



Class of 2026

Preparing for the Next Steps

THE OHS SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

AUGUST 2025

Osborne School Counseling Department
Location: Room 200

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Helpful Resources for Senior Year

- ▶ Class of 2026 CTLS
- ▶ OHS Counseling Website: <https://osbornecounseling.wixsite.com/ohscounseling>
- ▶ OHS Counseling Instagram: @osbornehscounseling
- ▶ FAFSA: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- ▶ GAFutures: <https://www.gafutures.org/>
- ▶ Collegeboard (SAT): <https://www.collegeboard.org/>
- ▶ ACT: <https://www.act.org/>
- ▶ CommonApp: <https://www.commonapp.org/>
- ▶ Common Black College App (for HBCUs): <https://commonblackcollegeapp.com>

Lesson Overview

PART I

- ▶ Post-secondary Options
 - ▶ Work-force/Apprenticeship
 - ▶ Military
 - ▶ 2-year Technical College/Trade School
 - ▶ 4-year College/University
 - ▶ College Admissions Info
- ▶ Naviance

PART II

- ▶ College research and application process
- ▶ Scholarships and Financial Aid



Options after High School

Workforce/Apprenticeship

- ▶ **On-the-job short-term or long-term training** is provided by an employer at the beginning of a new job.
- ▶ Training can last 1 - 5 years, **often paid**.
- ▶ The completion of an apprenticeship is generally associated with skilled labor.
- ▶ These kinds of programs can **lead to secure and well-paying jobs without the need for any college expenses**.

Military/Armed Forces

- ▶ Five Branches: **Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, & Space Force**
 - ▶ Reserves and National Guard are various options within these branches
- ▶ Different requirements for each branch:
 - ▶ Citizenship & Residency
 - ▶ Age Limits
 - ▶ Education: High School Diploma or GED are required for enlisting; officer requires college
 - ▶ Testing: Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)
 - ▶ Physical and Medical Requirements
- ▶ In general: Contact Recruiter → Take the ASVAB → Graduate HS → Request Final Transcript
- ▶ Additional information can be found: <https://www.usa.gov/military-requirements>

Trade School

- ▶ Must have HS Diploma or GED to attend
- ▶ Typically completed in two years or less
- ▶ Certificate or Diploma programs
 - ▶ Can qualify for HOPE Grant or HOPE Career Grant (\$\$\$)
- ▶ Career-focused
 - ▶ Trains students for a specific job in a career field
- ▶ Examples of jobs:
 - ▶ Welding, Cosmetology, Construction Worker, Automotive, HVAC, Electrician, Dental Assistant, Carpenter, Plumber, Practical Nurse, etc.

2-Year Colleges & Technical Colleges

See if the SAT/ACT is required-

may take the Accuplacer Exam instead- check with each individual school

Two-year school requirements –

2.0 GPA, 2 World Languages, senior level math plus all Georgia graduation requirements

Transcript Requests- Require a FINAL transcript as proof of graduation.

Four-Year Colleges & Universities

- ▶ Typically have higher admission requirements
 - ▶ i.e. higher GPA, higher test scores
- ▶ Typically takes students four years to complete
- ▶ Students work towards a Bachelor's Degree
 - ▶ After graduating- can pursue Master's or Doctorate after completion
- ▶ SAT/ACT Test Scores may be required
 - ▶ Check Admission Requirements for college



The College Application Process

THIS PROCESS APPLIES TO COLLEGE AND TRADE SCHOOL



Step 1: Build a List of Colleges

BUILDING A COLLEGE LIST

“Reach schools” are those where your academic credentials fall below the school’s average range for the freshman class.

“Range schools” are schools where your academic credentials fall within or perhaps slightly exceed the school’s average range for the freshman class.

“Safety schools” are schools you will almost definitely get into because your academic credentials are much better than the typical average range for the freshman class.

REACH SCHOOLS

Apply to 1 or 2

RANGE SCHOOLS

Apply to 2 or 3

SAFETY SCHOOLS

Apply to at least 1

Points to Consider



Check Admissions Requirements by visiting College website.



