

SENIOR STUDENT PRESENTATION 2026

College Application Process
Cambridge Counseling Department

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PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL - OPTIONS

2 Year Colleges and Technical Colleges

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

Military-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

Apprenticeship, Work, GAP Year

Associate Degree (or transfer option to 4 year college)

Diploma or 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 scholarships/grants available at technical colleges based on selected program of study

High Demand [Jobs-https://www.tcsg.edu/ga-high-demand/](https://www.tcsg.edu/ga-high-demand/)



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

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. CAN ONLY APPLY TO ONE COLLEGE EARLY DECISION.

WHAT COMPLETES A COLLEGE APPLICATION?



Application: The Common App/Gafutures/Colleges own site



High School Transcript and/or School Form (transcript official or unofficial)



Letters of Recommendation (if required by college)



Test Scores (if needed-SAT, ACT or Accuplacer for 2year and Technical Colleges)



Essays (if needed)



Resume/List of extracurriculars and awards (if needed)



Any other documents requested by the college

**DATA NEEDED
FOR COLLEGE
APPLICATIONS**

Cambridge CEEB Code 112129

Class size: 420

GPA: 100 scale weighted/Default

Class Rank: Do Not Rank

TESTING REQUIREMENT FOR ADMISSION FOR FALL 2027 AND BEYOND

University of Georgia

Georgia Tech

Georgia State University

Augusta University

Kennesaw State University

Georgia Southern University

Georgia College & State University

All other institutions may require test scores based on the applicant's high school grade point average.

Presidents of state colleges may elect whether to establish a minimum Freshman Index (FI) requirement. For applicants requiring test scores, institutions will calculate the FI and adhere to the minimum sector FI as outlined above.



- 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)
- For Teacher letter of recommendation- need teachers name and email (ask the teacher first please)

***Thank all your recommenders for writing a letter for you.

YOUR SENIOR BIOGRAPHY SHEET

- If letter of recommendation is required by the college, only then seniors need to submit a **Your Senior Biography Sheet**
 - Cambridge Counseling->College and Career->Applying to College. Scroll down to access the form called Your Senior Biography Sheet or pick up a copy in Bridge West.
- Counselors will use Your Senior Biography Sheet for writing the letter of recommendation if required by the college. Teachers may ask you for a copy too.
- Can attach a resume as well listing all your accolades, awards, work experience etc. Do not use abbreviations.
- Be thorough and honest in your responses. Highlight what sets you apart from other applicants!



COLLEGE APPLICATIONS – CAMBRIDGE PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

- **A minimum of 10 school days is required to request:
Transcripts, Letters of Recommendation, Counselor Evaluation/School Form, Scholarship Forms...**
- **Invite counselor ASAP; not when you complete application**
- **Use personal email for all college applications**
- **Please note:**
 - *If given less than 10 school days prior to the college deadline student may NOT be able to receive a letter of recommendation from their counselor**
 - *Cambridge is closed on holidays and weekends and we do not process forms and transcript requests during that time.**
- **Optional Senior Parent response form: Cambridge Counseling->College and Career->Applying to College. Scroll down to access the Senior Biography Sheet.**
- **Seniors taking dual enrollment classes during spring term-please let colleges know what you plan to take during spring. These classes will not be on your Cambridge transcript until you enroll in them in Oct/November.**

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.
- Waiving your right lets colleges know that you do not intend to read your recommendations, which reassures 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.

How Do I Apply and Send My Transcript?

COMMON APPLICATION

1. Create account (use personal email)
2. Complete all required forms
3. Invite your counselor (under FERPA and Recommenders section)
 - Make sure counselor email is correct.
 - Turn in Your Senior Biography Sheet to counselor if letter required
4. Counselor will upload your transcript/letter
5. Invite teacher(s) for letter of rec.
 - Teacher will upload letter
6. Student sends test scores through testing company site

NON-COMMON APP

1. Complete application on college site or Gafutures
2. Send test scores through testing agency
3. If there is a counselor/teacher recommendation 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

STUDENT MANAGES:

The College Application

- **Requesting High School Transcript** – initial, mid-year and final
 - Common App Colleges: Counselor uploads transcript (need initial invite from student!)
 - All non-Common App colleges-Use **Scriborder** for requesting transcripts
- Standardized Test Scores:**
 - Request 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, & Counselor upload (need invite from student)
- **Deadlines:** application deadline, supporting documents, scholarship deadline...
- **Verifying Receipt of all Documents by the College:**
 - Check college portal frequently and check your **email** daily.



