FCS INNOVATION ACADEMY SENIOR CLASS MEETINGS CLASS OF 2026



GRAD REQUIREMENTS / YOUR TRANSCRIPT

- English – 4 credits
- Math – 4 credits
- Science – 4 credits
- Social Studies – 3 credits
- CTAE / Fine Art / Language – 3 credits
- Health (.5) & Personal Fitness (.5) – 1 credit
- Additional Electives – 4 credits



*** 23 TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED

Look at your transcript and see what courses are highlighted that you MUST pass to graduate in May.

** ***World Language*** *is <u>not</u> a graduation requirement, but 2 or 3 years (or more) of the <u>SAME</u> world language may be required for college admission.*

** ***Electronic Personal Fitness Waiver*** *– does not give credit only ensures the Personal Fitness requirement has been satisfied. Until it is listed on your transcript as waived, do not consider yourself cleared of the requirement.*

APPLYING TO COLLEGE

WHAT MAKES A COMPLETE ADMISSIONS FILE?

* = IF REQUIRED

APPLICATION

APPLICATION FEE / FEE WAIVER *

COUNSELOR RECOMMENDATION *

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS FILE

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

SCHOOL REPORT *

OFFICIAL TEST SCORES

TEACHER RECOMMENDATION*

MOST USED APPLICATION PLATFORMS

Common Application – Free online platform that allows students to apply to colleges and universities worldwide. Over 1,000 colleges use Common Application as their application portal. Students can apply to up to 20 schools in Common Application.

Ga Futures – Many features, but one part of the website is being able to apply to colleges through their website. They have up to 75 colleges in Georgia as part of their portal. Sometimes redirected to Common App.

Common Black College Application – Unique to Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs). $20 to apply to multiple HBCUs at one time. Student list the top four choices but your application goes to over 50 member institutions. Many of the "big names" are not part of this application – such as Morehouse, Spelman, and Howard – those use Common App.

Direct to Institution College Portal – go directly to the college admission page and find the way the college prefers you apply. Look at their admission webpage, specifically – Freshman Admissions – for directions and a step by step guide.



TEST SCORES / TEST OPTIONAL

College Board

Website that houses the PSAT, SAT, and AP test scores. Students must officially request these documents to be sent to colleges, if required. There is a fee assessed for each report sent to a school. Students have "score choice" where the student decides what scores to send and to where. SAT Superscore FAQs

ACT

Students must officially request these documents to be sent to colleges, if required. There is a fee assessed for each report sent to a school. You cannot send only one section of your ACT score report to colleges. However, some colleges may superscore – which lets you choose your best section scores from multiple test dates. ACT Superscore FAQs Login to your MyACT account and select the "send your scores" option from the dashboard.

Test Optional

This is the best site for the list of schools who may exempt students from sending ACT/SAT test scores – www.fairtest.org

CollegeBoard

ACT

FairTest

The National Center for Fair & Open Testing

TIPS FOR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS



- Be sure to select "UNDERGRADUATE" application and follow steps for Freshman applicants.
- Look for the application checklist for easy reference.
- Send official test scores directly from the testing agency, if required.
- Never use your school email when creating accounts & be sure to use an appropriate email address ☺
- Use the numeric GPA that is shown on your transcript to enter into applications.
- When making accounts or setting up various portals, WRITE EVERYTHING DOWN!
  - Email used
  - Usernames/Passwords
  - PIN assigned

FREE APPLICATION MONTHS / CODES

- Ga Futures will typically host a month of free applications for in-state Georgia schools during **NOVEMBER** and **MARCH.** Most colleges participate in these free application periods. Students use the code provided and follow the directions posted on the Ga Futures website.
- Additionally, many colleges give out free waiver codes to use at different times of the year. These are done by individual institutions.

EXAMPLE BELOW ☺

SUNY Free Application Week 2025

by Mark Veronica

Wed, Jun 25th 2025 03:00 pm

SUNY has announced the dates for Free Application Week in 2025:

October 20 - November 3

Students can save the $50 application fee during these dates.

COLLEGE DEADLINES & SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

IMPORTANT: The Counseling Office requires at least 15 school days to process Transcript/School Reports/ Recommendation requests. Be aware of FALL BREAK this year.