Most colleges only consider academic classes when calculating GPAs.



Weighted and unweighted GPAs will be reported on your CCSD transcript.



Class rank will not be included on transcripts or reported on secondary reports.



Colleges want students who are involved in their communities.

Freshman Profile for Four-Year Colleges

	GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY	KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA	GEORGIA TECH	OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY
MINIMUM GPA	3.6	3.48 AVERAGE	4.0-4.3 (MIDDLE 50%)	4.1 AVERAGE	3.63 AVERAGE
ACT	22.5	22.27 AVERAGE	20-34 (MIDDLE 50%)	31 AVERAGE	23-30
SAT	1078	1111 AVERAGE	1300-1470 (MIDDLE 50%)	1433 AVERAGE	1140 AVERAGE

Updated 8/15/2025

Check Admission Requirements

Be sure to check the admission requirements for colleges when building your list

University System of Georgia Freshman Admission Requirements:

https://www.usg.edu/student_affairs/assets/student_affairs/documents/USG_FR_Admission_Requirements.pdf

Step 2:

ACT/SAT Tests-

College Entrance Exams

Do you
need to
take the
SAT/ACT?

The ACT and SAT are not required
for TECHNICAL Colleges

- Chattahoochee Technical College, Gwinnett Technical College, etc.

It may be required for 4-year
or 2-year colleges

- Kennesaw State University, Georgia Highlands College, etc.

Scholarships may ask for
ACT/SAT Scores

SAT or ACT Test Scores are NOW REQUIRED for more USG Colleges

- ▶ Applicants are required to take the SAT or ACT for the following Georgia Colleges:
 - ▶ University of Georgia
 - ▶ Georgia Tech
 - ▶ Georgia College & State University
 - ▶ Kennesaw State University
 - ▶ Georgia State University
 - ▶ Augusta University
 - ▶ Georgia Southern University
- ▶ Please check admission requirements for all other colleges (in-state or out-of-state)

University System of GA test optional info

The University System of Georgia (USG) will continue the temporary waiver of test score requirements for Academic Year 2026-2027 (Fall 2026, Spring 2027, and Summer 2026) admission at 19 of the 26 USG institutions.

The temporary waiver does not apply to Georgia Tech, the University of Georgia, Kennesaw State University, Augusta University, Georgia Southern University, Georgia State University, or Georgia College and State University.

For Academic Year 2025-2026, the remaining institutions have two options to make admission decisions:

1. Freshman index: Includes high school grade point average and test scores for either the SAT or ACT.

2. Test Optional: Use the high school grade point average on the required high school curriculum without a standardized test score at the following minimum grade point averages:

- ~~**3.4 for research universities:** Augusta University and Georgia State University.~~
- **3.2 for comprehensive universities:** ~~Kennesaw State University, Georgia Southern University,~~ University of West Georgia and Valdosta State University.
- **3.0 for state universities:** Albany State University, Clayton State University, Columbus State University, Fort Valley State University, Georgia Southwestern State University, Middle Georgia State University, Savannah State University and the University of North Georgia.
- **State colleges:** Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Atlanta Metropolitan State College, College of Coastal Georgia, Dalton State College, East Georgia State College, Georgia Gwinnett College, Georgia Highlands College, Gordon State College and South Georgia State College will continue to be test optional in accordance with Board policy.

SAT Information

- ▶ Content Sections on SAT:
 - ▶ Reading
 - ▶ Writing and Language
 - ▶ Math
- ▶ Scoring for SAT: 400-1600
- ▶ Cost of the SAT without fee waiver (talk to Counselor about fee waiver):
 - ▶ \$68.00 (Essay portion not offered)

SAT Test Information 2025-2026

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline (\$34 Fee)
August 23, 2025	August 8, 2025	August 12, 2025
September 13, 2025	August 29, 2025	September 2, 2025
October 4, 2025	September 19, 2025	September 23, 2025
November 8, 2025	October 24, 2025	October 28, 2025
December 6, 2025	November 21, 2025	November 25, 2025
March 14, 2026	February 27, 2026	March 3, 2026
May 2, 2026	April 17, 2026	April 21, 2026
June 6, 2026	May 22, 2026	May 26, 2026

The SAT is digital now- if you need to borrow a device from CollegeBoard, you need to register at least 30 days before the test day (<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/device-lending>).

