



SENIOR PRESENTATION 2026

Presented by Cambridge High School Counseling Dept.

Counselors

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Graduation Requirements

Requirements	Credits
Language Arts	4
Mathematics	4
Social Studies	3
Science	4
Health/Personal Fitness	1
W Lang and/or Fine Art and/or CTAE Students planning to enter/transfer into a 4 year college/university must take a minimum of two units of the same world language.	3
Electives	4
Total Credits	23



Planning for Life After High School - Options

- **4 Year College/University**

- Bachelor degree
 - University of Georgia
 - Kennesaw State University
 - Georgia State University
 - University of Alabama
 - College of Charleston
- HOPE Scholarship for in-state schools

- **2 Year Colleges and Technical Colleges**

- Associate Degree
- Diploma
- Certificate
 - Gwinnett Tech
 - Lanier Tech
 - Perimeter College (Georgia State)
 - Georgia Highlands
 - Embry-Riddle
 - Art Institute of Atlanta
 - Paul Mitchell School
- **HOPE Grant for certain programs.** Other scholarship programs available too based on major
- **High Demand Jobs in Georgia**
 - www.tcsgeu/ga-high-demand



Planning for Life After High School - Options

- **Military**

- Marines, Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard
 - Must take the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)
 - Recruiting process – recruiter will assist with all required steps that go into enlisting in the military



- **Careers**

- Airlines
- Police
- Firefighting
- Real Estate
- Health Professions

- **Gap Year**

- To work/build income
- Develop certainty with future goals
- Volunteer
- Various organizations have GAP year programs where students can travel as they build experiences



Real Talk-Money

Cost of attendance in state public vs. private or out of state

Avg. cost of attendance a year in Georgia at a public institution is above \$30,000

Annual Tuition and fees for 15 credit hours ranges from \$5,000 to \$12,000 approx. (Georgia Universities and colleges data https://www.usg.edu/institutions/student_outcomes/)

HOPE and Zell Miller: see actual rates and amount at gafutures.org

Update- HOPE now pays 100 percent of tuition based on last years rate (a cost difference may exist)

Increase in HOPE Scholarship payment for private institutions

Have the financial talk with your family and with colleges

Academic Common Market- is a tuition-savings program for college students in the 15 Southern Regional Education Board 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/academic-common-market

Types of Admission

Rolling Admissions

Regular Decision

Early Action – Invites early applications and receives early notice of decision. If accepted, **student is not obligated to attend.**

Early Decision – Invites early applications and receives early notice of decision. If accepted, **student is obligated to attend and withdraw all other applications.** Binding contract signed by student, parent and counselor at time of application.

Focus the List

Narrow your list of colleges – balance is key

View the school profiles and compare the admissions data to your own academic record and test scores

► **Reach School (less than 30% chance of admission) – Pick 1 or 2**

Your Academic Record/Test scores are below average of Freshman Profile

Very competitive admissions; low acceptance rates (example Ivy's and other competitive colleges)

► **Good Fit/Target School (30%-60% chance of admission) – Pick 2 - 4**

Your Academic Record/Test Scores are in line with Freshman Profile

► **Safety School (greater than 60% chance of admission) – Pick 1 or 2**

Your Academic Record/Test Scores are above the average *Freshman Profile

***Apply to schools that are a good match for your personality, interests, and career goals and fit into your financial plan**

Freshmen Profile- data summary typically of the mid 50 percent of accepted student from the previous year. List Average GPA, SAT/ACT score range and rigor and demographics

- **SAT or ACT Scores**
 - **Required at:**
 - UGA, Ga Tech, GSU (Atlanta Campus), GCSU, KSU, Augusta University and Georgia Southern
- **Transcript-GPA and course rigor**
- **Could be a holistic review of application (extracurriculars, jobs, volunteer work considered)**
- **Essays or Short Response Questions (depends on college)**
- **Letter of Recommendation-may be required from teachers or School Counselor. Check the admission requirements page of the college to see what they need.**
- **Deadline for application**
- **HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship (Georgia Institutions only)-GPA and rigor based. Test scores for Zell Miller required.**
- **Scholarships-look at the Financial Aid/Scholarship page for the college to see requirements and deadlines**

