

Alpharetta High School

2026–2027 Junior Brochure



3595 Webb Bridge Road, Alpharetta, GA 30005

Phone: 470-254-7640

HS CEEB Code: 110058

<https://www.fultonschools.org/alpharettahs>

Junior & Senior Year Checklist



Junior Year

FALL SEMESTER OF JUNIOR YEAR:

- ❑ **Counselor Check-In:** Meet with your counselor to verify graduation requirements & map out postsecondary plans.
- ❑ **Academic Rigor:** Maintain strong grades & select challenging coursework for senior year (AP, IB, Dual Enrollment, or CTE pathways) while prioritizing balance.
- ❑ **PSAT/NMSQT:** Take the PSAT in October
- ❑ **Career Exploration:** Use SchoolLinks to match skills with potential industries & majors.
- ❑ **Resume & Tracking:** Track extracurriculars, leadership roles, volunteer hours, & work experience.
- ❑ **Digital SAT & ACT Prep:** Register for spring testing windows & Free Apperouth sessions in the Spring.

SPRING SEMESTER OF JUNIOR YEAR:

- ❑ **Review Course Requests:** Ensure you remain on track for graduation & future college/career goals.
- ❑ **Academic Momentum:** Maintain strong grades & attendance.
- ❑ **Dual Enrollment** Information Sessions
- ❑ **Visits & Fairs:** Tour college campuses, visit trade/vocational centers, & attend AHS College Fair.
- ❑ **Standardized Testing:** Take the SAT, ACT, or AP exams
- ❑ **Stay Involved:** Activities & leadership opportunities in clubs, athletics, fine arts, & community service.
- ❑ **Research:** Scholarships & learn about financial aid options.
- ❑ **Explore summer opportunities:** Employment, internships, volunteer work, camps, research programs, & college experiences.

SUMMER BEFORE SENIOR YEAR:

- ❑ **Finalize College List:** Including reach, target, & safety schools.
- ❑ **Begin Senior Brag Sheet** & Create or update your résumé.
- ❑ **Create College Accounts** you plan on applying to & review admission requirements/deadlines.
- ❑ **Visit colleges** either in person or virtually.
- ❑ **Prepare** for additional SAT/ACT testing
- ❑ **Develop an application timeline:** Track important admission, scholarship, & financial aid deadlines.



Fall Semester | Senior Year



- ❑ **September Counselor Check-In:** Verify graduation requirements & map out postsecondary plans.
- ❑ **Student-Athletes:** Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- ❑ **Financial Aid Basics:** Attend school financial aid/Senior nights with guardians.
- ❑ **GEORGIA MATCH:** Access your GEORGIA MATCH letter in October (mailed & available on your GAFutures Student Dashboard).
- ❑ **Letters of Recommendation:** Formalize requests with teachers, counselors, or employers (provide brag sheet/resume).
- ❑ **CSS Profile:** If applying to private colleges or specific university aid programs.
- ❑ **Georgia Apply to College Month:** Many colleges in Georgia waive application fees.
- ❑ **College Applications:** Apply for admissions (track Early Action, Early Decision, & Regular Decision deadlines).
- ❑ **Test Score Reporting:** Order & send official ACT/SAT scores.
- ❑ **Submission Deadlines:** Submit materials prior to deadlines.
- ❑ **Portal Status Checks:** Confirm materials submission



Spring Semester | Senior Year

- ❑ **Rolling Admissions:** Apply to any additional colleges.
- ❑ **Academic Momentum:** Maintain strong grades & attendance.
- ❑ **Visit AHS College & Career Fair.**
- ❑ **Financial Aid Evaluation:** Review & compare financial aid award letters.
- ❑ **Final Decision:** Make your final decision & submit required health/immunization forms.
- ❑ **Housing Applications:** Submit on-campus housing applications & deposits.
- ❑ **Final Transcripts:** Counselors will upload all official Transcripts once final grades have been posted.

Scholarships, Grants, & Financial Aid

Georgia offers several state-funded programs that help eligible students pay for college or technical college. To be considered, students should ensure their Social Security Number is on file with the school and create a GAfutures account to track eligibility.

HOPE Scholarship

- Available to eligible Georgia residents attending a HOPE-eligible college or university in Georgia.
- Requires a 3.0 HOPE GPA at high school graduation as calculated by GAfutures.
- Students must complete the required HOPE Rigor Course requirements.
 - Learn more at GAfutures.org.

Zell Miller Scholarship

- Available to eligible Georgia residents attending a HOPE-eligible college or university in Georgia.
- Requires a 3.7 HOPE GPA at graduation and qualifying test scores:
 - 1200 SAT (Math + Evidence-Based Reading & Writing) on a single test administration, or
 - 25 ACT Composite score on a single test administration.
- Students must complete the required HOPE Rigor Course requirements.

HOPE Grant & Zell Miller Grant

- Available to students pursuing a certificate or diploma program through Georgia's Technical College System.
- No high school GPA is required for initial HOPE Grant eligibility.
 - Learn more at GAfutures.org and TCSG.edu.

HOPE/Zell Miller Action Steps

- GAfutures: View your official HOPE GPA calculation & HOPE Rigor.
- 4 Rigor Credits Minimum: View the state-approved Academic Rigor list (e.g., AP/IB, Dual Enrollment, Advanced Math, or foreign languages III/IV) on GAfutures prior to high school graduation.
- Application Options: Must complete either the FAFSA or the state GSFAPP on GAfutures.org to receive funds.

Understanding HOPE GPA

Your HOPE GPA is different from your high school GPA & is calculated by GAfutures.