ACT Information

- ▶ Content Sections on ACT:
 - ▶ English
 - ▶ Math (more Geometry and Trigonometry questions)
 - ▶ Reading
 - ▶ Science Reasoning (Optional)
 - ▶ Essay (Optional)
- ▶ Scoring for ACT: 1-36
- ▶ Costs of the ACT without fee waiver (talk to Counselor about fee waiver):
 - ▶ ACT Test: \$65.00
 - ▶ Writing Add-On Fee: + \$25.00
 - ▶ Science Add-On Fee: + \$4.00

ACT TEST INFORMATION 2025-2026

<i>Test Date</i>	<i>Registration Deadline</i>	<i>Late Registration Deadline (\$38 Fee)</i>
September 6, 2025	August 1, 2025	August 19, 2025
October 18, 2025	September 12, 2025	October 10, 2025
December 13, 2025	November 7, 2025	November 24, 2025
February 14, 2026	January 7, 2026	January 21, 2026
April 11, 2026	March 6, 2026	March 24, 2026
June 13, 2026	May 8, 2026	May 27, 2026
July 11, 2026	June 5, 2026	June 24, 2026

SAT/ACT Work Sessions



Student receives Fee Waiver Form from the Counseling Office



Student has Fee Waiver Form signed by Parent/Guardian



Student Returns signed Fee Waiver Form to Counseling



Counseling will call down the student on the next registration session day to REGISTER for the test for free

Send SAT/ACT Test Scores

SAT/ACT scores **must** be sent directly from the testing agencies websites. Osborne does not send these.

▶ www.collegeboard.org

▶ www.actstudent.org

Our School's CEEB code: 112000

Scholarship Requirements

- ▶ Some scholarships require SAT or ACT scores
- ▶ Zell Miller Scholarship Requirements
 - ▶ SAT: 1200
 - ▶ ACT: 25
- ▶ Local Scholarships



Step 3: Apply to College

Applying to College

Admission Requirements/Deadlines	How to Apply
Be aware of Admission Requirements: • Letters of Recommendation • ACT/SAT Scores • Essays Be aware of DEADLINES! • Colleges have hard deadlines • There are no extensions	Generally, students apply using: 1. CommonApp 2. Common Black College App 3. Directly through the college's website

Naviance

NAVIANCE IS A **DELIVERY SYSTEM** AND COLLEGE/CAREER SEARCH ENGINE, BUT IT ALSO HOW WE COMMUNICATE WITH YOU AND YOUR PARENTS, THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Let's explore Naviance!

- ▶ Colleges I'm Thinking About & Colleges I'm Applying to
- ▶ Careers
- ▶ RepVisits
- ▶ About Me Information (GPA, email address)
- ▶ Resume
- ▶ Scholarships
- ▶ Colleges Compare

Logging into Naviance

- Go to: www.cobbk12.org
- Click on FIND IT FAST in upper right corner and then NAVIANCE
- Login with SAML
 - Office 365 email and password

User Name:	Password:
Microsoft 365 User Name	Microsoft 365 Password

Demo's Future Planning



No Path Selected
Plan for life after school and select the path that will lead to future success.



Select Path

Career Goals



Acute Care Nurses



Chefs and Head Cooks



Choreographers

Go to Favorite Careers

Welcome to Naviance

welcome 11th Grade Students!

Click: Planner, Tasks and complete all Tasks assigned to you!

Additional Information from Your School

Tasks from My School

Relax, you have no overdue or upcoming to-dos and tasks. However, you can get ahead by going to My Planner to see what's next or create a goal or to-do.

Go to My Planner



Naviance Student Homepage

☐ **College: Associate's Degree**

Earn an associate's degree or certificate in two years or less by attending a two-year community college or junior college.

☐ **College: Bachelor's Degree**

Earn a Bachelor's degree in four years by attending a four-year private or public college or university.

