

Midtown High School

Senior Packet



Class of 2023

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College Advisers

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Important Senior Contact Information	
<p>Graduation Coach</p> <p>Ms. Kristin Robinson Kristin.robinson@atlanta.k12.ga.us</p>	<p>Services Provided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks Student Graduation Progress • Academic Recovery • All Graduation Ceremony Questions
<p>College Advisers</p> <p>Ms. Arpita Gaggar arpita.gaggar@atlanta.k12.ga.us</p> <p>Ms. Samantha Collier samantha.collier@atlanta.ga.us</p>	<p>Services Provided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All College Questions • All Career and Military Questions <p><i>*Extensive List of services below*</i></p>
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Meet the College Advisers



Ms. Samantha Collier

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Ms. Arpita Gaggar

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We are the College Advisers for all students at Midtown High School. We help students with:

- Major/Career Exploration
- College Match/Fit
- SAT/ACT Test Registration
- Resume Building
- College Applications
- FAFSA Completion
- Housing/Meal Plans
- Anything Else Related to College

All senior students are required to meet with an adviser at least once a semester, but they are strongly encouraged to meet with us as many times as they need to. Many students in the Class of 2022 met with college advisers over 20 times a semester! Students and parents can schedule a meeting with us using the link below or by scanning our QR code. Our QR code can be found on the counseling office door, email signature, and flyers. The College & Career Center website will also be linked below. Both will be updated with important senior links throughout the year.



Website: <https://midtownhighccc.weebly.com/>

Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/midtwnccc>

Important College Vocabulary

Financial Aid

- **HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship:** A Georgia scholarship program that pays for a percentage of a student's tuition at a public college in Georgia based on high school grades for an associate's or bachelor's degree. More information will be provided below.
- **HOPE/Zell Miller Grant:** A Georgia scholarship program that pays for a percentage of a student's tuition at a public trade school in Georgia based on high school grades for a diploma or certificate program. More information will be provided below.
- **HOPE Career Grant:** Extra funding for students who receive the HOPE & Zell Grants. Given for specific programs that are in high demand in Georgia. More information will be provided below.
- **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** This application is required to receive funding from the federal government. Money is given on a first-come, first served basis, and there is a limited amount. Fill it out as soon as possible! Students will automatically be applied to the HOPE/Zell Scholarships and Grants when they complete FAFSA. More information will be provided below.
- **Pell Grant:** Special funding the government provides for low-income students to pay for college. Unlike a loan, the Pell Grant does not have to be repaid. Students may be eligible to receive up to \$6,895 their first year of college.
- **CSS Profile:** A financial aid application similar to FAFSA that many private colleges use to determine a student's need for aid aside from the FAFSA. The FAFSA is still required!

College Admission Tests

- **Test Optional:** Some colleges don't require admission tests to apply. This may depend on the student's GPA. Tests may still be required for scholarships or other programs
- **SAT:** One of two college admissions tests for students interested in a four-year college. The SAT is administered by College Board and is scored out of 1600 points. Scores are based on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (800 pts) and Math (800 pts) sections. More information will be provided below.
- **ACT:** One of two college admissions tests for students interested in a four-year degree. The ACT administers the ACT and is scored out of 36 points. Scores are based on the

average of the English (36 pts), Math (36 pts), Reading (36 pts), and Science (36 pts) sections. More information will be provided below.

- **ACCUPLACER:** This is a placement test used for two-year and technical colleges. It can be used instead of the SAT or ACT and helps determine what classes a student will start with upon entering into a certificate, diploma, or associate's program.

Degree Types

- **Certificate:** Students can specialize in a field without investing the time needed to earn a four-year degree. Certificates are typically 5 or 6 courses taken over a period of time. The price and length of a certificate depends on the program. Typically less than one year.
- **Associate's Degree:** These programs usually provide a more thorough, in-depth examination of a particular field, like healthcare or technology. Typically two years.
- **Bachelor's Degree:** Provided at traditional colleges and universities. It involves around three semesters of general education courses (in the same core subjects) and around nine semesters of in-depth study into a particular subject area. Also called a four year degree.