Reminder of popular application deadlines for colleges:

- **October 15th deadline – students must submit requests no later than September 22nd**
- **November 1st deadline – students must submit requests no later than October 6th**
- **December 1st deadline – students must submit requests no later than November 3rd**
- **Deadline in the First week of January – students must submit requests no later than December 1st**

UGA's regular admission deadline is January 1st
Georgia Tech's regular admission deadline is January 5th

Please Note: ***student holidays/teacher workdays, and holiday breaks do not count as school days. Counselors will not process or submit college application materials during those times. Remember, major deadlines are a high-volume time. Get organized and plan ahead!***

OBTAINING TRANSCRIPTS

Official Initial Transcript Request

- Once you add your school counselor in Common Application, the counselor will automatically send.
- All other transcript requests must be made through Scrib Order.
  - If a student is under 18, a parent will need to upload a copy of their identification to the portal.
  - If over 18, the student will need to upload a copy of their identification to the portal.
  - This is a free service to current students.
  - If you do not have a Social Security Number, then enter 0000.
  - An email confirmation goes to the address that was entered in Scrib Order.

Common Application Mid Year Report

- If your college requires a mid year report, counselors will automatically send as soon as we have first semester grades. These are usually completed in mid-January.

End of Year Final Transcript

- All students will request their final official high school transcript in MAY (not before then) using the Scrib Order process above.

OBTAINING COUNSELOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Counselor School Report / Counselor Recommendation

- Students must add their school counselor to their Common App **AND** submit their completed Senior Brag Sheet at least 15 business days (not including holidays/weekends) before the application deadline. Senior Brag Sheet is available on IA Student Canvas in the senior section. **COPY IN YOUR FOLDER but must submit in Canvas!**
- Almost all School Reports are completed through Common Application. Very few are done in other portals.
  - On the Common App college dashboard, choose one of the colleges that you added.
  - Complete the FERPA Release Authorization. It is best to select "waive rights".
  - Then, add your school counselor to your portal.
  - This step is done one time and then automatically gets added for the other colleges.
  - REMOVE colleges if you decide not to apply.
- If using a different application portal, please add the counselor email into the website. Keep in mind that if you enter it incorrectly, we will not receive it. Sometimes it goes to our SPAM mail, so please follow up that we have received it.
- No letters are given directly to students.

OBTAINING TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Teacher Recommendation Letters

- FIRST, find out if it is even required.
- Then, ask nicely ☺ Great Resource for HOW TO ASK here.
- Please know that if the teacher has already committed to several students, they may ask you to find another teacher.
- Most are completed electronically through Common Application.
- Typically, colleges are wanting letters from an academic subject area teacher.
- For EACH college in their dashboard, the student will need to add teachers to their recommender tab in the Common App.
- Each college will tell the student how many are required, optional, or none.
- If a college does not accept recommendations, you cannot send them.
- Teachers may ask for a copy of the student's senior brag sheet.
- Counselors do not manage this process.



