

# Alpharetta High School

## 2025-2026 *College Resource Guide*



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HS CEEB Code: 110058  
[www.fultonschools.org/alpharettahs](http://www.fultonschools.org/alpharettahs)

### JUNIOR/SENIOR YEAR CHECKLIST

#### **SPRING SEMESTER JUNIOR YEAR**

- Start exploring summer activities that support your future goals
- Visit college campuses over Spring Break (virtual tours and fairs available on colleges' websites)
- Make sure you are registered for the correct courses based on graduation and specific college requirements. DO NOT overload yourself!
- Take the SAT/ACT {Subject Test(s) if needed}
- Register with the NCAA if pursuing an athletic scholarship at a Division 1 or 2 institution. Complete application at [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) and send transcripts and test scores to NCAA
- To explore your strengths and interests for a program of study and/or career, take the Student Onboarding Career Aptitude Placement Quiz in Schoolinks
- Also utilize the Career Center in Schoolinks to explore what careers you are suited to
- Maintain a competitive GPA
- Join clubs and volunteer for activities related to your interests
- Start or update a resume highlighting your academic achievements, awards, special skills, and talents
- Check admissions requirements for schools you are interested in and make sure your courses align with the requirements

#### **SUMMER BEFORE SENIOR YEAR**

- Take part in activities that continue to enhance your college and scholarship applications
- Narrow down your college list
- Start working on admissions essays
- Research scholarship opportunities

#### **FALL SEMESTER SENIOR YEAR**

- Take charge in your extracurricular activities and continue to demonstrate leadership skills
- Request recommendations from Teachers, Counselors, or Employers at least 2-4 weeks ahead of deadlines.
- Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on or after October 1 (the earlier, the better) at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov)
- Parents should prepare to complete the CSS/Profile® for financial aid as early as November if you plan on applying to private colleges.
- Apply for admissions at the colleges you've chosen
- Order and send official ACT or SAT scores and your high school transcript to all the colleges
- Submit all application materials before deadlines
- Confirm materials have been received by colleges, including letters of recommendations and official scores by logging into the college's admissions portal

#### **SPRING SEMESTER SENIOR YEAR**

- Apply to any additional colleges you're still considering
- Continue to keep up your grades as you wait to hear decisions from schools
- Apply for housing
- Visit colleges to which you've been accepted if you still need help making a decision
- Check financial aid award letters in April and consider appealing if not been awarded a fair amount by a particular college
- Decide on a college and send the Enrollment Confirmation Docs to the college by the date specified

# COLLEGE ADMISSION TESTING

Most colleges require either the SAT or ACT. Test scores are intended to supplement the secondary school record and help admission officers put local data – e.g., course rigor and GPA – in a national perspective.

**Use AHS Code 110058 when registering to ensure that your score is sent to Alpharetta HS.**

*SAT and ACT Fee waivers are available for qualified students.*

ACT | [act.org](http://act.org)

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

Test Date	Registration Deadline
Dec. 13, 2025	Nov. 24, 2025
Feb. 14, 2026	Jan. 23, 2026
April 11, 2026	Mar. 24, 2026

Test Date	Registration Deadline
Dec. 6, 2025	Nov. 21, 2025
March 14, 2026	Feb. 27, 2026
May 2, 2026	April 17, 2026

Each University System of Georgia college and university has established minimum SAT/ACT scores required for freshman admission. Prospective freshmen are encouraged to view the USG Freshman Admission Requirements document for the HSGPA, test score, and Freshman Index requirements for each of the colleges and universities in the University System.

Free Applerouth Test Prep - *More information to come.*

SAT Prep class offered by Georgia Virtual as an elective class Online via [Gavs.Geniussis.com](http://Gavs.Geniussis.com)

Khan Academy offers free personalized practice for the SAT on [KhanAcademy.com/sat](http://KhanAcademy.com/sat)

Free ACT test prep through [ACT.org](http://ACT.org)



## COLLEGE ADMISSION: WHAT IS RIGHT FOR ME?

**Rolling Admissions:** the applicant is notified as soon as the application has been processed, and the file is complete.

**Early Action/Admission/Notification:** receive a decision earlier than the standard response date BUT are NOT required to accept the admission offer or make a deposit prior to May 1.

**Early Decision: BINDING CONTRACT**–commit to enroll at the college if admitted and offered a satisfactory financial aid package. You can only apply to one Early Decision school.

### A NOTE ON ATHLETICS

- Seniors must have 17.0 credits when school starts in August to be eligible for Fall sports, per GHSA rules.
- There are specific requirements for each Division if you hope to be NCAA eligible in college  
See [www.NCAA.org/Student-Athletes/Future](http://www.NCAA.org/Student-Athletes/Future) to register and for more information.
- Request a transcript be sent to NCAA at the end of junior year by going to [www.gafutures.org](http://www.gafutures.org).

# SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID



## HOPE, Zell Miller, HOPE Grant, and Zell Miller Grant

*Student Social Security Number needs to be filed with the school.*

Georgia's HOPE Scholarship is available to Georgia residents who have demonstrated academic achievement. The scholarship provides money to assist students with their educational costs of attending a HOPE eligible college in Georgia. See details on eligibility and award amounts at [www.GAfutures.org](http://www.GAfutures.org).

### HOPE Scholarship

3.0 HOPE GPA at the time of graduation as calculated by GAFUTURES. *GPA is not rounded up. Four Rigor courses required.*

### Zell Miller Scholarship

3.7 HOPE GPA and a 1200 (CR+M) on the SAT on a single testing or 26 Composite on the ACT. *Four Rigor courses required.*

### HOPE Grant and Zell Miller Grant

No high school GPA requirement. This program is for students seeking a technical certificate or diploma. 17 Program of Study for which Free Tuition is available through the HOPE Career Grant. Visit [www.TCSG.edu/Free-Tuition](http://www.TCSG.edu/Free-Tuition) to see the full list of available programs.

