

Senior Newsletter | November 2025

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 Hi seniors and families - I'm here to help support you and your student in identifying “best fit” colleges, exploring career pathways, and staying on track throughout the application and decision-making process. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions!

Fall Post-Secondary Timeline

- ✓ **Transcripts:** Updated transcripts were uploaded to Skyward's Portfolio section at the start of the year. As a reminder, GPAs are only updated at the end of a course (semester or year). Students are always able to download unofficial transcripts from Skyward.
 - ✓ **Test-Optional Colleges:** Over 80% of schools are not requiring SAT/ACT scores. Even if your child takes the test, they don't need to submit scores unless they strengthen the application. Check each college's policy before sending scores. Search "Middle 50% SAT at [School Name]" to compare scores to what was admitted the previous year. Students can send scores to 4 colleges for free when registering for SAT or ACT.
 - ✓ **Letters of Recommendation:** Most colleges do not require them. Check requirements first. If needed, students should speak to teachers first, then request via Naviance.
 - ✓ **College Applications:** We recommended submission: by Thanksgiving (or no later than winter break). All deadlines are posted on each college's website. **Transcripts must be requested in Naviance.**
 - ✓ **Fit Matters:** Consider academics, social life, location, and affordability when choosing a college.
 - ✓ **Voting:** Encourage your child to learn about local candidates and vote—every vote matters!
 - ✓ **Selective Service:** Male students must register at age 18: www.sss.gov
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Transcripts and Counselor Recommendations

Important Timeline:

- Counselors require 2 weeks to process transcript requests.
 - If a counselor recommendation letter is needed, allow more time.
 - Students must provide necessary info for counselor letters.
 - Check Naviance > Manage Transcripts to track progress of transcripts.
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Scholarships

How to Find Scholarships:

1. Log into Naviance
2. Go to: **Colleges > Scholarships & Money > Scholarship List**

 Updated regularly – check often!

Favorite Search Sites:

- [Fastweb](#)
- [Going Merry](#)
- [Pittsburgh Foundation](#)



Featured Scholarships:

- [Ron Brown Scholar Program](#) – for African American seniors. Deadline: Dec. 1
- [PACAC Scholarship](#) – PA seniors, 3.0 GPA, opens Nov. 15. Deadline: Feb. 3
- [APIA Scholars](#) – for Asian & Pacific Islander students. Opens Nov. 15. Deadline Jan. 15
- [Jackie Robinson Foundation](#) – For highly motivated minority students with financial need students. Deadline: Jan. 7



SAT & ACT testing



Info & registration:

- [SAT – collegeboard.org](#)
- [ACT – act.org](#)



Dates are posted in:

- Class of 2026 Teams > Post-Secondary Planning
- Counseling Center webpage



Test Optional Tips:

- If scores help your application – submit them.
- If not – apply test-optional!
- See if your college is test-optional: [FairTest.org](#)



Testing Notes:

- Free/reduced lunch = fee waivers available – see your counselor or Ms. Sitko
- No preference between SAT or ACT



ACT/SAT Test Prep Options

- [Khan Academy](#) (FREE SAT prep)
- [ACT Academy](#) (FREE ACT prep)
- [Penn State Beaver](#) – In-person SAT classes
- [3RPrep](#) – Virtual & in-person options
- [Goldstein Test Prep](#) – SAT/ACT tutoring (in-person & virtual)



NCAA Eligibility (Div I & II Athletes)



Register at: [eligibilitycenter.org](#)



Official transcripts sent at the end of the academic year



Send test scores directly from ACT/SAT websites



Review NCAA-approved courses (Page 18 of Program of Studies)



Not required for Division III or NAIA schools

Helpful Resources

Georgia Tech Admission Blog

Insightful, funny, and useful for all students – not just Georgia Tech applicants!

 [Georgia Tech Blog](#)

College Essay Guy

Free tools and advice on essays & applications

 collegeessayguy.com

If you've made it this far—great job staying informed!

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you or your child need support navigating any step of the post-secondary planning process.