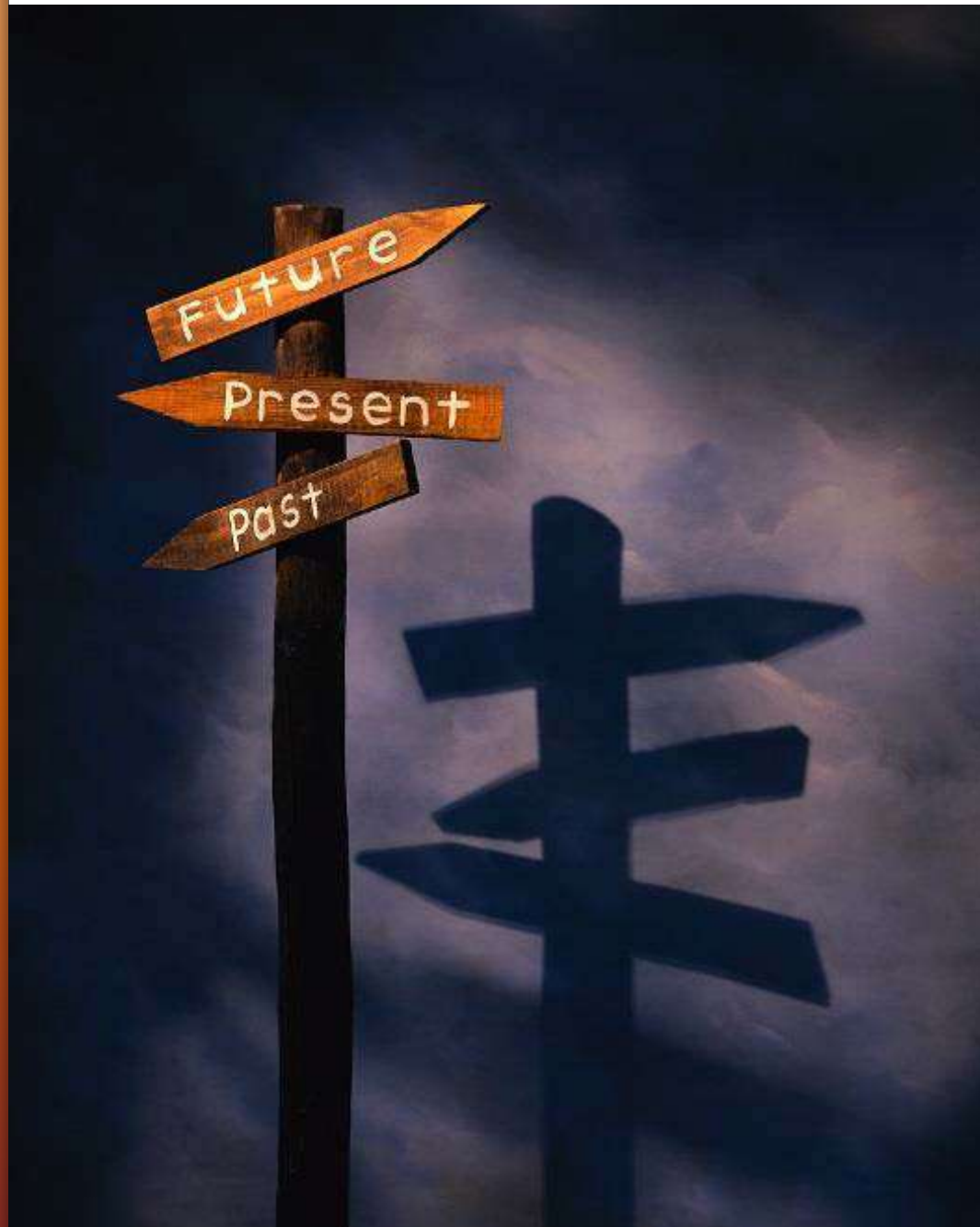


# college 101

GET SCHOOLED ON HOW TO GO

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YOUR FUTURE IS UP TO YOU.  
TAKE CONTROL OF IT AND PLAN AHEAD.