☐ **Career Education or Trade School**

Enroll in a short-term training program at a career or vocational-technical college and earn a certificate or associate's degree for an industry such as health care, cosmetology, and plumbing.

☐ **Apprenticeship Program**

Enroll in an apprenticeship to get on-the-job training with classroom instruction and mentorship that leads to a skilled trade or profession.

☐ **Military Service**

Enlist in a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces right after high school or join after college by enrolling in a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program.

☐ **Employment**

Enter the job force right after high school to develop work skills and learn on the job without any formal training or education.

☐ **Undecided**

Not sure what to do after high school? Talk to a school counselor about different pathways to help decide what's best.

☐ **Gap or Service Year**

Take a gap or service year between high school and the start of my post-secondary path. Engage in service work, educational activities, or travel to give back to a community or to help decide a future goal.

SELECT YOUR PATH

YOU CAN ALSO CHOOSE A SECONDARY PATH IF YOU ARE STILL DECIDING!

Enter Your Email Address

We need your email address so we can communicate important information with you. Please get in the habit of checking email frequently.

1. Click on the "About Me" link at the top.
2. Click on "My Account."
3. Click on the Pencil Icon in the "Contact Information Box."
4. Enter your email address.
5. Click "Save."

******Use a NON cobb/school email address

You can also use Naviance for...



Career
Planning



College
Planning



Resume
Building



Scholarship
Searches

Application Information

Understanding Application Types

- ▶ **Regular Decision**

- ▶ Deadline date established by the institution
-

- ▶ **Early Decision (I & II) : Binding**

- ▶ Cannot apply **early decision** to other colleges, can only apply regular decision.
- ▶ If accepted, must attend (BINDING)

- ▶ **Early Action: Non-Binding**

- ▶ Can apply early to other colleges, can apply regular decision
- ▶ Student is ready to apply (ACT/SAT Scores, GPA)

- ▶ **Single Choice/Restricted Early Action: Non-Binding**

- ▶ Cannot apply early to other colleges, can apply regular decision
-

- ▶ **Rolling Admission**

- ▶ Open admission, decisions given throughout the year not at a specific time

- ▶ **Priority Deadline**

- ▶ Similar to rolling admissions but priority given to those applicants who meet earlier priority deadline

Regular Decision vs. Early Action

- ▶ Provides earlier decision for scholarship applications & more informed/earlier decision for student
- ▶ It is the same review process
- ▶ Easy answer: Is your application ready by the Early Action deadline?
 - ▶ Grades through the end of Junior Year
 - ▶ Consider rigor of student's courses (AP and Honors)
 - ▶ SAT/ACT Scores
- ▶ Early Action Results
 - ▶ Admission
 - ▶ Deferral- student's application is considered for Regular Decision review
 - ▶ Denial- does not meet Early Action or Regular Decision acceptance

Take Note!

Upcoming Early Action Deadlines

- ▶ Beware of upcoming Georgia application deadlines!
- ▶ **University of Georgia-** *October 15, 2025*
- ▶ **Georgia Tech-** *October 15, 2025*
- ▶ **Emory University-** *November 1, 2025 (Early Decision-Binding)*
- ▶ Check the college's website for Early Action deadlines for the college you are interested in applying

Step-by-Step Process

1. Choose which colleges you're applying to
2. Know how you need to apply:
 1. Common App, Common Black College App, through college website, GAFutures, etc.
3. Submit your college applications – using designated method
4. Send your test scores via Collegeboard or ACT (this cannot be done by HS!)
5. Use Naviance to:
 1. List the college you applied to for transcript to be sent
 2. Invite teacher recommenders

