



Woodstock HS

College/Career Resource Guide & Workbook

NAME: _____

* HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

This workbook is designed to provide an overview of college and career information, while prompting you (the student) to begin thinking about your post-high school plans. It is meant to be used in conjunction with other resources, including the counseling website, the 11th grade college and career presentation, YouScience, and others listed below. **This is an interactive work space!** Throughout the workbook, you will be asked to fill in the blanks or identify different items. So grab a pencil, and use this as a guide to begin navigating your journey!

* RESOURCES TO KNOW

- **Counseling Website:** whs.cherookeek12.net/student-services
- **How to access YouScience:**
 - Students access through Canvas -> SLDS -> My Career Plan -> YouScience

Gafutures.org

SAT: collegeboard.org

ACT: act.org

FAFSA: studentaid.gov

TIP: If you are using the electronic version, there are hyperlinks throughout the workbook identified in blue.

COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Research
2. Create a Testing Plan for SAT or ACT (if required)
3. Visit Colleges & Meet with Representatives
4. Narrow Down List
5. Submit Applications & Request Transcripts
6. Request Recommendations (if required)
7. Financial Aid & FAFSA Completion
8. Overall Status Check



GRADUATION STATUS CHECK

- You can access an unofficial copy of your transcript in Parchment
- Review your transcript to fill out the important highlights below & determine what credits you still need for graduation. You can view a breakdown of the graduation requirements on the WHS Counseling [website](#).
- Contact your school counselor if you notice any errors on your transcript.



Senior Year Courses:

	FALL	SPRING
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

GPA: _____ **Total Credits Earned:** _____

The GPA Mystery

Each college calculates GPAs differently. We encourage students to contact colleges or review their websites to determine which method of GPA calculation they utilize. Students should always report their official NGA (OUT OF 100.00) found on their transcript. **DO NOT** recalculate your GPA. If done incorrectly, it could negatively impact your application.

Cumulative GPA: All classes listed on your high school transcript

Core GPA: Only grades from English, Math, Science, Social Studies, & World Language

Weighted GPA: Includes 5 points added for Honors, and 10 points added for AP & DE courses in CCSD

Unweighted GPA: Removes 5 points or 10 points added for Honors, AP, & DE courses in CCSD

Rank: WHS reports a student's exact class rank



CAREERS & MAJORS

YouScience Career Inventory Results:

*Interests: _____

I am *Surprised Not Surprised* by these results.

Related Careers/Majors: _____

*Aptitudes: _____

I am *Surprised Not Surprised* by these results.

Possible work environments: _____

*Skills: _____

I am *Surprised Not Surprised* by these results.

Related Careers/Majors: _____

*Strengths: _____

I am *Surprised Not Surprised* by these results.

Related Careers/Majors: _____

Career & Major I am Interested In Pursuing or Learning More About:

Career: _____

Major: _____

Use YouScience to access different career inventories to learn more about yourself & possible good fits for careers! Your aptitude results are an awesome way to learn more about careers you would be good at based on what you're already GREAT at!

Check out Big Future from CollegeBoard to browse different careers based on majors of interest.

bigfuture.collegeboard.org/majors



CHOOSING A COLLEGE

What is right for YOU?

What factors are **must-haves** for you when you think of where you want to attend college? Take time to consider the following, & circle which ones are a priority:

Location: In-state ☐ Out-of-state ☐

Campus Surroundings: Large City Small City Rural

Student Body Size: >20,000 13,000-20,000 <13,000

Institution Type: Public Private | 2-yr or less 4-yr

Diversity: Coed Single-Gender HBCU Hispanic-Serving

Student Life: Greek Life Sports ROTC Study Abroad

Other: _____

** TIP: Use GAFutures and YouScience to search for schools that meet your top criteria!*

Types of Admission

Rolling Cycle: Admissions decisions are usually made within 6 weeks of submitting the application. Deadlines usually in spring.

Early Action/Admission (EA): Receive a decision earlier than the standard response date. More emphasis on academics in application; more competitive. Deadlines usually in Oct/Nov/early Dec.

Early Decision (ED): Same as EA but **BINDING**; commit to enroll at the college if admitted & offered satisfactory financial aid. Can **only apply to one** Early Decision school.

Regular Decision (RD): Receive a decision at the standard response date. Usually second semester deadlines.