Key differences:

- Only approved academic courses are included in the calculation.
- Courses taken in middle school for high school credit are not included.
- Fulton County's additional weight for Honors, AP, IB, DE, and other advanced courses is removed.
- Grades are converted to a 4.0 scale.
- Eligible AP, IB, and Dual Enrollment courses receiving a B or C may earn an additional 0.5 quality point in the HOPE GPA calculation.

Scholarship Search

College funding opportunities generally fall into two categories: merit-based aid and need-based aid. Use free/secure sources to research scholarships. Start your scholarship search using:

- SchoolLinks (available through Fulton County Schools)
- GAfutures.org
- StudentAid.gov

Merit Scholarships

Many colleges automatically consider applicants for merit-based scholarships during the admissions process. Some colleges may require separate scholarship applications.

- Review college scholarship requirements & deadlines carefully.
- Check the college's Admissions and Financial Aid websites for details.

Need-Based Aid

Need-based aid helps students pay for college based on their family's financial circumstances.

- Eligibility is determined using information submitted through the FAFSA & the CSS Profile (*for select colleges*).

Financial Aid Fast Facts

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

The FAFSA opens on 10/1 and is the primary application used by colleges to determine eligibility for federal, state, and some institutional financial aid, including grants, work-study, and student loans. Visit StudentAid.gov for more information and to apply.

CSS Profile (Non-Federal Aid)

Some private colleges and universities require the CSS Profile in addition to the FAFSA to determine aid eligibility. Learn more: cssprofile.collegeboard.org

Academic Common Market

If your intended major is not offered at a Georgia public college or university, you may qualify to attend an out-of-state public institution and pay in-state tuition rates. Learn more: www.sreb.org/academic-common-market

College Admission Testing

Many colleges and universities (*non-test optional schools*) consider SAT and/or ACT scores as part of the admissions process.

When registering for the SAT or ACT, use **Alpharetta High School Code: 110058**

Students send test scores through testing platforms (*Counselors can't send test scores*).

Fee waivers are available for eligible students. See your counselor for more information.

SAT | collegeboard.org

ACT | act.org

SAT Test Date	Registration Date	ACT Test Date	Registration Date
Nov. 7, 2026	Oct. 23, 2026	Dec. 12, 2026	Nov. 6, 2026
Dec. 5, 2026	Nov. 20, 2026	Feb. 27, 2027	Jan. 22, 2027
Mar. 6, 2027	Feb. 19, 2027	Apr. 10, 2027	Mar. 5, 2027
May 1, 2027	Apr. 16, 2027	June 12, 2027	May 7, 2027
June 5, 2027	May 21, 2027	July 10, 2027	June 4, 2027

ACT.org offers free ACT preparation

SATsuite.collegeboard.org offers free SAT preparation

Free Applerouth Test Prep may be available through Fulton County Schools. Check with your counselor for current offerings.

College Admission Options

1. Rolling Admission

Applications are reviewed as they are received, and students are notified of admissions decisions on an ongoing basis. Applying early may increase access to scholarships, housing, and other opportunities.

2. Early Action (EA)

Students apply by an earlier deadline and typically receive an admissions decision sooner. Early Action is non-binding, meaning you are not required to enroll.

3. Early Decision (ED)

Early Decision is a binding agreement. If admitted, you agree to enroll at that college and withdraw applications to other schools. Students may only apply to one Early Decision school.

College Selection Process

Start exploring colleges, technical schools, and career opportunities that match your interests and goals. When researching colleges, consider factors such as academic programs, campus size, location, cost, student life, and support services.

Keep an open mind!
A safety school may surprise you with scholarships, honors programs, & unique opportunities!

Safety/Backup	Target/Realistic	Reach/Dream
Schools where your academic profile is above the typical admitted student	Schools where your academic profile closely aligns with the average admitted student	Schools where admission is more competitive
Greater than 60% chance of admission	30-60% chance of admission	Less than 30% chance of admission

Applying to schools in each category can help you maximize your options and ensure you have strong choices when admission decisions are released.

We recommend applying to three to five colleges, though many students choose to apply to more.

College Application Process

01 Submit Applications

- When application season begins, submit applications through each college's website or application platform (Common App, Coalition App, etc.).
- Be sure to keep track of application deadlines and submit all materials well before the deadline.

02 Send Test Scores (If Required)

- Some colleges require SAT or ACT scores, while others are test-optional.
- Review each college's admissions requirements carefully.
- If needed, send your official scores through the testing website:
 - SAT: www.collegeboard.org
 - ACT: www.act.org

03 Transcript Requests

- When applying through the Common App, Coalition App, Common Black College Application, or a college's application portal, counselors submit transcripts through SchoolLinks.
- If a transcript needs to be sent outside of an application platform, such as to the NCAA Eligibility Center, students can request it through SchoolLinks.

04 Request Recommendations

- Some colleges require teacher and/or counselor recommendations.
- If a recommendation is required:
 - Ask your teacher or counselor at least 4 weeks before the deadline.
 - Complete your Senior Brag Sheet.
 - Send the request through the college application platform and follow college-specific instructions.

Understanding Your GPA

Colleges may calculate GPA differently during the admissions process. Report the official GPA & numeric average listed on your Fulton County transcript unless a college instructs otherwise.

Do not recalculate your GPA.

- **Cumulative GPA**
 - Includes all courses that appear on your transcript.
- **Core GPA**
 - Includes English, Math, Science, Social Studies, & World Languages.
- **Numerical Average**
 - Fulton County Schools reports a weighted & unweighted numeric average on a 100-point scale.
 - Both averages appear on your transcript and may be considered during college admissions.
- **Class Rank**
 - Alpharetta High School does not rank students.