Admission at a 4yr College/University

Admission at a 2yr College or Tech School

- ACCUPLACER – Placement test to determine best fit for success in classes
- SAT or ACT Scores (optional)
- Open Enrollment, late or rolling deadlines
- Possible to transfer into a 4 year college – talk to college advisor before you register for specific classes
- Hope Grant, Zell Miller Grant, Hope Career Grant: No GPA or Rigor required



PULLING TOGETHER THE APPLICATION

Cambridge Processes and Procedures

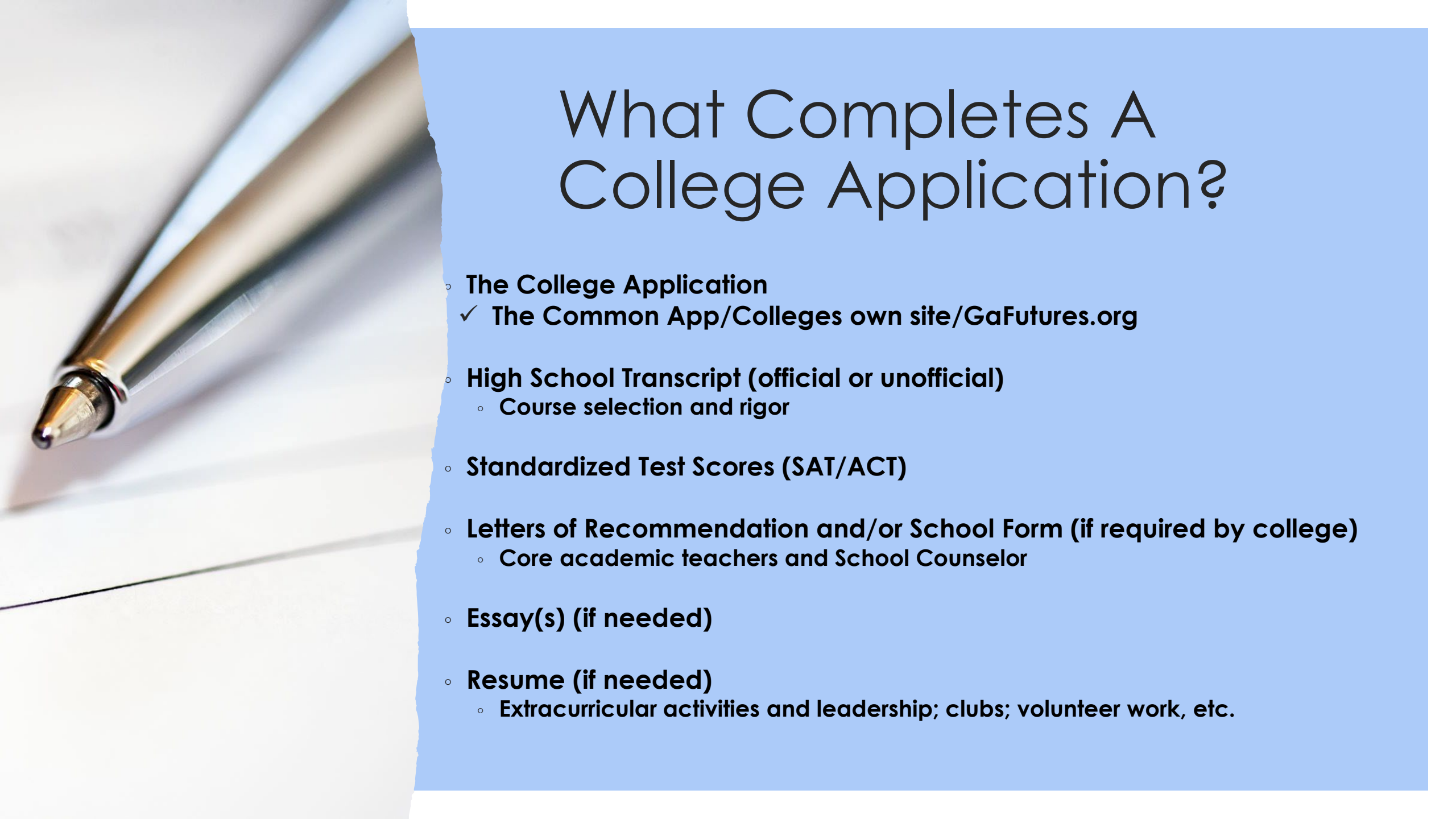
Data Needed for College Applications

Cambridge CEEB Code 112129

Class size: 420

GPA: 100 scale weighted/default

Class Rank: Do Not Rank



What Completes A College Application?