CONSIDERATION FACTORS FOR ADMISSIONS

OBJECTIVE FACTORS

- GRADE POINT AVERAGE
- TEST SCORES
- RIGOR OF COURSES

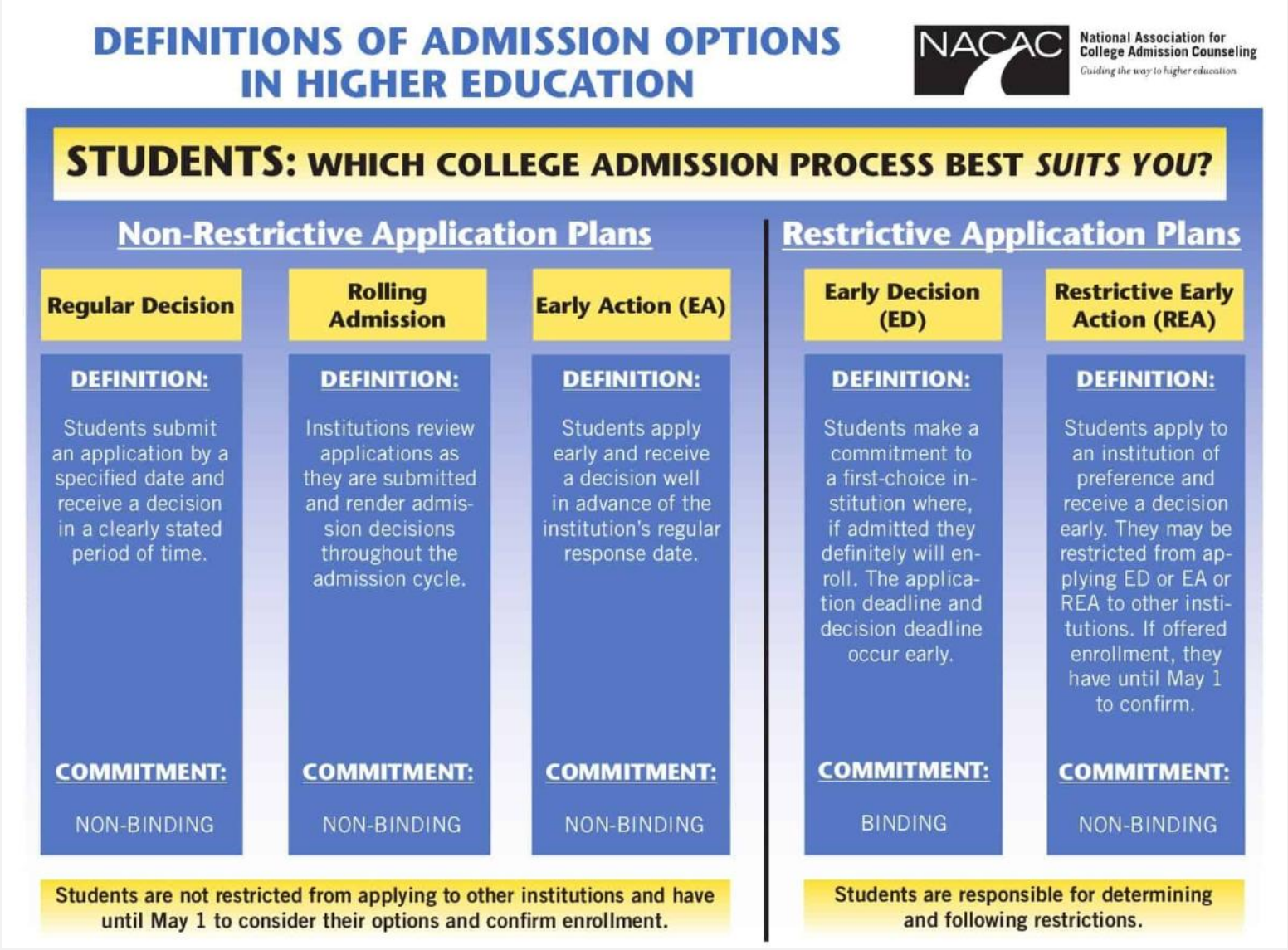
COMMON DATA SET – provides data and metrics in a common format to allow for easy comparison across institutions.



SUBJECTIVE FACTORS

- COLLEGE APPLICATION ESSAYS
- LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
- EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
- LEADERSHIP ROLES
- RESUMES / INTERVIEWS / PORTFOLIOS
- DEMONSTRATED INTEREST
- MORE HOLISTIC

ADMISSION OPTIONS



Early Decision - BINDING

examples:

Brown
Cornell
Dartmouth
Duke
U Penn
Vanderbilt

Restrictive Early Action (REA) – NON-BINDING

examples:

Princeton
Harvard
Yale
Stanford

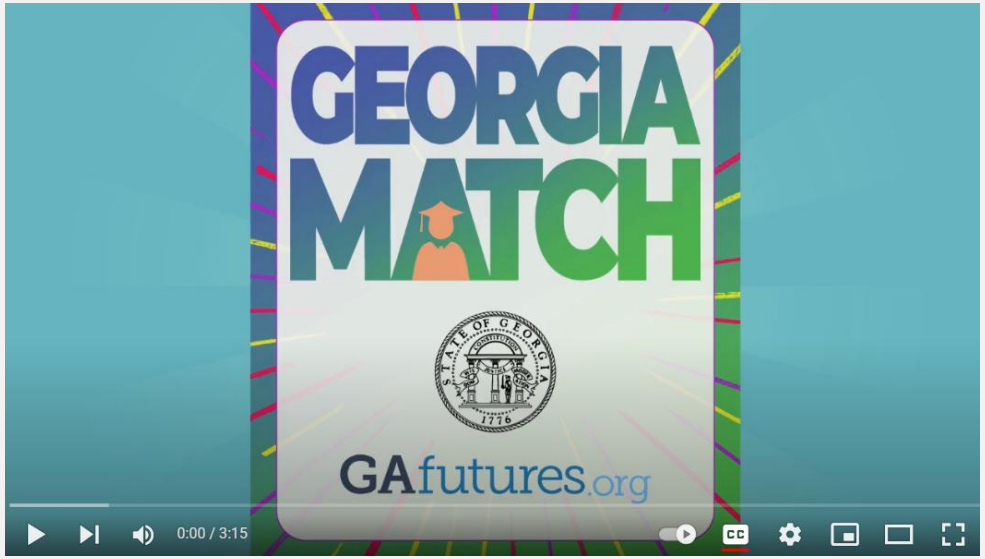
***You cannot apply REA to one school and Early Decision to another school – and you cannot apply REA to one school and Early Action to a private school.*
*Read the rules carefully!***

GEORGIA MATCH

- What is Georgia Match?