Applying ED or EA is Most Appropriate for a Student Who:

- Has researched colleges extensively.
- Is absolutely sure that the college is the first choice.
- Has found a college that is a strong match academically, socially, & geographically.
- Meets or exceeds the admission profile for the college for standardized test scores, GPA, & class rank.
- Has an academic record that has been consistently solid overtime.

Applying ED or EA is Not as Appropriate for a Student Who:

- Has not thoroughly researched colleges.
- Is applying early just to avoid stress & paperwork.
- Is not fully committed to attending the college.
- Is applying early only because friends are.
- Needs a strong senior fall semester to bring grades up.

** Your college or career choice is a match to be made, not a trophy to be won. Do what makes sense for YOU!*

*This is where most schools you should be! apply to **

Safety/Backup

Your ACT/SAT score and academics are **higher than** the average range of admitted students.

Target/Good Fit

Your ACT/SAT score and academics are in the **same range** as admitted students.

Dream/Reach

Your ACT/SAT score and academics are **lower than** the average range of admitted students. These schools may also have **low acceptance** rates.

CHOOSING A COLLEGE



Look for the **freshman profiles** to aid in your research. The freshman admission profile summarizes the average academic qualifications of applicants & admitted freshmen each year. Try searching the name of the college followed by "freshman class profile" for examples to aid your research.

Write down 3 schools & circle if they are target/safety/reach, & which admissions cycle you want to apply during.

SCHOOLS I AM INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT:

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1. | GOOD FIT REACH SAFETY REGULAR ROLLING ED EA |
| 2. | GOOD FIT REACH SAFETY REGULAR ROLLING ED EA |
| 3. | GOOD FIT REACH SAFETY REGULAR ROLLING ED EA |



TESTING PLAN



There are two main standardized exams that colleges use for admissions – the ACT and SAT. Colleges do not have a preference, so students should take the exam that aligns best with their strengths. Check out the [test prep page](#) on the counseling website for comparisons between the two tests and information on test prep resources. Although you take this exam outside of school, you should prepare for it like a normal test! STUDY! REVIEW! PRACTICE! Go to the websites below to register.

TIP: Remember your login because you will need to send your test scores to colleges from your account.

act.org

collegeboard.org

My test date: _____ **ACT** **SAT**

I am going to prepare by: *circle strategies that will work for you*

prep class self-study workbook phone app study group
practice exams private tutor online resources

Scholarships

There are two types of scholarships. **Need-based** financial aid is based on family income. **Merit-based** financial aid is based on academic, athletic, fine art, or some other type of achievement. Consider the factors below & circle possible opportunities for your scholarship eligibility.

Athletics Art Portfolio Career Choice Religious Affiliation
 Family's Military Service Alumni Group Parent's Company
 Volunteer Work Academics Musical Talent Unique Skill
 Community Group Diverse Background Employer Essay Hobby

Scholarship Search

[WHS Scholarships](#)

gafutures.org/scholarship-search

scholarships.com

fastweb.com

niche.com

goingmerry.com

cappex.com

TIP: *There are scholarships out there for all grades. Don't wait until senior year to begin applying!*

FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the form that colleges use to award financial aid. Submitting it is your key to accessing student loans, grants, scholarships (including HOPE), and work-study programs.

* FAFSA opens **October 1st** of your senior year and must be completed each year at studentaid.gov. *

Check out www.gafutures.org/federal-aid-scholarships/fafsa/ for resources on how to get started.

HOPE & Zell Miller

The HOPE Program provides merit-based scholarships & grants at in-state colleges for eligible Georgia residents. The HOPE Scholarship covers partial tuition, & Zell Miller covers full tuition at a public school (partial at private school). Go to gafutures.org for further details on program eligibility, award amounts at each college, & to check your HOPE GPA.

HOPE GPA

Your HOPE GPA is calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission & is based on your core classes & World Language. You need to earn at least a **3.0 for HOPE or 3.7 for Zell Miller**. The HOPE GPA does not round & includes all semesters of high school. Zell Miller also requires minimum ACT/SAT test scores. Log on to gafutures.org to view your current HOPE GPA.

MY CURRENT HOPE GPA: _____

HOPE RIGOR

Both HOPE & Zell Miller require a minimum of **4.0 HOPE rigor credits**. Below are the rigor credits offered at WHS. Check the ones you have taken, & circle the ones you plan to take. See also resources listed on [WHS website](#).