**EVERYTHING YOU DO  
IN HIGH SCHOOL  
AFFECTS YOUR  
FUTURE OPTIONS.  
CHOOSE YOUR  
COURSES AND  
ACTIVITIES  
CAREFULLY AND  
ALWAYS DO YOUR  
BEST!**



# YOUR FUTURE....

## You Can't Get There If You Don't Know Where You're Going...

The first and most important step in figuring out your next step is to take some time to reflect on who you are and what you want in the future.

Before you can even begin thinking about life after high school, you need to think about some basic guiding questions:

- ☐ What are your interests, aptitudes, values and passions?
- ☐ What are your goals, now, and for your life?
- ☐ What do you want to be when you grow up?
- ☐ What do you hope to get out of college should you chose to attend?

Use this website to help you plan: [GaCollege411.org](http://GaCollege411.org)



# Is College Right for You?

The answer to this question depends on what you want to do when you finish high school. Not everyone plans to attend college and we get that. **The reality however is that once you leave high school you need some sort of training or education beyond high school to help you meet your career goal.**

Whether you choose to go into the military, go to a technical college, enroll in a 2 year college or 4 year college, you need to seek additional training and/or education beyond high school. The job market out there is tough and without additional training and/or education, you could easily find yourself stuck in a minimum wage job that you hate living paycheck to paycheck.

Research shows that your lifetime earnings potential increases with the more training/education you have.

**More training/education = More opportunities = More \$\$\$**



# Types of Colleges

- » **Technical Colleges** offer certificate, diploma, and associate degree level programs.
- » **Two Year Colleges** offer programs that lead to an Associate's Degree.
- » **Four Year Colleges** offer programs that lead to a Bachelor's Degree.
- » **Universities** are larger institutions that typically contain several smaller colleges, such as colleges of liberal arts, engineering or health sciences and offer more majors and degree options (bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees). These colleges can prepare you for a variety of careers or for graduate study.



# Types of Programs

**Certificate and diploma:** are non-degree programs that are typically offered in technical and vocational fields of study. They generally lead to employment in an occupational field. *Examples* –Cosmetology, Early Childhood Care & Education, Welding

**Associate Degree:** two types of associate majors are offered. (1) Technological and vocational specialties that are generally completed in 2 yr. of college study and are usually sufficient for entrance into an occupational field, and (2) college or university parallel programs that are like the first 2 yr. of a 4yr college curriculum often referred to as a Transfer Degree. *Examples* – Business Administration, Social Work, Nursing

**Bachelor's Degree:** sometimes called baccalaureate degrees, generally require 4 to 5 yr. of study. The bachelor of arts (BA) and bachelor of science (BS) are the most common baccalaureates, and both include general education courses, a major and electives. The BS is more likely to be awarded in the sciences and for professional or technical fields of study. BA degrees are more often awarded in the humanities and arts. However, there are no absolute differences between the degrees, and policies concerning their award vary from college to college. *Examples*—Biology, Computer Science, Pre-Veterinary Medicine, Nursing