TRANSCRIPTS



September 8th is the day when we will start releasing transcripts via Common App. etc.



Unofficial Transcripts-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: Online platform for requesting all Non Common App transcripts. Available now but transcripts will be released starting 9/8/2026
<https://fultonga.scriborder.com/>

UGA SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT TRANSCRIPT

University of Georgia requires all transcripts be sent through gafutures.org

- Student creates a Gafutures account and then requests 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

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 for 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



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. 28 courses transfer to 4 year 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 year of age.**

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



SAT PREP AT CHS

Through Appplerouth Test Prep

Offered afterschool

More information coming soon for registration



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**

IMPORTANT NOTES

Grades Matter- colleges can rescind their offer of acceptance if grades decline senior year. Also HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship will get impacted by senior year grades.

Behavior Matters- do the right thing. Colleges can question discipline.

Applications take time- Plan ahead and look at deadlines. Dedicate time. Essay and basic demographic sections can be time consuming. You need to request transcripts and letters **10 school days ahead of when you want all docs submitted.** We do not work on weekends and holidays and cannot process your request if not given notice. Please do not put yourself in a difficult position.

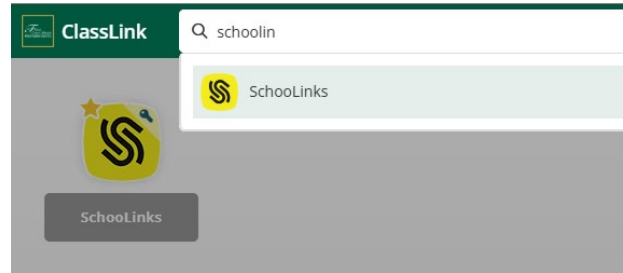
Seek help- See a counselor for help. You are not alone in this important step.

NEXT STEPS FOR SENIORS

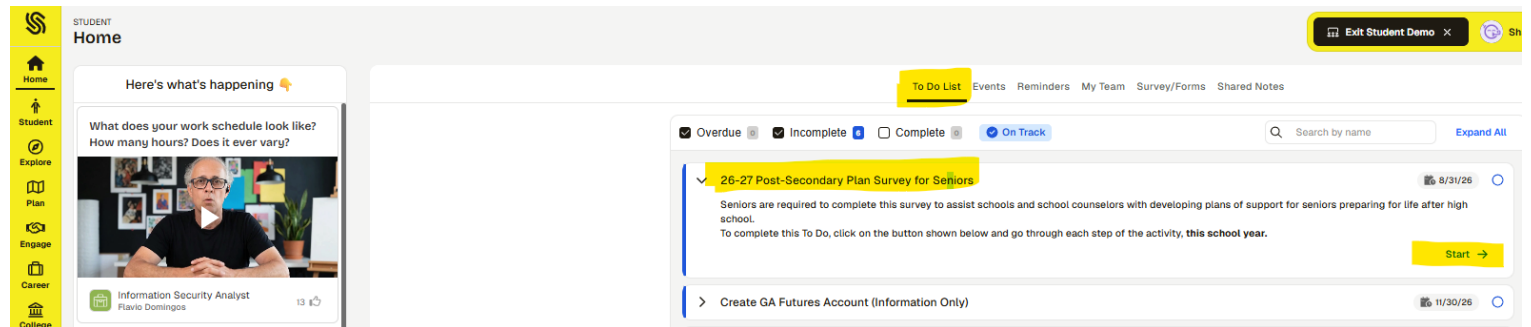
- ☐ Schoollinks-Complete County Mandated **Post-Secondary Survey** by 9/1/2026
- ☐ Create **Gafutures Account** if not previously done
- ☐ Create **Common App account** and add counselor to it (if applying to Common App colleges)
- ☐ Complete **Senior Biography Sheet** and hand out to recommenders if 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

CONNECT WITH US



Instagram: @cambridgeschoolcounseling



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



**Weekly Newsletter and Daily Cambridge
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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.



QUESTIONS?