English	Math	Social Studies	Science
AP Lang	Acc Geom B/Alg 2	AP Psychology	Chemistry (onlevel/H)
AP Lit	Advanced Algebra	AP Gov/Politics	Anatomy (onlevel/H)
AP Seminar/AP Research	Adv. Fin. Algebra	AP Gov Comp.	Physics
Dual Enrollment	Statistical Reasoning	AP Macroecon	Forensics
<u>World Language</u>	Pre-Calc	AP Microecon	AP Biology
Level II	(onlevel/H/Acc/Enhanced)	AP Human Geo.	AP Chemistry
Level III	AP Calc (AB/BC)	AP World History	AP Environmental
Level IV	AP Stats	AP US History	AP Physics
Level V	Dual Enrollment	Dual Enrollment	AP Comp Sci A
AP			AP Comp Sci Prin
Dual Enrollment			AP Seminar/AP Research
			Dual Enrollment

LOOKING AHEAD



SUMMER BEFORE SENIOR YEAR "TO DO'S:"

1. Use Canvas to access YouScience.
 - Make sure you are familiar with how to log in.
2. Continue Research & Narrow Down Choices
 - **TIP:** If going on college visits, make sure to check out the College & Career Resources page on the counseling website for questions to ask!
3. Begin your college essay and scholarship essay drafts.
 - **TIP:** Check out the free resources at collegeessayguy.com.
4. Research Scholarships.
5. Start thinking about who you want to ask to write your letters of recommendation (LORs). At least one recommender should be a core teacher from 11th or 12th grade. The college's admissions page will let you know how many LORs are required.

POSSIBLE RECOMMENDER #1: _____

POSSIBLE RECOMMENDER #2: _____

BRAINSTORM HERE!



FALL SENIOR YEAR "TO DO'S:"

1. **Finalize Application Plans** = Choose admission cycle you want to apply in, & gather documents to begin application. Keep track of deadlines!
TIP: Meet with College Admissions reps visiting WHS and go visit campuses!
2. **Begin Application(s) & Waive FERPA**
Common App is the recommended platform. → when you waive FERPA, you are waiving your right to see LORs.
3. **Complete Senior Brag Sheet** for your counselor.
4. **Ask teacher(s) for Letters of Recommendation (LORs).**
Staff deadlines are after the student deadlines, but you should ask **at least 2 weeks before.**
5. **Fill out FAFSA starting October 1st.**
6. **Keep Grades Up!**

RESUME WRITING GUIDE

 Below are recommendations for how to begin setting up and writing your resume. It is important to have a resume before you graduate, so you can add on as you gain experiences.

1) [ASVAB - Resume and Career Exploration](#) & 2) [Indeed](#)

You can get templates online from many places, including Google Docs & Microsoft Word. Templates are an awesome way to get started and help you map out your resume formatting.

WHAT SHOULD I PUT ON MY RESUME?

- **List any special courses** (Defensive Driving, CPR, etc.)
- **List any work experience** (Even if you've never had a job or even if an unpaid experience: ex: helping out your neighbor with yardwork)
- **List clubs, extracurricular activities, & volunteering.**
- **List your soft & hard skills**
 - *Hard skills* are actual technical skills you've learned and perform – skills like giving a great presentation or using audiovisual equipment. Writing, communication, social media marketing, languages you can speak, handling cash, and any kind of technology use all fall under the umbrella of hard skills.
 - *Soft skills*, are things like teamwork, organization skills, and ability to work on a tight deadline.

MYTH: I CAN'T CREATE A RESUME BECAUSE I'VE NEVER HAD A JOB.

CAREER INVENTORIES AND GUIDANCE

YouScience Student homepage --> 1) Aptitude & Career Discovery **or** 2) Education & Career Plan Discovery Home **or** 3) Career Connections (connect with employers looking to hire qualified workers)

[GAFutures - Career Exploration](#) & [Career Interest Inventories](#)



NOTES/QUESTIONS/REMINDERS

Use this space to write down questions for your junior advisement meeting or important reminders/notes!



Don't forget self-care! This process can be stressful so make sure you are finding healthy ways to cope. Check out the [counseling website](#), & talk to your school counselor for resources.



Developed by
WHS Counseling
May 2024