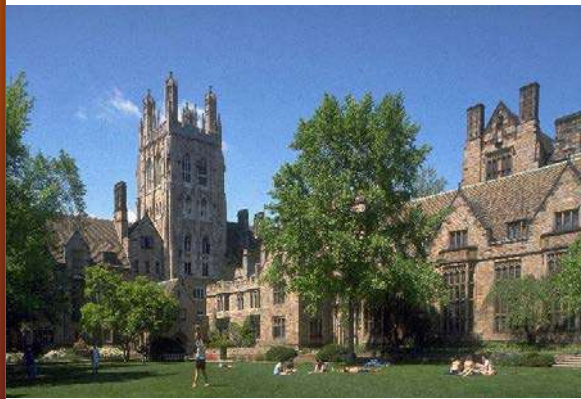
# Factors to Consider

- ☐ Type of school (2 year, 4 year, technical)
- ☐ Admissions requirements & competitiveness
- ☐ Majors and pre-professional degree programs offered
- ☐ Cost of tuition (Public In-State, Public Out-of-State, & Private)
- ☐ Financial aid opportunities
- ☐ Location from home
- ☐ Setting (rural or urban)
- ☐ Size of campus & number of students enrolled
- ☐ Student-faculty ratios
- ☐ Availability of housing—Do you want to live on campus or commute?
- ☐ Availability of special opportunities like study abroad programs
- ☐ Presence of athletic , arts, Greek life, and/or extracurricular programs
- ☐ Special Considerations—Religious Affiliations, Historically Black Colleges, Co-ed versus all girls/boys



# College Admissions

- » Admission requirements vary widely from school to school—you are responsible for researching admissions requirements to make sure you meet the minimum requirements. If you don't meet the minimum requirements, you will not be admitted and should not apply. You should look for a college that is more appropriate for you





# College Application Components

The application packet generally requires some or all of the following:

- ☐ Application for admission (most are completed electronically)
- ☐ Secondary school report/counselor recommendation
- ☐ Essays
- ☐ Teacher recommendations
- ☐ Official transcript sent from high school
- ☐ Official copies of standardized test scores--SAT/ACT/SAT Subject Tests/Compass--sent by testing agency
- ☐ Application fee

More selective schools also require an interview



# College Admissions Requirements

When trying to select a college, it is important to review minimum requirements for admission but also to consider how selective or competitive each school's admission policy is.

The competitiveness of a college is based on the number of students who are admitted compared to the number of students who apply and considers the caliber of those students (number of AP courses attempted, GPA, scores on standardized tests, rank in class, etc).

Some colleges are noncompetitive and will admit any student who meets minimum requirements (space permitting). Other colleges are very competitive and admit only a small percentage of the highest qualified students.

You are encouraged to look at profiles of admitted students so you can see how you compare and if you would be competitive for admission.



# What are Colleges Looking for?

College admissions requirements vary widely. Here are a few things you need to keep in mind based on your college goals:

- ☐ Grade point averages are important
- ☐ Standardized test scores are important
- ☐ Taking rigorous classes (e.g. AP courses) in high school is important—it is also important to do well in them!
- ☐ Being involved in clubs, athletics, community activities, and/or extracurricular activities is important



# Paying for College

- ☐ College is an investment in your future and a financial investment.
- ☐ Most people need some form of financial assistance to fund their college education. College IS Possible!!!
- ☐ In Georgia, students are fortunate to have the HOPE Scholarship, Zell Miller Scholarship, & HOPE Grant Program.
- ☐ You are encouraged to begin looking at the costs associated with attending college so you can begin thinking about how much college you can afford and what types of financial aid you may need to look into.



# Financial Assistance for College

## Need Based Financial Aid

**Loans:** A loan is money that you borrow and must repay with interest to the lender.

**Grants:** Money that is awarded as financial aid that does not have to be repaid. Federal Pell Grants are awarded by the federal government and may be applied toward the costs of post-secondary education such as the cost of tuition, room and board, books, and other educational expenses. Many schools (particularly private schools) also award need-based grants to assist with these expenses.

**Work-study:** Post-secondary work opportunities for students with demonstrated financial need. Work-study provides opportunities for students to work part-time at a college or university affiliated job to earn money to cover part of their educational expenses.