- **The College Application**
 - ✓ **The Common App/Colleges own site/GaFutures.org**
- **High School Transcript (official or unofficial)**
 - **Course selection and rigor**
- **Standardized Test Scores (SAT/ACT)**
- **Letters of Recommendation and/or School Form (if required by college)**
 - **Core academic teachers and School Counselor**
- **Essay(s) (if needed)**
- **Resume (if needed)**
 - **Extracurricular activities and leadership; clubs; volunteer work, etc.**

How Do I Apply and Send My Transcript?

COMMON APPLICATION

1. Create account
2. Complete all required forms
3. Invite your counselor
 - Make sure counselor email is correct!
 - Turn in Your Senior Biography Sheet to counselor if counselor letter is required
4. Counselor will upload your transcript
5. Invite teacher(s) for letter of rec.
 - Teacher will upload letter
6. Student sends test scores to college directly through testing agency

NON COMMON APP

1. Complete application on colleges site or Gafutures (for Ga. Colleges)
2. Send test scores through testing agency
3. If there is a counselor/teacher recommendation required or school form to complete:
 - Your Senior Biography Sheet to counselor and teacher
 - Invite counselor and/or teacher and send link
 - If paper form/recommendation, please provide stamped and addressed envelope to counselor/teachers
4. Request transcript via **Scribder**

***Use your personal email account for all college applications**



- All documents (school form, letters of recommendation, transcripts, etc.) are electronically completed/uploaded
- To get help on how to use The Common App:
<https://www.commonapp.org/apply/first-year-students>
- The Common Application **requires** counselor information (name, email). Do this asap as this will allow us to start working on our part. Students can continue working in their application until the application deadline.
- For Teacher letter of recommendation- need teachers name and email (ask the teacher first please)
- Students taking Dual Enrollment classes-need to tell colleges that they are planning on taking spring courses. These classes are not on transcript as registration starts in October/November. They will be placed on the transcript as soon as the student registers for the class.

Scriborder- System for requesting transcripts

- September 8th is the day when we will start releasing transcripts via Scriborder and Common App. etc.
- Unofficial Transcript-Students have access to the unofficial transcripts through Infinite Campus, Student Portal. Students can use these to upload to colleges that need a transcript before the September 8th date.
- Scriborder Link: <https://fultonga.scriborder.com/> Fulton County Schools free site for requesting records including transcripts for colleges, scholarships etc.

UGA Special Note about Transcripts

- University of Georgia requires that transcripts be sent through gafutures.org
 - Create account and request transcript
 - Transcript requests should be made after 9/15/2026
 - Senior year classes are not currently listed on transcripts in gafutures but will be starting 9/15/2026

Cambridge College Application Checklist

- Fill out the **Your Senior Biography Sheet 10 days prior to the deadline of the first college that requires a letter.** Submit to your teachers or counselor **only if a recommendation letter is required**
- **Admissions committees strongly prefer students waive their right to view letters of recommendation and counselor /teacher evaluations (FERPA)**
- Request transcripts for all colleges **10 school days** prior to the time you need it sent. CHS does not process requests over weekends and holidays. For January 1st deadline, all requests need to be sent by 12/4/2026. School closed for winter break and we will not return until 1/4/2027.
- Request teacher recommendation letters 10 school days prior to the time you need it sent (ask teachers first)
- Check each colleges admissions portal to make sure all documents have been received by the deadline
- Read your CHS email and personal email for important information shared
- Senior Parent Response Form-Optional. But helpful if letter of recommendation is required from the Counselor. Cambridge Counseling->College and Career->Applying to College. Scroll down to - Senior Biography Sheet

*Thank all the recommenders- an email or a note is a nice touch

FERPA Waiver

*** Admissions committees
strongly prefer students waive
their right to view letters of
recommendation and
counselor /teacher evaluations
(FERPA)**

What is the FERPA Waiver?