**Track your application status (using institution website)

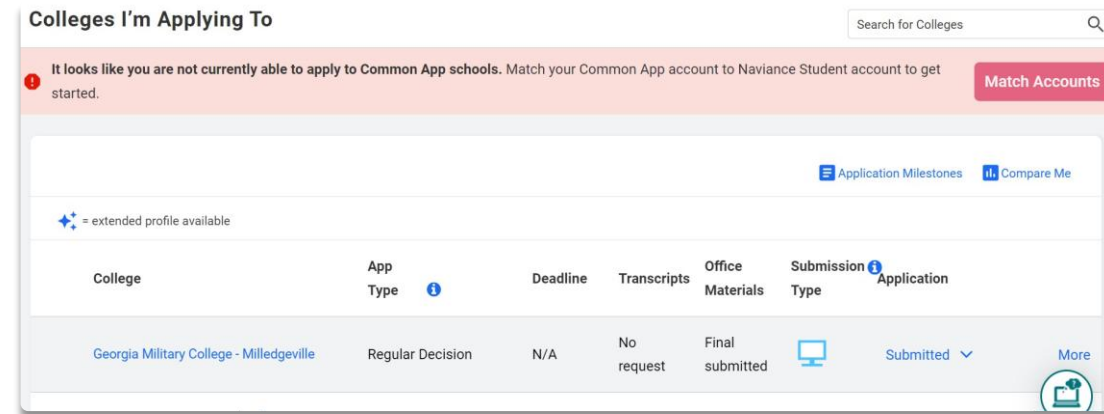
Apply to College

Complete and submit your applications as directed by the college- know Deadlines!

Take your time completing your application and essays – this is a very important step!

Add College to the “Colleges I’m Applying to”

- ▶ This is the section where students will spend most of their time.
- ▶ You can request TEACHER letters of recommendation within this section.
- ▶ You must also designate the application type within this section as well as indicate that you’ve applied to the school.
 - ▶ EX: did you apply through **CommonApp**?
 - ▶ Ex: did you apply **directly to the institution, GAFutures, Common Black College App**?



College	App Type	Deadline	Transcripts	Office Materials	Submission Type	Application
Georgia Military College - Milledgeville	Regular Decision	N/A	No request	Final submitted	Submitted	Submitted

 Cancel

STEP 1

Add Application

STEP 2

Request Transcript

Which college are you applying to?

University of Georgia, Athens, GA



Colleges already in your application list would be unavailable for selection.

App Type

Regular Decision - Fall 2023 term - **Deadline Jan 1**



I'll submit my application

Via Common App



Are you planning to submit your SAT or ACT scores to be considered during the admission review process? 

Choose an option

☐

I've submitted my application

*****Important to tell us how you are applying!*****



(Mail Only)-This icon represents colleges that only accept documents submitted via mail. The school does not accept documents electronically.



(Electronic)-This icon represents electronic destinations that accept documents electronically via Naviance eDocs



(Common App)-This icon represents Common App destinations that accept documents electronically via Naviance eDocs. It's important to note this icon means the student has explicitly chosen to apply via Common App and indicated "Yes" in **Family Connection > Colleges I'm Applying to**. However, on College tabs (showing the college profile) it indicates the fact that it's a CA college, but not whether the student is applying via CA.



(Unknown)-This icon is displayed when a student adds a Common App college but has not indicated whether or not he or she plans to apply via the Common App Online. This status does not prohibit you from submitting Common App forms for the student, but you will receive a warning message advising you that the student has not indicated their plan. A message is displayed to inform the school counselor that the student had not made a selection whether applying via Common App and submission would default to Common App delivery.



(Common App via Electronic)-This icon is displayed when a student has selected a Common App college and has indicated that he or she is not applying via the Common App Online. However, if the school is also an electronic destination (in addition to Common App) you can continue to submit documents (NACAC and other school forms, transcripts, and letters of recommendation) electronically.



(Common App mail only)-This icon displays when a student has selected a Common App college and has indicated that he or she is not applying via the Common App Online. However, the school is not an electronic destination so you will have to print and mail (other school forms, transcripts, and letters of recommendation) to the destination.