Application Types

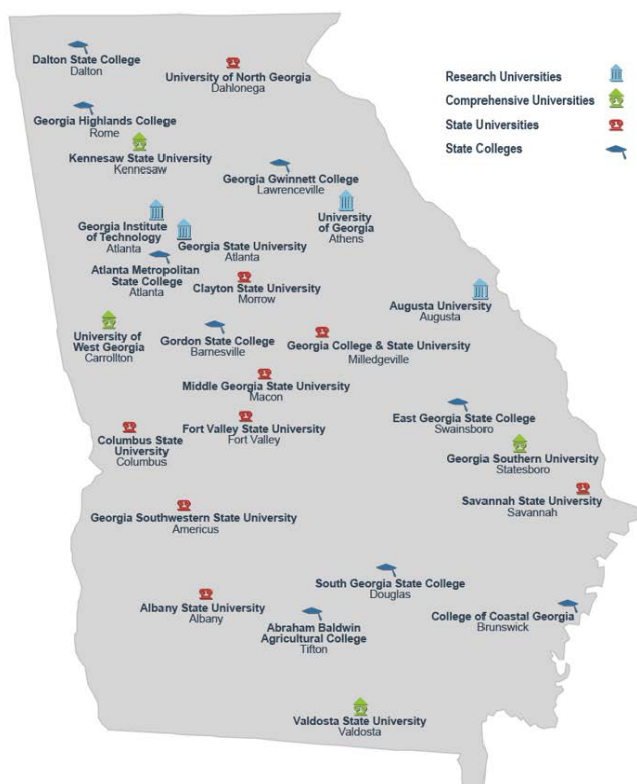
- **Early Action:** This is an application deadline to determine an early pool of applicants. This application is nonbinding, meaning students don't have to commit to the college if they're accepted. Sometimes, colleges and universities offer early action applicants extra scholarship opportunities, honors college opportunities, or other special programs.
- **Early Decision:** This is an application deadline to determine an early pool of applicants. **However, this application is binding, and requires that a student attends the university.** Sometimes, colleges and universities offer early decision applicants extra scholarship opportunities, honors college opportunities, or other special programs.
- **Regular Decision:** This application type ensures that applicants have submitted their materials by a specific deadline. The decisions go out on a set date, which does not change based upon the date the application was submitted.
- **Rolling Admissions:** This application type allows for decisions to be shared as soon as the admissions officer has received all the applicant's required materials.

Application Decision Types

- **Accepted:** The student was accepted with no conditions.
- **Provisional/Conditional Acceptance:** The student was accepted, but must maintain the requirements listed by the college. Ex: accepted, but needs to keep their GPA above a 2.5
- **Waitlisted:** There were limited spots available for freshman students. The student must accept their spot on the waitlist. When an accepted student denies their acceptance, the next student on the waitlist will be offered the acceptance.
- **First-Year Transfer:** Some colleges offer transfer programs for students who applied. Students would have to take their first year of classes at another college and would be able to transfer to the desired college if they maintain the academic requirements for the transfer program. Ex: Georgia Tech.
- **Deferred:** Typically given to earlier applications. The college hasn't finished reviewing your application and would like to review it with applicants from a later admission deadline.
- **Denied:** The student was not accepted into the college. This can be due to academics, extracurricular activities, and other reasons.

A comprehensive list of College Definitions can be found on the CCC website [MHS College Access Vocabulary](#)

Academic Requirements for College



The University System of Georgia (USG) is the government agency that runs all 26 public colleges and universities in Georgia. These institutions are broken into four types:

- Research University
- Comprehensive University
- State University
- State College

Institutions are categorized based on the type of degrees they offer to students.

In order to apply to a USG institute, students must meet the academic requirements listed below. USG requires students to complete the following 17 Required High School Curriculum (RHSC) to apply to their colleges. Many of these credits overlap with class required to graduate, but not all:

- 4 units of English
- 4 units of mathematics
- 4 units of science
- 3 units of social science
- 2 units of the same foreign language, American Sign Language, or computer science

In addition to the RHSC, students **must** take the SAT/ACT to attend a USG institution. USG is **not test optional** for students applying for Fall 2023. Colleges will list their minimum GPA and SAT/ACT requirements on their websites. You can also find information about different colleges in this spreadsheet: [GCAC 2022-2023 Georgia Colleges at a Glance](#)

Freshman Index

In addition to meeting the Required High School Curriculum (RHSC), high school GPA, and SAT/ACT score requirements, students must meet the minimum Freshman Index (FI) for the college. The FI is calculated using the student's GPA and SAT/ACT scores. The formulas for Freshman Index are below:

ACT	SAT
$FI = 500 \times (GPA) + (ACT \text{ Score} \times 42) + 88$	$FI = 500 \times (GPA) + 1.06 \times (SAT \text{ score}) - 74$

The Freshman Index formula may be different at non-USG institutions.

