

# COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST



## GACollege411.org

GACollege411.org is your one-stop website for [High School Planning](#), [College Planning](#), [Financial Aid Planning](#) and [Career Planning](#). You can keep track of your high school classes, and you can also apply to colleges and universities in Georgia (and some out of state), fill out your HOPE Scholarship application and build your resume for job searching once you graduate.

## PLAN YOUR STEPS

There is so much to do in high school – let GACollege411 help you navigate through the steps. This checklist can help you know what you need to do along the way and will keep you on track to graduate on time and reach your goals for after high school.

expand your opportunities

### NINTH GRADE CHECKLIST

- ✓ Update **Your Profile** within **Your Portfolio** to reflect that you are now a High School Student and create a connection to your high school.
- ✓ Visit the **Career Planning** tab to explore careers and save 3 new careers in Your Portfolio.
- ✓ Meet with your counselor to go over **Your Plan of Study** in the **High School Planning** section.
- ✓ **Explore Programs and Majors** and start thinking about what you might want to major in in college.
- ✓ Set short-term goals for yourself – academic, career, or personal. You can enter these in **Your Portfolio**.
- ✓ Check out **Prepare for College** in the **College Planning** section to find out what your postsecondary options are, for help with picking the right college, as well as college entrance requirements.
- ✓ Use the **College Savings Calculator** under **Financial Aid Planning** to help figure out how much you need to start saving – or continue to save – for college.
- ✓ Explore extracurricular activities in your school and community and record your participation in **Your Experiences and Activities** in Your Portfolio.
- ✓ Learn how your Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated and how you can track your GPA eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship on GACollege411 via the **HOPE Progress Report**.

### TENTH GRADE CHECKLIST

- ✓ Meet with your counselor to review **Your Plan of Study** to be sure you're still on track.
- ✓ Learn about the **College Credit Now** options to help you discover how to earn college credit while still in high school.
- ✓ Take the PSAT in October.
- ✓ Talk to your counselor about the tests you'll need for college admissions and take advantage of the FREE test help available in the **College Test Prep** section.
- ✓ Start exploring colleges in Georgia and nationwide to find schools that interest you and save your top choices to **Your Portfolio**.
- ✓ Continue to track your GPA eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship at **Your HOPE GPA**.
- ✓ Keep volunteering and participating in extracurricular activities such as sports and school organizations.



## ELEVENTH GRADE CHECKLIST

### FALL

- ✓ Update **Your Plan of Study** and review your plan with your counselor.
- ✓ Use the **College Requirements Checkup** to compare your graduation plan with the admission requirements of your top schools.
- ✓ Before the end of the year, identify three post-secondary options and save them to **Your Portfolio**.
- ✓ Take the PSAT again in October. Your score may qualify you for the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- ✓ Obtain the test dates for college entrance exams such as the SAT and ACT. Mark these dates in your **Events Calendar** on GAcollge411, and don't forget to use the **College Test Prep** to help you get ready for the big day!
- ✓ Attend college fairs and try to speak with representatives from schools saved to **Your Saved Schools**.

### SPRING

- ✓ Read **Financial Aid 101** to begin your introduction to the world of financial aid.
- ✓ Take campus tours online or in person to help narrow down your school choices.
- ✓ Take the required entrance exams for the college(s) of your choice.
- ✓ Start your **Search for Scholarships** to find free money to help you pay for college.
- ✓ Talk with coaches about eligibility for college sports.

**GAcollge411**  
*Expand Your Opportunities*

## TWELFTH GRADE CHECKLIST

### FALL

- ✓ Review graduation requirements and your transcript as well as **Your Plan of Study** with your counselor.
- ✓ Take the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, ACT, ASSET, and/or Compass, depending on what your schools of interest require.
- ✓ Keep track of application deadlines, test dates, college fairs, and admission events in your **Events Calendar**.
- ✓ Ask your counselor about scholarship opportunities and research them on your own using the **Scholarship Finder**.
- ✓ Check out **Know the Steps** in Prepare for College for tips on completing your college essay and admission applications, selecting the right college or university, and more.
- ✓ Complete and submit college applications and transcripts. Use the **Applications and Transcripts** link in the **College Planning** section to request that your transcript be sent electronically to the schools of your choice through GAcollge411.
- ✓ If you are an athlete, send transcripts to the NCAA for eligibility purposes. This can be completed through GAcollge411.

### SPRING

- ✓ Complete and submit the FAFSA and GSFAPPS online after January 1st.
- ✓ If required, send mid-year grade reports to colleges to which you have applied.
- ✓ Compare acceptance letters, financial aid, and scholarship offers. The **Financial Aid Wizard** on GAcollge411 can help you make the best financial decision for which school to attend.
- ✓ Make your decision by May 1st as to which college you will attend.
- ✓ Inform other colleges to which you have applied about your decision to enroll elsewhere.
- ✓ Take AP and other exams. Ask your colleges of interest if they will accept AP courses as college credit.
- ✓ Ask your high school guidance counselor to send your transcript electronically to the colleges to which you have applied, or send your transcripts through GAcollge411.org.
- ✓ Submit fees for tuition, room and board.
- ✓ Associate your GAcollge411 account with the college you will be attending.