Submission Types

	College	Type	Deadline		Expected Difficulty*	Transcripts	Office materials	Submission Type ⓘ	Application		
☐	Emory University	ED	Early Decision	November 1	N/A		Pending		Unknown ▼	 EDIT	MORE ⋮
☐	Georgia State University	EA	Early Action	November 15	N/A		Pending		Unknown ▼	 EDIT	MORE ⋮
☐	Kennesaw State University	EA	Early Action	October 26	N/A		Pending		Unknown ▼	 EDIT	MORE ⋮

“Colleges I’m Applying to” Dashboard

Common App

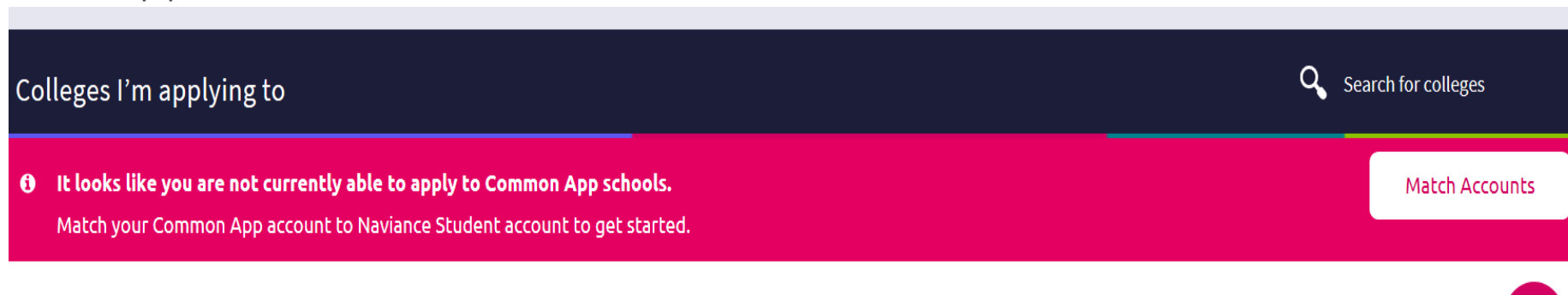
- ▶ The Common App is an undergraduate college admission application that applicants may use to apply to any of the 500+ member colleges and universities.
- ▶ **If a school uses Common App, use Common App.**
- ▶ You can access the Common App by going to **www.commonapp.org**
- ▶ Some schools are Common App exclusive, which means they do not accept any application other than the Common App. Some schools accept both the Common App and their own individualized, web-based application or the Coalition Application.
- ▶ Of course, this does not apply for schools who do not accept the Common App. To view the 500 schools that accept the Common App, check out the members page of the Common App website.
- ▶ Limit your Common App to 20 school maximum if possible.

Georgia Colleges Using Common App

- Agnes Scott College
- Augusta University
- Berry College
- Brenau University
- Clark Atlanta University
- Clayton State University
- Covenant College
- Emory University
- Georgia College & State University
- Georgia Tech
- Georgia Southern University
- Georgia State University
- Kennesaw State University
- Life University
- Mercer University
- Morehouse College
- Oglethorpe University
- Paine College
- Piedmont University
- Reinhardt University
- Savannah College of Art and Design
- Savannah State University
- Spelman College
- University of Georgia
- University of North Georgia
- Wesleyan College

Common App Matching

- ▶ For Common App schools, students are required to match their Common App and Naviance Student accounts.



- ▶ In order to match the Common App account, students must first complete the following steps in their Common App account:
 - ▶ Complete the Education section of your Common Application
 - ▶ Add at least one college to My Colleges tab
 - ▶ Sign the FERPA Release Authorization

Click to watch video on common app matching.



Common Black College App (CBCA)*

- ▶ Single application for 67 Historically Black Colleges/Universities
- ▶ Only \$20 application fee to apply to all HBCU's using CBCA
 - ▶ You will select top 4 colleges. Your application is available to all other colleges but they may not review if they are not in your top 4. You will need to contact those colleges regarding your application.
- ▶ Your school counselor will upload your transcript to the CBCA website after you complete \$2 payment
- ▶ CBCA: <https://commonblackcollegeapp.com/>
- ▶ Instructions for completing application: [instructions - commonblackcollegeapp](#)

Non-Common App Schools

- ▶ Some colleges and universities have opted not to accept the Common Application or Coalition.
- ▶ Instead, they have created their own individual applications that, in most cases, are web-based and can be found via the school's undergraduate admissions website.
- ▶ Just because a school does not accept the Common App does not mean that they do not accept the transmission of important documents, like letters of recommendation and academic transcripts, through Naviance.
- ▶ When a non-Common App school allows us to submit documents through Naviance, it is called Direct to Institution. A Direct to Institution school is designated by this symbol.