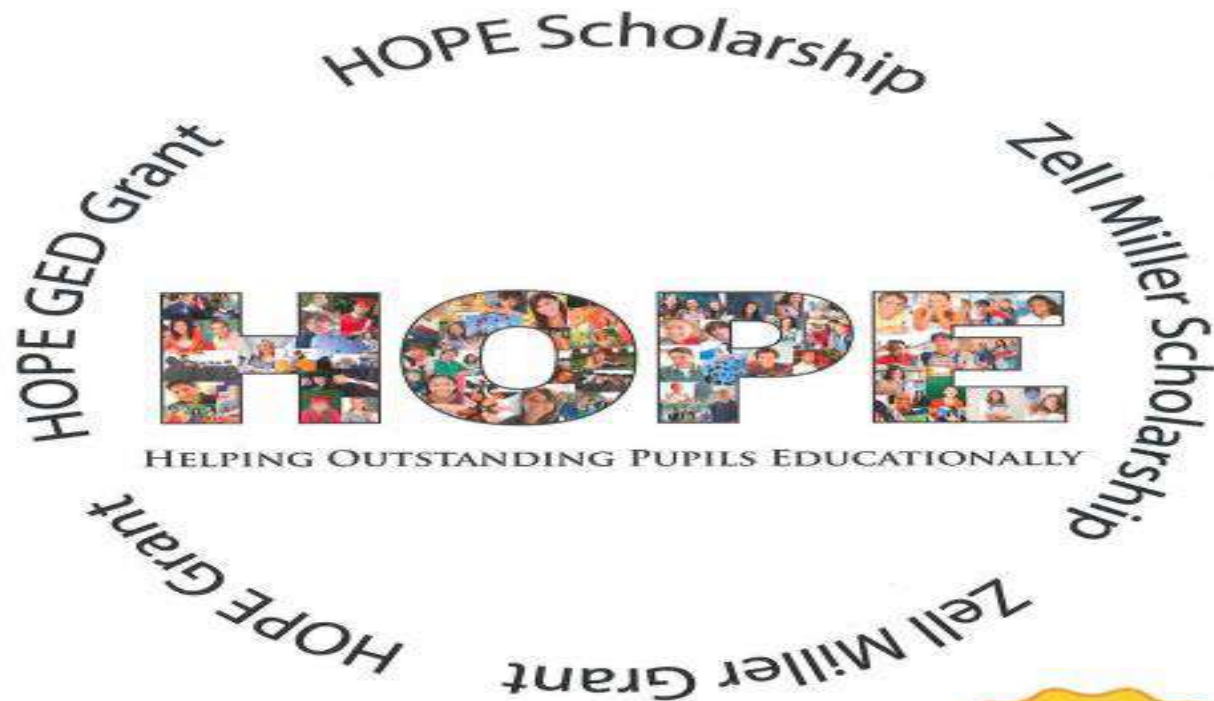
## Merit Based Financial Aid

**Scholarships:** Scholarships are awarded based on certain criteria such as exceptional academic performance or outstanding skill or talent. This money does not have to be repaid.





# WANT HOPE?



New for 2014-2015  
**ZELL MILLER  
GRANT**

 Georgia Student  
Finance Commission  
LOANS • SCHOLARSHIPS • GRANTS

This brochure is located in the CCHS Guidance Office.

## HOPE AND ZELL MILLER SCHOLARSHIPS

### ELIGIBILITY

#### HOPE Scholarship

- ▶ 3.0 high school GPA as calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) in core curriculum courses (English, Math, Science, Foreign Language, Social Science)
- ▶ Rigor requirements

#### Zell Miller Scholarship

- ▶ Rigor requirements and one of the following:
    - ▶ Designated valedictorian or salutatorian
    - ▶ 3.7 high school GPA as calculated by GSFC in core curriculum courses
- OR
- ▶ Test component: 1200 SAT combined score (Critical Reading and Math) or 26 ACT composite score

### WHAT ARE RIGOR REQUIREMENTS?

Rigor courses: *Advanced Math, Advanced Science, Advanced Foreign Language, Advanced Placement (AP) in core subjects, International Baccalaureate (IB) in core subjects, Dual Credit Enrollment courses in core subjects taken at an eligible postsecondary institution.*

- Students graduating on or after May 1, 2015 must earn two full credits from the above list.
- Students graduating on or after May 1, 2016 must earn three full credits from the above list.
- Students graduating on or after May 1, 2017 must earn four full credits from the above list.

