

# ***College Planning Guide***

## ***2023-2024***

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### ***COLLEGE PLANNING PORCESS***

1. Review your high school graduation requirements to make sure you are on track.
2. Start a list of the colleges you might be interested in and keep track of the following for each school.
  - a. Tuition
  - b. Location
  - c. Programs
  - d. Admission Requirements and Deadlines
3. Sign up for the SAT/ACT/ASVAB if needed.
4. Visit colleges on your list and meet with admissions reps.
5. Begin your scholarship search. [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
6. Submit Applications: Be mindful of deadlines
  - a. Submit transcript and test scores as needed
7. Request teacher/counselor recommendations as needed.
8. Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid - December 2023).
9. GRADUATE from high school!
10. Send your final transcript through [www.parchment.com](http://www.parchment.com) to the college you will be attending.

Your College List should include...

**SAFETY SCHOOL**  
Your test scores and GPA are higher than the average for admissions

**TARGET SCHOOL**  
Your test scores and GPA are the same score range as admitted students

**DREAM SCHOOL**  
Your test scores and GPA are lower than the average range of admitted students

### ***UNDERSTANDING YOUR GPA***

**WEIGHTED:** includes extra points for honors, AP, and Dual Enrollment classes

**UNWEIGHTED:** Does not include extra points for honors, AP, and Dual Enrollment classes

**CORE:** Only includes English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language classes

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## Types of College Admissions

**Rolling:** Admissions decisions are made within 6 weeks of submitting your application

**Early Action:** earlier admissions / more emphasis on academics

**Early Decision:** Same as early action but binding - if you get admitted you must withdraw your applications to all other schools.

**Regular Decision:** Receive decision at standard response rate

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## HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

- Your HOPE GPA is calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission and not DCHS
- HOPE is based on your English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language grades only.
- Only AP and Dual Enrollment classes receive an extra .5 into the GPA
- You need to earn at least a 3.0
- The HOPE GPA includes all semesters of high school.
- Create an account at [www.gafutures.org](http://www.gafutures.org) to see your HOPE GPA
- Students must graduate with the 3.0 GPA AND 4 HOPE Rigor courses
- A 3.7, corresponding test score and 4 rigor courses are required for Zell Miller

### HOPE / ZELL MILLER RIGOR COURSES

AP Lang Comp / American Lit  
Spanish II, III, IV, V and AP  
American Sign Language II, III, IV  
Pre-Calculus  
Advanced Math Decision Making  
Algebra II  
AP Computer Science Principles  
Programming Games and Apps  
AP Biology  
AP Environmental Science

Chemistry and AP  
Chemistry  
Physics  
Forensic Science  
Human Anatomy  
AP Psychology  
AP World History  
AP US History  
Advanced Algebra  
AP Calculus AB

## FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the online form that colleges use to award financial aid. Submitting the FAFSA is your key to accessing student loans, grants, scholarships, work study, and HOPE

*The FAFSA  
opens in  
December  
2023*

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# IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

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- College deadlines are strict. If you miss the admissions deadline you will not be considered.
- All colleges calculate GPA's in their own way. You will need to research to find out how each college determines your GPA.
- If you meet the colleges minimum GPA for admissions that awards you the right to apply and not necessarily attend.
- Lookup a colleges "freshman profile" to see what the GPA was for accepted students at the college you are considering.
- The majority of schools do not consider class rank in your application. Class rank is a poor indicator of a student's academic success.

## VERY IMPORTANT WEBPAGES YOU NEED TO KNOW

SAT Test dates and registration: **[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)**

ACT test dates and registration: **[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)**

FAFSA: **[www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov)**

HOPE: **[www.gafutures.org](http://www.gafutures.org)**

TRANSCRIPT REQUEST: **[www.parchment.com](http://www.parchment.com)**

Scholarships: **[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)**

NCAA Eligibility Center: **[www.ncaa.org/ecwr3/](http://www.ncaa.org/ecwr3/)**



# Scholarships

Merit Scholarships: Based on achievement in academics

Need Based: Based on financial situation

National Scholarship Search: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

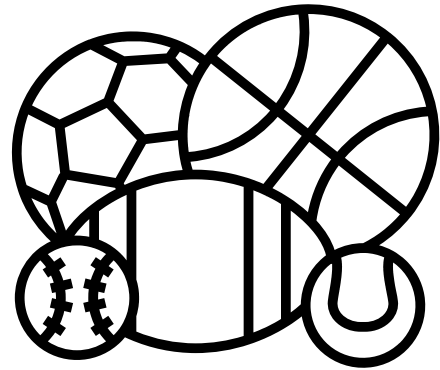
Local Scholarships: Sent out by the counseling department in the Spring

## College Athletes

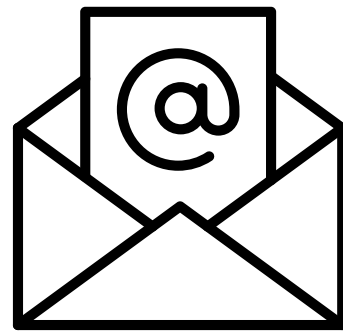
If you plan on playing sports in college  
you will need to register with the

[NCAA Eligibility Center](https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/)

<https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>



## WE CAN HELP!



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