A student's High School HOPE Scholarship GPA Calculation is not the same as his/her high school GPA. Grades earned in 9th through 12th grade in core content areas along with some career tech courses are included and converted to a 4.0 scale.

*Courses taken in middle school for high school credit are not included.*

- The 7 points awarded for honors, AP and college courses are removed. • Numeric grades are converted to a 4.0 scale.
- For AP and college courses where the unweighted grade is a "B" or a "C" or 2.0 points, an additional 0.5 weight is added.

*Details on HOPE GPA calculations and individual HOPE GPA can be found by logging into [www.GAfutures.org](http://www.GAfutures.org)*

## 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 grants, scholarships, work-study programs, and student loans.

FAFSA OPENED Oct 1, 2025  
and must be completed each year.  
[www.StudentAid.gov](http://www.StudentAid.gov)

## CSS Profile

The CSS PROFILE is required by many private colleges and universities to determine your eligibility for non-government financial aid, such as the institution's own grants, loans, and scholarships.

[www.CSSprofile.Collegeboard.org](http://www.CSSprofile.Collegeboard.org)

## FAQ

**Q: Do I have to pay for scholarships?**

A: You should never have to pay for scholarship searches.

**Q: How can I search for scholarships?**

A: Here are a few FREE recommended sites:

Naviance through [www.ClassLink.com](http://www.ClassLink.com), [www.GAfutures.org](http://www.GAfutures.org)  
[www.StudentAid.gov](http://www.StudentAid.gov), [www.ScholarshipAmerica.org](http://www.ScholarshipAmerica.org)

**Q: How do I search for merit aid?**

A: Each college will list their scholarship on their Financial Aid or Scholarship page. Scholarship deadlines are usually earlier than regular admissions deadlines. Check with each college to see their process for applying and their deadline. Also check [www.meritaid.com](http://www.meritaid.com)

## Academic Common Market

is a tuition-saving program for college students in the 15 SREB member states who want to pursue degrees that are not offered by their in-state institutions. Students can enroll in out-of-state institutions that offer their degree program and pay the in-state tuition rates.

For more information visit:  
[www.SREB.org](http://www.SREB.org)

# COLLEGE SELECTION PROCESS

Begin by searching for colleges that interest you. Some factors to consider include: Size, Location, Cost of Attendance, Major, Student Life, etc. Then, divide your choices into three categories by your chance of being admitted. **Applying to at least two schools in each category will help you avoid aiming your sights too low and missing out on a chance to get into a competitive program or aiming too high and not getting in anywhere at all. Remember to apply to four or more colleges minimum.**

*Sometimes the safety schools can end up offering a hefty scholarship/and/or acceptance into the Honors Program.*

<u>Safety/Backup</u>	<u>Target/Good Fit</u>	<u>Dream/Reach</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater than 60% chance of admission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30-60% chance of admission; you stand a competitive chance of getting in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Less than 30% chance of admission</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your Numeric Average/Test Scores are above average</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your academic record/test scores are in line with the average incoming class (compare with freshmen profile)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These are schools that present the toughest challenge in terms of admission selectivity and/or cost</li> </ul>

Use SchoolLinks to search for colleges and save the ones of interest in your SchoolLinks account.

To explore your strengths and likes for a major and career, take one of the many assessments on the Explore tab in SchoolLinks.

## The GPA Mystery

Each college calculates GPAs differently. We encourage students to contact colleges to ask which method of GPA calculation they utilize. **Students should always report their official weighted or unweighted numeric average found on their transcript. DO NOT recalculate your GPA unless directed by a college.**

### Cumulative GPA

All classes listed on your high school transcript

### Core GPA

Only grades from English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and World Language areas are included

### Numeric Average

Fulton County calculates a numeric average out of 100 and provides a weighted and unweighted GPA (family choice to select one suited to college)

### Rank

AHS does not rank students

# COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

## STEP 1: SUBMIT APPLICATION

Submit application to the colleges of your choice via their website. Note any deadlines imposed by the college and plan ahead by four weeks or earlier.

## STEP 2: SEND SAT/ACT SCORES

Contact the testing agency and send your SAT/ACT scores sent to the colleges. **Plan ahead! This can take a few weeks. For the SAT visit [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org); ACT visit [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).**

## STEP 3: TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS

Submit high school transcripts to each college. **Students may request official transcripts for college or scholarship opportunities after Labor Day. It is important for students to hold their requests until after this time to ensure complete transcripts reflecting summer courses and senior class schedules are reported to institutions. Most early application deadlines are in October so this should not adversely impact any student's application. For students applying to college through Common App, no additional transcript request is required. (Details on the transcript request process will be shared in late August 2026).**

## STEP 4: REQUEST RECOMMENDATIONS (if required)

Some colleges require teacher and/or counselor recommendations. If the college you applied to requires a recommendation, adhere to the guidelines established by the college. **If the recommendation must be mailed, provide your teacher with a pre-stamped, pre-addressed envelope and allow at least four weeks notice ahead of deadlines. Ask the teacher if he/she is able to write a recommendation for you. If they say yes, then send them an invite to submit a recommendation for you.**

**For counselor recommendations and/or school forms, provide a minimum of 15 school days before the college deadline (not including holidays). Submit the required counselor/school form and notify the counselor. All seniors need to submit the Senior Brag Sheet in the Senior Canvas page.**