Teacher Recommendations

- ▶ Allow **at least 3-4 weeks** for teachers to complete their recommendation portion of your application!
- ▶ ASK EARLY!!!
- ▶ Students “invite” their teachers to upload and send letters of recommendation in two steps:
 1. Provide teachers with a copy of your recommendation packet with a list of schools to which you are asking the teacher to write.
 2. Add the request digitally under your “Colleges I’m Applying To” tab.
 3. **IMPORTANT: ASSIGN YOUR TEACHERS TO SPECIFIC SCHOOLS, NOT “All Applications”**
 - It is your responsibility to research which schools require a letter of recommendation on their website.
 - If they do not ask for a letter of recommendation, they do not use it in the admissions process. DO NOT ASK YOUR TEACHER FOR ONE IF THIS IS THE CASE!

Adding Teacher Recommendation Requests on Naviance

Cancel Submit Request

1. Who would you like to write this recommendation?*

Select A Teacher ▼

2. Select which colleges this request is for:*

☒ Choose **specific** colleges from your *Colleges I'm Applying To* list

	Colleges ^	Due ^
☐	Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) -- required / 1 allowed / 0 requested	Jan 01 2018
☐	Kennesaw State University -- required / -- allowed / 0 requested	Mar 01 2018
☐	University of Georgia -- required / -- allowed / 0 requested	Jan 01 2018

Tracking Teacher Recommendations

Letters of recommendation

Your Requests

You can request new letters of recommendation and track the most recent status of your requests here.

Add Request

Recommendation For *	Deadline *	Recommender(s)	Status ⓘ	Cancel Request
All Applications ⓘ	See applications	Christopher Williams	Cancelled	✕
Mercer University 1 required/ 2 allowed/ 1 requested		Christopher Williams	Requested	✕
University of Georgia -- required/ -- allowed/ 1 requested	Jan 01 2021	Christopher Williams	Requested	✕

Add Request

Counselor Recommendations/ Secondary School Reports

- ▶ If you need a Letter of Recommendation from your School Counselor, please allow 2-3 weeks for your Counselor to write that Letter
- ▶ You can reach out to your Counselor through email to request a Letter of Recommendation
- ▶ Your Counselor will ask questions that you must answer for us to write a great letter of recommendation (don't be shy with your answers!)



Step 4:

Send Your Transcript

Requesting Transcripts

- ▶ 1. Add college you are applying to Naviance.
 - *Log onto your Naviance student account.*
 - *Click on “Colleges I’m applying to”*
 - *Click on “(+)”, add each college/university, including application information OR MATCH ACCOUNTS (CommonApp Schools)*
 - *Click “Add Application”*
- ▶ 2. Go to MyPaymentsPlus and fill out the transcript request form and pay \$2 for your transcript.
 - For Common Application documents, you MUST link your Common App account to your Naviance account before your counselor can send your transcript.
- **It is your responsibility to complete ALL parts of the above process, or transcripts will not be sent.**



Step 5: Financial Aid

Financial Aid- Helps Pay for College

- ▶ Financial Aid helps students pay for college
- ▶ **Types of Financial Aid:**
Scholarships, Grant, Student Loans, Work-study
- ▶ **Scholarships and Grants DO NOT have to be repaid**
- ▶ Student Loans **MUST** be repaid
(amount borrowed + interest)



Scholarships

- ▶ Types of Scholarships:
 - ▶ Academic, Community Service, Athletic, Hobby/Extracurricular based, Identity based, Need based, Employer or Military
- ▶ Check the Scholarship Resources in Naviance on the Colleges Homepage
 - ▶ Scholarship List- Updated by County and HS
- ▶ Check the College Websites and online search engines.
 - ▶ Pay attention to deadlines!!

