App or Scrib, for your selected school
  - Graduate and celebrate your accomplishments!!!



## WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?

| Nonrestrictive Application Plans   |   |   | Restrictive Application Plans  |   |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Regular Decision</b>  | <b>Rolling Admission</b>  | <b>Early Action (EA)</b>  | <b>Early Decision (ED)</b>   | <b>Restrictive Early Action (REA)</b>   |
| <b>DEFINITION:</b><br>Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.    | <b>DEFINITION:</b><br>Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle. | <b>DEFINITION:</b><br>Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date. | <b>DEFINITION:</b><br>Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early. | <b>DEFINITION:</b><br>Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm. |
| <b>COMMITMENT:</b><br>NONBINDING   | <b>COMMITMENT:</b><br>NONBINDING  | <b>COMMITMENT:</b><br>NONBINDING  | <b>COMMITMENT:</b><br>BINDING  | <b>COMMITMENT:</b><br>NONBINDING  |
| Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment. |   |   | Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.   |   |

## LOOKING AHEAD

- Make sure you are aware of all requirements and deadlines for the colleges/scholarships.
- Many colleges have Early Decision/Early Action deadlines on November 1<sup>st</sup>, November 15<sup>th</sup>, and December 1<sup>st</sup>. UGA's Early Action deadline is October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Many colleges have Regular Decision deadlines on January 1<sup>st</sup>, January 15<sup>th</sup>, and February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Apply for financial aid by filling out the FAFSA form beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> of senior year. Financial aid for the 2021-2022 academic year will be based on 2019 tax information.**

\*\*\*It is critical to keep these deadlines current and accurate in Naviance or your documents may not be sent on time!



# STATE AID PROGRAMS

The state of Georgia has a number of financial aid programs that provide students different ways to pay for their education beyond high school. GSFC administers nearly 20 of these programs. The HOPE Program is the most well-known.

| Program                        | Type  | High School GPA Requirement  | Test Score Requirement   | College GPA Requirement   | Eligible Institutions  | Award Amount 2019-2020   |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| <b>HOPE SCHOLARSHIP</b>        | Merit-based scholarship available to high school graduates seeking a college degree | Minimum 3.0 high school GPA in core courses- English, math, science, social studies and foreign language | No requirement   | Minimum 3.0 postsecondary cumulative GPA for students enrolled in degree level coursework           | University System of Georgia (USG), Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), and approved profit and non-profit, private institutions | <b>Public</b> - Tuition amount based on per credit hour<br><b>Private</b><br><i>Semester</i><br>12+ hours- \$2,152<br>6- 11 hours- \$1,077<br><i>Quarter</i><br>12+ hours- \$1,436<br>6- 11 hours- \$719<br>(award applied to tuition only)    |
| <b>ZELL MILLER SCHOLARSHIP</b> | Merit-based scholarship available to high school graduates seeking a college degree | Minimum 3.7 high school GPA in core courses- English, math, science, social studies and foreign language | SAT- 1200 or higher critical reading and math score (one test sitting) or ACT- 26 composite score or graduate as valedictorian or salutatorian | Minimum 3.3 postsecondary cumulative GPA for students enrolled in degree level coursework           | USG, TCSG, and approved profit and non-profit, private institutions  | <b>Public</b> - Full standard undergraduate tuition amount<br><b>Private</b><br><i>Semester</i><br>12+ hours- \$2,808<br>6- 11 hours- \$1,404<br><i>Quarter</i><br>12+ hours- \$1,914<br>6- 11 hours- \$957<br>(award applied to tuition only) |
| <b>HOPE GRANT</b>              | Grant for students seeking a diploma or certificate                                 | No minimum high school GPA required  | No requirement   | Minimum 2.0 postsecondary cumulative GPA for students enrolled in certificate or diploma coursework | TCSG and USG institutions (that offer diploma and certificate programs)  | Tuition amount based on per credit hour<br>(award applied to tuition only)   |



# STATE AID PROGRAMS

The state of Georgia has a number of financial aid programs that provide students different ways to pay for their education beyond high school. GSFC administers nearly 20 of these programs. The HOPE Program is the most well-known.

