

CHS SENIOR CHECKLIST

Start *HERE!*

- ☐ **MAKE SURE YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER IS CORRECT IN SYNERGY!**
- ☐ **Explore your options**
 - Research colleges that fit your academic interests, location preferences, and budget.
 - Make an appointment with your school counselor
 - Attend PROBE Fair, schedule visits, or virtual info sessions.
 - Review the [CHS SENIOR PACKET](#)
- ☐ **Create your accounts**
 - [Common App](#)
 - [GAfutures](#) (GA colleges and Zell/HOPE tracking)
- ☐ **Complete the application**
 - Double-check deadlines for Early Action, Early Decision, and Regular Decision.
 - Send transcripts through GAfutures (if applying to a Georgia public college) or Parchment (out of state)
- ☐ **Fill out a Senior Profile for your Recommenders**
 - [CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD PROFILE](#)
 - Write your college essay or personal statement (have an English teacher/counselor review it).
 - Ask 2–3 teachers or counselors early for recommendation letters **if needed**.
 - Give your recommenders 10 school days to complete
- ☐ **Take or send test scores (if required)**
 - Some colleges are test-optional, but if not:
 - Register or send scores through College Board (SAT) or ACT.org.
- ☐ **Send your Transcript!**
 - GAFutures (In State)
 - Parchment (Out of State)
 - NCAA- Please use Parchment
 - NAIA- Email Karen.Holton@cherokeek12.net

School Counselors DO NOT send your transcript for you!

After Applying...

- ☐ **Check your email regularly**
 - Watch for updates from colleges about missing documents or next steps.
 - Check your JUNK/SPAM Folder
- ☐ **Track application status**
 - Create a spreadsheet to track deadlines, logins, and confirmations.
- ☐ **Celebrate milestones!**
 - Share acceptances with your counselor
 - Complete senior surveys and send final transcripts at the end of the year.
- ☐ **Seniors MUST REQUEST THEIR FINAL TRANSCRIPT TO BE SENT TO THEIR POST SECONDARY INSTITUTION AFTER JUNE 1 TO CONFIRM GRADUATION STATUS**

How can I be successful in this process from start to finish?

- Check your personal email for correspondence from your counselor and college regarding the program information such as acceptance, additional required documentation, course registration, etc.
- Get your Senior Profile to your School Counselor and Letter of Rec teachers ASAP!
- Start the application process early!



CHS

STUDENT SERVICES



SENIOR PROFILE FORM



GAFUTURES



PARCHMENT

CHS SENIOR CHECKLIST

Financial Aid & Scholarships

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Complete the FAFSA

- Go to studentaid.gov to complete your FAFSA.
- You'll need your FSA ID (student and parent).
- The FAFSA opens October 1.

FAFSA CHECKLIST

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Review HOPE/Zell eligibility

- Track your GPA and rigor credits on Gafutures.org.

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Apply for scholarships

- Local: CHS Website under "Student Services"
- National: Fastweb.com, [BigFuture Scholarships](http://BigFutureScholarships.com), Scholarships.com
- School Specific: Once you have committed to a school, check their website as they will have their own scholarship portal/website.

Other Senior Info

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Order Cap & Gown

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Order your Yearbook

☐

Order a Yard Sign

☐

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR
GRADUATION!



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STUDENT SERVICES

Fast Facts

- November is Georgia's "Apply to College Month" where most colleges in GA waive their application fees. Find the codes [LINKED HERE](#) on the GAFutures Website.

TYPES OF APPLICATIONS:

• **Early Action (EA) – Non-Binding**

- You can apply early and still choose later.
- You submit your application early.
- You get an early admission decision.
- But you do not have to commit – you can still apply to other colleges, compare financial aid offers, and make your final decision by May 1.
- Some schools offer "Restrictive" or "Single-Choice" Early Action, which limits where else you can apply early, so check each school's policy carefully.

• Best for:

- ✓ Students who are ready to apply early
- ✓ Want to know results sooner
- ✓ Still want to keep their options open

• **Early Decision (ED) – Binding**

- You apply early and commit if accepted.
- You can only apply to one college using Early Decision.
- If accepted, you must attend that college and withdraw all other applications.
- It's a binding agreement – the only reason to decline is if the financial aid package is not sufficient.

Best for:

- ✓ Students who have a clear first-choice school
- ✓ Have visited, researched, and are 100% sure it's the right fit
- ✓ Are comfortable committing before seeing other offers



CAP & GOWN