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- ▶ An Application completed by students who want to go to college and want financial aid (help paying for college)
- ▶ **Will be available to complete October 1, 2025**
- ▶ Requires tax information from student's family (2024 Taxes)
- ▶ Determines how much money your family would be able to contribute to your cost of attending college
- ▶ The FAFSA is the application for HOPE Scholarship, Zell Miller Scholarship, HOPE Grant, HOPE Career Grant, and Pell Grant

Federal Pell Grant

- ▶ Awarded to students who show financial need based on their FAFSA
- ▶ **NO HIGH SCHOOL GPA Requirement**

Maximum Amount Awarded:
\$7,395 per school year (2025-2026)



FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS COMPARISON CHART

	FAFSA	GSFAPP
Federal Aid (Pell Grant, Student Loans, etc)	YES	NO- Students will need to complete the FAFSA for Federal Aid
State Aid (HOPE/Zell Miller)	YES- Students do not need to complete the GSFAPP if they complete FAFSA	YES
Do I need Tax Information to complete this?	YES- This is how Pell Grants and Student Loans are determined	NO- State Aid is not based on Financial Need.
Do I need a Social Security Number?	YES	YES
How often do I complete application?	Every year after October 1st.	This application is good for 10 years.

GSFAPP
VS.
FAFSA

HOPE Scholarship- Bachelors/Associates Degree

▶ **MUST HAVE:**

- ▶ 3.0 GPA for academic courses: English, Math, Science, Social Studies, World Language
 - ▶ A percentage of your college tuition will be covered, this amount will vary (<100% for 2025-2026 school year).
- ▶ Minimum Four Rigor credits (i.e. Precal, Forensics, Chem, Physics, Spanish II, AP/Honors/DE, etc.)
- ▶ Check www.GAFutures.org for a list of rigorous courses and other eligibility criteria.
- ▶ **You can check your HOPE GPA on WWW.GAFUTURES.ORG**
 - ▶ Your SSN must be updated in the Cobb student record system to receive HOPE funds!!

Zell Miller Scholarship- Bachelors/Associates Degree

▶ **MUST HAVE:**

- ▶ 3.7 GPA for academic courses: English, Math, Science, Social Studies, World Language
 - ▶ A percentage of your college tuition will be covered, this amount will vary (100% for 2025-2026 school year).
- ▶ Must score 1200 on SAT or 25 on ACT (or be Valedictorian/Salutatorian)
- ▶ Minimum Four Rigor credits (i.e. Precal, Forensics, Chem, Physics, Spanish II, AP/Honors/DE, etc.)
- ▶ Check www.GAFutures.org for a list of rigorous courses and other eligibility criteria.
- ▶ **You can check your HOPE GPA on WWW.GAFUTURES.ORG**
 - ▶ Your SSN must be updated in the Cobb student record system to receive HOPE funds!!

HOPE Grant- Certificate/Diploma

- ▶ The HOPE Grant Program is for students seeking a technical certificate or diploma
- ▶ **No High School GPA Requirement**
- ▶ The HOPE Grant Award amount will cover a portion of a student's tuition (<95% for 2025-2026 school year).
- ▶ Full-time enrollment is not required.
- ▶ Students are required to have a postsecondary cumulative 2.0 GPA to maintain eligibility.
- ▶ More info on www.GAFutures.org
- ▶ HOPE Grant Eligible colleges: <https://www.gafutures.org/hope-state-aid-programs/hope-zell-miller-grants/hope-grant/eligible-colleges-and-universities/>

Hope Career Grant- Select Certificate/Diploma

- ▶ Stipend added to the HOPE Grant
- ▶ Students must be enrolled in select certificate or diploma program
- ▶ Examples of Eligible Programs: Automotive, Aviation, Commercial Truck Driving, Computer Programming, Construction, Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, Movie Production/Set Design, Practical Nursing, Welding
- ▶ For more specific info on programs: <https://www.gafutures.org/media/gf0o05s2/hope-career-grant-programs-of-study-fy2023.pdf>
- ▶ For information on amount awarded: <https://www.gafutures.org/hope-state-aid-programs/hope-zell-miller-grants/hope-career-grant/award-amounts/>