| Program                  | Type  | High School GPA Requirement | Test Score Requirement | College GPA Requirement  | Eligible Institutions   | Award Amount 2019-2020   |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------|------------------------|--|---|--|
| <b>HOPE CAREER GRANT</b> | Grant assistance to eligible HOPE Grant and Zell Miller Grant recipients enrolled in specific certificate and diploma programs of study | Not applicable              | No requirement         | Minimum 2.0 postsecondary cumulative GPA for students enrolled in certificate or diploma program | USG and TCSG institutions   | Per term:<br>9+ hours- \$500<br>3-8 hours- \$250<br>1-2 hours- \$125<br><br>Truck driving \$1,000- one time award (award may be applied to any college cost) |
| <b>HOPE GED GRANT</b>    | A one-time grant for students who received a GED issued by TCSG   | Not applicable              | No requirement         | Not applicable   | USG, TCSG, and approved profit and non-profit, private institutions     | One-time award of \$500 (award may be applied to any college cost)   |
| <b>ZELL MILLER GRANT</b> | Merit-based grant for students seeking a diploma or certificate   | Not applicable              | No requirement         | Minimum 3.5 postsecondary cumulative GPA at the end of each term                                 | TCSG and USG institutions (that offer diploma and certificate programs) | Full standard tuition amount (award applied to tuition only)   |

*Award amounts and eligibility requirements may change during the year. Visit [GAfutures.org](http://GAfutures.org) for the most current information.*





| FAFSA® DOCUMENT OR WEBSITE   | AVAILABILITY ESTIMATE                       |
|--|---|
| fafsa.gov  | On or before Dec. 1, 2024                   |
| FAFSA PDF (English and Spanish)  | On or before Dec. 1, 2024                   |
| FAFSA Submission Summary sample (English and Spanish)                            | Soon after the 2025–26 FAFSA form launches  |
| <a href="#">2025–26 FAFSA Prototype</a>  | Available now                               |
| 2025–26 FAFSA® Preview Presentation  | By the time the 2025–26 FAFSA form launches |
| <a href="#">2025–26 Student Aid Index (SAI) and Pell Grant Eligibility Guide</a> | Available now                               |
| Volume 1 of the new <i>FAFSA Specification Guide</i> (FAFSA summary of changes)  | November 2024                               |
| School Code (English and Spanish)  | On or before Dec. 1, 2024                   |

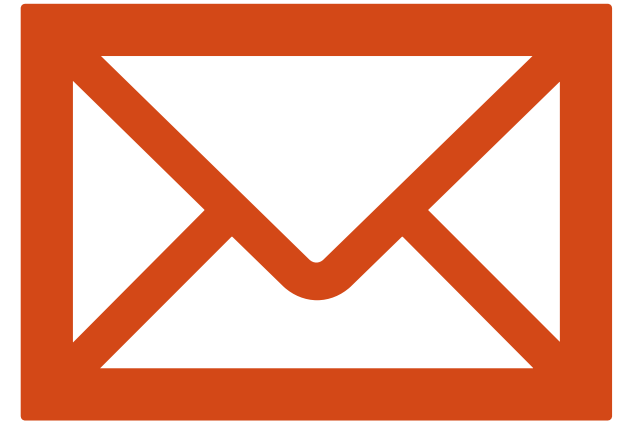
# FAFSA UPDATES

Visit [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov) for more information



# 2024-25 GIA COUNSELING SUPPORT STAFF

| Name                     | Title                 | Email                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Brittany Gibson</b>   | Head Counselor (A-J)  | GIBSONB@FULTONSCHOOLS.ORG         |
| <b>Antonio Grissom</b>   | Counselor (K-Z)       | GRISSOM@FULTONSCHOOLS.ORG         |
| <b>Camille McCray</b>    | IST                   | MCCRAYC@FULTONSCHOOLS.ORG         |
| <b>Nicole Taylor</b>     | Social Worker         | <u>TAYLORN4@FULTONSCHOOLS.ORG</u> |
| <b>Dr. Bridget Isaac</b> | 504 Chair/ Specialist | ISAACB@FULTONSCHOOLS.ORG          |
| <b>Patricia White</b>    | Data Clerk            | WHITEP1@FULTONSCHOOLS.ORG         |
| <b>DeAnna Turner</b>     | Office Clerk          | <u>TURNERDM@FULTONSCHOOLS.ORG</u> |
| <b>Lakisha Wilkins</b>   | School Psychologist   | WILKINSL@FULTONSCHOOLS.ORG        |





2026

**LET THE PLANNING BEGIN!**

We are here to help!