Additional Requirements

Some colleges may have additional requirements to apply depending on the major. For example, KSU requires higher SAT/ACT scores for students applying to the architecture program. Nearly all nursing programs require higher SAT/ACT scores than what was required for the college, so it's important for students to see if there are additional requirements for what they want to do.

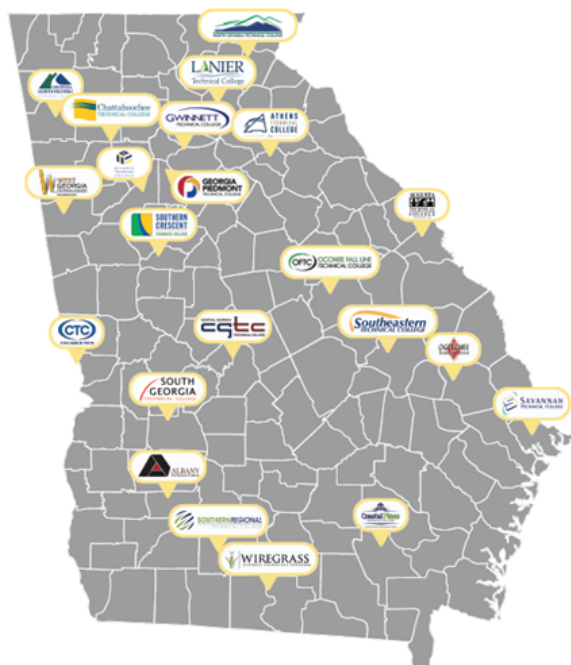
Common Additional Requirements

- Additional application for the program/major once admitted
- Higher SAT/ACT scores based on the program/major
- Additional foreign language requirements for the college/program/major
- Additional fine arts requirements for the college/program/major

Students can check the specific requirements of a college on their admissions website and requirements for the major:

- For Colleges
 - Google > “College Name” Admission Requirements > Freshman/First Time College Students > View Requirements
- For Majors
 - Google > “College Name” “Major” Requirements > Required Curriculum > View Requirements

Academic Requirements for Technical College/Trade School



The Technical College System of Georgia is the government agency that runs all 22 public technical colleges/trade schools in Georgia. These technical colleges offer:

- 88 Locations
- Trade School Programs
- Tuition Free Programs
- Transfer Pathways to USG Schools

These institutions may be called “junior colleges” or “community colleges,” but Ms. Vu will be calling them by their official names: technical colleges.

There are fewer academic requirements for technical colleges. Students need a high school diploma or its equivalent and qualifying placement tests. The following metrics may be used for placement at a technical college:

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| • SAT/PSAT | • Georgia Milestones | • HiSET® Scores |
| • ACT/Pre-ACT | • HOPE GPA | • TCSG Approval Form |
| • TABE 9-10 | • High school GPA | • Accuplacer/Companion |
| • TABE 11/12 | • GED® Scores | • Compass/Asset |

Each technical college uses different metrics, so check with the schools before applying. Some information can be found on this spreadsheet. [GCAC 2022-2023 Georgia Colleges at a Glance](#)

Which One is for Me?

Technical College vs. Traditional College

- Technical Colleges are often cheaper than a traditional colleges, but they offer fewer scholarships for students
- Traditional colleges have more clubs, sports, and activities for students
- Only two technical colleges (North Georgia and South Georgia) have on-campus housing, but most USG colleges have on-campus housing
- Traditional Colleges may require you to live on-campus for a certain amount of time, while you can live wherever you want at a technical college
- Technical Colleges require a high school diploma and a variety of tests for acceptance, but traditional USG colleges have a GPA and SAT/ACT requirement
- Technical Colleges only offer certificates, diplomas, and two-year degrees
- More information on technical careers, training, and professions can be found [here](#).

