

# College Prep Checklist

## 9th Grade

This is an amazing and exciting time and it is important to start your high school years off on the right foot. Checklists are great tools to keep you organized, focused and connected with everything that needs to be done.

### Student's 9th Grade Checklist

- Create a GAfutures account at **GAfutures.org**. GAfutures is a great resource to help you explore and plan for college and your career.
- Start thinking about what careers you may be interested in and choose your classes accordingly. Check out the Career Exploration section on GAfutures to help you determine your interests and the different types of careers out there.
- Be sure to introduce yourself to your school counselor. Make an appointment to discuss your classes and ask questions about education options after high school.
- Ask your counselor or teachers what Advanced Placement courses are available, whether you are eligible and how to enroll.
- Start building your high school portfolio. Keep track of your awards, recognitions and extracurricular activities (volunteering, sports, band).
- Develop good study habits. Your HOPE GPA begins calculating as soon as you set foot into high school. Create a schedule and stick to it.

### Parent's 9th Grade Checklist

- Know your child's class schedule and teachers.
- Learn about the tax benefits of Georgia's Path2College 529 Plan.

Check out what you need to do **each** year of high school. →

# Annual Checklist

## Student's 9th Grade Checklist

- Discuss financial aid and college saving options with your parents.
- Use the FAFSA4caster to help understand your options for paying for college.
- Know your graduation requirements and take challenging classes.
- Participate in school- or community-based activities that interest you.
- Talk to your counselor about Dual Enrollment and your education opportunities after high school – college, military, career.
- Check your HOPE GPA through your GAfutures account beginning in 10th grade to see if you are on track to be eligible for the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship.\*

\*High schools must provide transcript data to GSFC in order for a student's HOPE GPA to be available through their GAfutures account.

## Parent's 9th Grade Checklist

- Talk to your child about how a college education can benefit them.
- Stay involved! Encourage your child to take classes that prepare them for the college they want to attend. Remind them to check their HOPE GPA, monitor their grades and watch their study habits.
- If you haven't done so, consider opening a Path2College 529 Plan college savings account and contribute regularly. It's never too late to save!

Visit the College Planning section of **GAfutures**  
for additional information on preparing for college.