How does FERPA relate to your college application?

FERPA regulates the privacy of student education records, which could include your application to the college where you enroll. FERPA also gives you the right to review confidential letters of recommendation provided as part of that application after you enroll.

- In the application you'll be asked if you want to waive the right to review confidential letters of recommendation. What should you know about this waiver?

Waiving your right lets colleges know that you do not intend to read your recommendations, which helps reassure colleges that the letters are candid and truthful.

- Some recommenders may decline to write a letter for you if you do not waive your rights.

Student Manages:



- **The College Application**
- **Requesting High School Transcript** - initial, mid-year and final
 - Common App Colleges and Coalition: Counselor uploads transcript (need invite from student!)
- **Standardized Test Scores:**
 - Request scores to be sent to college(s) from College Board or ACT account
- **Letters of Recommendation:** ask teacher/counselor at least 10 business days in advance
 - Teachers and Counselor upload (need invite from student)
- **Deadlines:** application deadline, supporting documents, scholarship...
- **Verifying Receipt of all Documents by the College:**
 - Check college portal frequently and check your **email** daily
- **Unofficial copy of the transcript** can be accessed via Infinite Campus Student Portal (Ole Miss, Auburn etc.)
- **Official Transcripts-** Use **Scriborder** for requesting transcripts for non Common App colleges.

HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarship and Grants

- Does not include middle school courses
- Removes all honors points added by Fulton County Schools
- Converts individual grades to a 4.0 scale
- Adds .5 weight to AP and specific College courses only (up to a 4.0)
- Core classes only and certain CTAE classes
- **HOPE** 3.0 as calculated by HOPE + 4 rigor classes
- **Zell Miller** 3.7 as calculated by HOPE + 4 Rigor classes + 1200 Combined SAT or 25 composite ACT (one test date) or be a Val or Sal (**Upload SAT scores to Gafutures account and for ACT have score sent by ACT to Gafutures code:2225**)
- **HOPE GRANT**-no GPA requirement. Available for Technical Colleges.

***Check your GPA and eligibility on gafutures.org (need to have SSN on file at Cambridge)**

Apply via Gafutures.org by completing the GSFAPPS (Georgia Student Financial Aid Application System) or fill out the FAFSA in December. We suggest doing both.

- All males have to register with Selective Services when turning 18 years of age. Site: www.sss.gov

FAFSA

- Opening on October 1, 2026
- Males need to register with Selective Services when turning 18 years of age to get any federal/state funds including HOPE/Zell Scholarship or Grant www.sss.gov
- Financial Aid Information and contact:



Adrienne Langford
K-12 Outreach Representative
Georgia Student Finance Commission

Phone: 678.218.7770
Toll Free: 800.505.GSFC
ALangford@gsfc.org

Need help? [Make an appointment](#) with me and/or [view upcoming webinars!](#)

GEORGIA MATCH Program

- All seniors will receive a letter in October that will identify all the TCSG and USG colleges that they are academically qualified to attend (confirmed based on their HOPE GPA)
 - UGA, Georgia Tech, and GCSU are not participating in this program
- Students can "Request Information" or "Claim Your Spot in 3 colleges" in their Ga Futures account
 - Still need to complete the application process!
- Students can see list of their college "matches" in their Ga Futures Dashboard



Schoolinks: College Planning and Career Assessment

Access via your Classlink account

College Searches

County Mandated Surveys- **all seniors are required to complete the Post Secondary Survey in Schoolinks by 9/1/2026**

Inventories for finding Personal Strengths, Career Matches

Information on Military Careers

College Rep Visit sign up

Scholarship Database

Scholarship Websites

www.gafutures.org

<https://www.scholarships.com/>

https://www.hsf.net/en_US/scholarship

<https://scholarships.uncf.org/>

<https://www.fastweb.com/college-scholarships>

Schoolinks Database-access through Classlink →
Schoolinks

Our Weekly Newsletter and Student Daily Headlines



College Application Help Sessions

Every day during both lunch periods-
Cafeteria with Counselor on lunch duty



Virtual College Rep Visits at Cambridge:

Seniors must sign up 24 hours in advance
Register through Schoolinks (Classlink)