- GSFC/GAfutures will mail GEORGIA MATCH letters in October to the current seniors – Class of 2026!

- Review the FAQ's to answer questions and navigate to the GAfutures Student Dashboard to view a PDF of their letter and list of colleges that are on their letter.



COMMON QUESTIONS ON APPLICATIONS

COMMON QUESTIONS ASKED ON APPLICATIONS
IN YOUR FOLDER

Total students in Class of 2026 = **334**

Innovation Academy does NOT report Rank, give percentile, or decile to students, parents, or colleges. Choose N/A if asked.

Only Valedictorian & Salutatorian are reported after 1st semester grades are posted.

Your numeric average is weighted and on a 100-point scale.
** DO NOT REPORT your GPA to colleges using a 4.0 scale. **USE the numeric average listed on your transcript.**

We offer **12 Honors** courses and **25 Advanced Placement** courses.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE

Fulton County Cumulative Numeric Average	HOPE GPA
100-point scale	4-point scale A=4.0, B=3.0, C=2.0, F=0.0
All final grades are included (middle school, academic/core, electives, etc.)	Academic/Core courses (English, Math, Science, Social Studies & World Language) taken in high school, & Academic electives (Ex: Debate, Yearbook, Newspaper, Sociology, & Math Support), and some Career Tech classes (Ex: Essentials of Healthcare, AP Comp Sci A, AP Comp Sci Principles)
Weighted (7 points added to final passing grade for each Honors, AP, & DE course)	Unweighted (7 honors points are removed before converted to the 4.0 scale, but additional 0.5 quality points added to AP & DE courses, up to a 4.0)
Calculated by Fulton County Posted on high school transcript	Calculated by Georgia Student Finance Commission at the end of high school Available on www.gafutures.org - must have at least four credits that are considered "rigor" as defined by GSFC.

**** Colleges do not necessarily remove Honors points from grades before calculating a student's GPA for admission! Each college has their own policy for how they calculate GPAs for admission.**

HOPE & ZELL MILLER SCHOLARSHIP

- Transcripts are uploaded to Ga Futures in mid-September.
- If you do not see yours, please check your SSN in your profile.
- Please note that only Georgia Student Finance Commission can calculate HOPE or ZELL GPA, NOT Innovation Academy
- HOPE = Minimum 3.0 GPA + Rigor for HOPE – can be earned once in college as well as right out of HS
  - ZELL = Minimum 3.7 GPA + Rigor + Test Scores submitted to GSFC – only awarded right out of HS
- Available to Georgia residents who have demonstrated academic achievement. Must meet US citizenship or eligible non-citizen requirements.
- An application must be submitted prior to graduation. Either the FAFSA or the GSFAPP will enter a student into consideration.
- FINAL transcripts are uploaded the first week of June to GSFC and the college handles it from there.



HOPE & Zell Miller Scholarships

HOPE & ZELL MILLER SCHOLARSHIPS

HOPE Scholarship

Georgia's HOPE Scholarship is available to Georgia residents who have demonstrated academic achievement. The scholarship provides money to assist students with a portion of the tuition cost at a HOPE Scholarship eligible college or university.

Georgia's HOPE Scholarship has program eligibility requirements, academic requirements, and a length of eligibility. Use the menu to the left to view more information about the application, program information, and requirements.

Note: Georgia public and private high school students can track their HOPE Scholarship status from high school through their GAfutures account at *My High School HOPE GPA*.

Note: Graduates of unaccredited home study programs or out-of-state high schools must submit an academic evaluation request and documents for an academic eligibility evaluation. Use the Student Document Upload feature to submit academic evaluation documents as one file.

HELPFUL RESOURCES & DATES

ASVAB TEST

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025 – LINK IN CANVAS or see Ms. McKenzie

- The ASVAB is the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery.
- It is a free 3 hour standardized test. It measures a person's aptitude in four domains – Verbal, Math, Science & Technical, and Spatial.
- It has two main purposes –
  - Identifies students who are interested in joining the military.
  - Allows any student to receive career exploration tools.
- The career planning tools and resources are available to students after taking the ASVAB. This is the true advantage of program participation.
- The ASVAB does NOT mean you have to join the military. You can opt out of recruiter contact when you are given the test.

SENIOR RESOURCES

Ga Futures Website
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
College Essay Guy
School Links – new this year; Fulton County required site available in September.
Senior Brag Sheet
Common Application
Common Application – Step by Step Guide
Common Black College Application
HOPE / ZELL Scholarship Information
College Board – Send SAT Scores
ACT – Send ACT Scores
U.S. News & World Report – Best Scholarship Search Sites