### AWARD AMOUNTS

	HOPE Scholarship*	Zell Miller Scholarship*
<b>Public Institution</b>	Portion of standard tuition <sup>1</sup>	Full standard tuition <sup>1</sup>
<b>Private Institution Full-time</b>	\$1,910 per semester (summer, fall, spring) \$1,274 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)	\$2,110 per semester (summer, fall, spring) \$1,407 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)
<b>Private Institution Half-time</b>	\$955 per semester (summer, fall, spring) \$637 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)	\$1,055 per semester (summer, fall, spring) \$704 per quarter (fall, winter, spring, summer)

\*Complete award amount charts available on [GAcolllege411.org](http://GAcolllege411.org). <sup>1</sup>Up to 15 credit hours.

### MAINTAINING

#### HOPE Scholarship

- ▶ Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA at designated checkpoints (end of every spring semester and at 30, 60 and 90 attempted semester hours; end of every spring quarter and at 45, 90 and 135 attempted quarter hours). If a student's GPA falls below a 3.0, they will lose the HOPE Scholarship and will only be eligible to regain it once.

#### Zell Miller Scholarship

- ▶ Students must maintain a 3.3 GPA at designated checkpoints (end of every spring semester and at 30, 60 and 90 attempted semester hours; end of every spring quarter and at 45, 90 and 135 attempted quarter hours). If a student's GPA falls below a 3.3, they will lose the Zell Miller Scholarship but may still be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship. Students can regain the Zell Miller Scholarship only once.

### LOSING ELIGIBILITY

A student will lose eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship and the Zell Miller Scholarship due to one of the following:

- ▶ GPA requirements not met
- ▶ Maximum attempted and/or paid hours reached (127 semester/190 quarter)
- ▶ Funds not used within seven years of high school graduation or equivalent (military exception)
- ▶ Bachelor's or first professional degree received



## HOPE GRANT

### ELIGIBILITY

- ▶ No high school graduation requirement
- ▶ Must be enrolled in a certificate or diploma program at a University System of Georgia (USG) or Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) school

### AWARD AMOUNT

- ▶ Portion of standard tuition, up to 15 credit hours; Award amount chart available on [GAcollege411.org](http://GAcollege411.org)

### MAINTAINING

- ▶ Cumulative 2.0 GPA at designated checkpoints at the end of every semester (30/60 paid semester hours) or every quarter (45/90 paid quarter hours)
- ▶ Only eligible to regain the HOPE Grant once

### LOSING ELIGIBILITY

- ▶ GPA requirement not met
- ▶ Maximum paid hours reached (63 semester/95 quarter)
- ▶ Bachelor's or first professional degree received

## NEW

## ZELL MILLER GRANT

### ELIGIBILITY

- ▶ No high school graduation requirement
- ▶ Must be enrolled in a certificate or diploma program at a University System of Georgia (USG) or Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) school
- ▶ Cumulative 3.5 or higher postsecondary GPA each term

### AWARD AMOUNT

- ▶ Full standard rate of tuition, up to 15 credit hours; Award amount chart available on [GAcollege411.org](http://GAcollege411.org)
- ▶ First term awarded retroactively after earning a 3.5 or higher GPA

### MAINTAINING

- ▶ Cumulative 3.5 or higher postsecondary GPA required each term
- ▶ Eligible to regain Zell Miller Grant if minimum GPA earned at the end of the next term

### LOSING ELIGIBILITY

- ▶ GPA requirement not met
- ▶ Maximum paid hours reached (63 semester/95 quarter)
- ▶ Bachelor's or first professional degree received

## STRATEGIC INDUSTRIES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANT (SIWDG)

### ELIGIBILITY

- ▶ Enrolled in certain high-demand certificate and diploma programs at a University System of Georgia (USG) or Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) school
- ▶ HOPE Grant and Zell Miller Grant eligibility requirements apply
- ▶ Dual credit and/or joint enrollment students not eligible

### AWARD AMOUNT

- ▶ Awards are a fixed amount per term based on the program and number of hours enrolled
- ▶ Approved programs and award amounts available on [GAcollege411.org](http://GAcollege411.org)

For more information on the HOPE Program, visit [GAcollege411.org](http://GAcollege411.org).