SAT at CHS

October 15 during the school day



Apply to College Month-November Apply to colleges in Georgia for free plus special events at Cambridge to help students with post secondary options



ASVAB – January 28th, 2027. Sign up link coming soon

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

SAT Prep at CHS

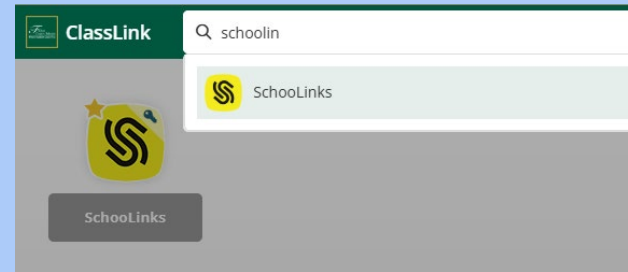
- Through Applerouth Test Prep
- Offered afterschool
- Registration information coming soon

Next Steps for Seniors

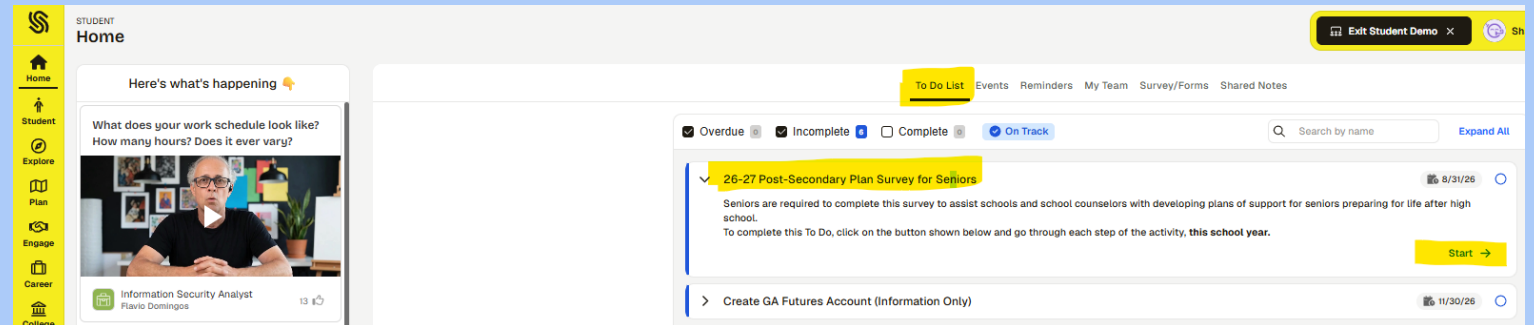
- Schoollinks-Complete Post-Secondary Survey by 9/1/2026
- Create Gafutures Account if not previously done
- Create Common App account and add counselor to it
- Complete Senior Biography Sheet and hand out to recommenders if letter of recommendation required
- Make a list of all college and scholarship deadlines
- Send recommenders link from Common App to all recommenders 10 school days prior to deadline or earlier
- Apply for FAFSA (Starting Oct 1st)
- Apply for HOPE Scholarship (Now until the day before graduation)
- Males have to register with Selective Services when turning 18 years in order to get any state or federal or scholarship funds including HOPE/Zell Scholarship or Grant and Dual Enrollment Funding www.sss.gov

Schoolinks Directions for Completion of Post Secondary Survey

- 1. Go to **ClassLink** (<https://login.classlink.com/my/fcs>)
- 2. Search for **Schoolinks App** and click on it



- 3. On Home Page, look to the middle of the page. Under To Do List, click on the **26-27 Post-Secondary Plan Survey for Seniors**



- 4. **Start** survey and answer all required questions.
- 5. Hit **Next** to Submit Survey

Cambridge COMPASS

Ever have a question about grading timelines?
Which form you should use to request a change in attendance?

Want to see the staff directory, or discover what classes are offered at Cambridge? [Cambridge Compass](#) is here to help you navigate and find information on everything Cambridge.



Connect with Us



Instagram: @cambridgeschoolcounseling



**Website: <https://cambridge.fultonschools.org/> ->
Student & Families -> Cambridge Counseling**



**Weekly Newsletter and Daily Cambridge
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QUESTIONS?