## HOPE GED GRANT

### ELIGIBILITY

- ▶ Earned a GED diploma from Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) after June 30, 1993

### AWARD AMOUNT

- ▶ \$500 voucher that can be used for tuition, books or other educational costs at an eligible postsecondary institution
- ▶ Voucher expires 24 consecutive months after issue date

## OTHER STATE FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

In addition to the HOPE Program, GSFC administers other state financial aid programs on behalf of the state of Georgia. These programs are designed to assist students with the cost of education while in high school and beyond.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ▶ Accel  | ▶ Student Access Loan  |
| ▶ Georgia Military College State Service Scholarship | ▶ Student Access Loan - Technical                            |
| ▶ HERO Scholarship                                   | ▶ Tuition Equalization Grant                                 |
| ▶ Public Safety Memorial Grant                       | ▶ University of North Georgia Military Scholarship           |
| ▶ REACH Scholarship                                  | ▶ University of North Georgia ROTC Grant                     |
| ▶ Scholarship for Engineering Education              | ▶ University of North Georgia ROTC Grant for Future Officers |

For more information on state financial aid programs, visit [GAcollge411.org](http://GAcollge411.org).

## ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In addition to meeting the requirements for specific state financial aid programs, students must meet the following basic eligibility requirements:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ▶ Be a legal resident of Georgia  | ▶ Meet U.S. citizenship or eligible non-citizen requirements                     |
| ▶ Meet academic achievement standards required by the program or college          | ▶ Be in good standing on all student loans or other financial aid programs       |
| ▶ Be registered with the Selective Service, if required                           | ▶ Not have exceeded the maximum award limits for any state financial aid program |
| ▶ Be in compliance with the Georgia Drug-Free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990 | ▶ Meet enrollment requirements   |
|   | ▶ Attend an eligible postsecondary institution                                   |



# What You Can Do Now

1. Challenge yourself by taking rigorous courses that will help you further your career goals!
2. Keep your grades up
3. Login to GACollege411 and check your HOPE GPA-see your counselor if you need your username and password—do not create another account!
4. Prepare for & take standardized tests
  - PSAT in 10th & 11th Grades
  - SAT/ACT in 11th & 12th Grades
  - SAT Subject Tests in 11th & 12th Grades (only if you're applying to highly competitive colleges)
5. Get involved with leadership, service, and extracurricular activities at school or in the community
6. Talk to your teachers and other adults you know to learn more about where they went to college and what their experiences were like.





# What You Can Do Now

7. Visit college campuses, attend college fairs, and talk to college recruiters and admissions counselors when they visit the high school. *Note:* College visits during the school year must be preapproved.
8. Explore college websites to learn about programs, opportunities, and admissions requirements.
9. Take a virtual college tour—some of these include [campustours.com](http://campustours.com), [campustours.com](http://campustours.com), [YOUiversitytv.com](http://YOUiversitytv.com)
10. Utilize [GACollege411](http://GACollege411), [GCIC](http://GCIC), and Career Cruising to learn more about college and career planning.
11. Talk to your counselor. If you will be a first generation college student, make a special effort to meet with your counselor regularly—she wants to help!





**If you're counting on the HOPE scholarship to help you pay for college, make sure you keep your GPA up and make sure you are taking classes that meet HOPE's rigor requirements. In addition to meeting the HOPE GPA requirement, students in the Class of 2017 must earn four credits in high school courses that are considered rigorous. AP courses and ACCEL courses meet this requirement but many other courses also meet this requirement. You can view a list on the CCHS counseling website.**



**If you are interested in Dual Enrollment Opportunities next year begin discussing your interest with your counselor and the Dual Enrollment Coordinator, Ms. Wallace.**