In-State vs. Out-of-State

- Students applying to any college in Georgia will be applying for in-state tuition
- Out-of-State colleges charge out-of-state tuition, which is typically 300% higher than In-State tuition

- The HOPE/Zell Scholarship/Grant only applies to in-state colleges
- Most college classes at public universities in Georgia will be accepted at other public universities in Georgia, but it's not likely that out of state college classes will transfer

Public School vs. Private Schools

- Private colleges cost more than public schools, but tend to offer more scholarships and financial aid
- Private schools take only \$2,152 in HOPE scholarship and \$2,808 in Zell scholarship a semester, which is a smaller percentage of tuition than at a public school
- Private colleges offer more specialized majors compared to public colleges

How does GPA affect college options?

Many colleges will list a minimum GPA required to apply. This is typically a 2.0 or 2.5 GPA. Some colleges won't even list a minimum GPA. However, this ***does not mean*** that GPA doesn't matter. Admissions Officers consider the academic standards set by students at their college. For example, Georgia Tech has no minimum GPA listed on their website, admissions criteria, or Freshman Profile; however, around 85% of Tech's students have a 4.0 unweighted GPA. Because ***so many*** students apply to Tech and ***so many*** students who have competitive (above a 3.5) GPAs, Georgia Tech gets to be picky and choose students with more extracurriculars.

Building a Balanced College List

Students are encouraged to apply to at least one school in each ***academic match*** category:

Likely	Target	Reach
Student has GPA, Test Scores, and Course Rigor <i>above</i> college averages	Student has GPA, Test Scores, and Course Rigor <i>meet</i> college averages	Student has GPA, Test Scores, and Course Rigor <i>below</i> college averages
Allows students to have as many options for college as possible	Allows students to have their passions and academics matched by their peers	Allows students to compete for acceptance at a school they want to go to

Not all colleges will offer your major. Check before applying!

In addition to academics, students should look at their ***personal fit*** at the colleges. Things to consider include:

- Cost of Attendance
- School Demographics
- Extracurricular Activities Available
- On-Campus Housing style
- Weather/Location

SAT/ACT

What Test Should I Take?

The SAT and ACT are both college admissions tests for colleges. Colleges will accept either test as long as students have the required scores. Think of it as the fruit requirement for lunch: students can take an apple, an orange, or both, but they're required to take at least one fruit. The tests are slightly different.

	SAT	ACT
Why Take It	Colleges use SAT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.	Colleges use ACT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.
Test Structure	Reading Writing & Language Math	English Math Reading Science Reasoning Essay (Optional)
Length	3 hours	2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay) 3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay)
Reading	5 reading passages	4 reading passages
Science	None	1 science section testing your critical thinking skills (not your specific science knowledge)
Math	Covers: Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry, Trigonometry and Data Analysis	Covers: Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry, Trigonometry, and Probability & Statistics
Calculator Policy	Some math questions don't allow you to use a calculator.	You can use a calculator on all math questions.
Essays	None	Optional. The essay will test how well you evaluate and analyze complex issues.
How It's Scored	Scored on a scale of 400–1600	Scored on a scale of 1–36

Important Differences

- Science
 - Although the ACT has a science section, it focuses on reading comprehension of scientific material. The SAT puts this section in as a reading section.
 - **In reality, both test scientific concepts**
- Math
 - ACT lets you have a calculator the whole section, SAT does not
 - SAT has write in questions ([example](#))
- Reading
 - ACT focuses on reading comprehension so skimming is encouraged
 - SAT has two-part evidence-supported questions that the ACT doesn't have. These are two questions that are related to each other. The answer to one question is linked to the answer to the one before it. If students answer incorrectly on question one, they are likely to answer incorrectly on question two.

SAT/ACT National Test Dates

2022-2023 Test Dates (National)		ACT [®]	
Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline Late Fee Applies	Standby Deadline Photo Upload Deadline
September 10, 2022	August 5	August 19	September 2
October 22, 2022	September 16	September 30	October 14
December 10, 2022	November 4	November 11	December 2
February 11, 2023	January 6	January 20	February 3
April 15, 2023	March 10	March 24	April 7
June 10, 2023	May 5	May 19	June 2
July 15, 2023*	June 16	June 23	July 7

Test Date	Normal Registration	Late Registration	Score Release
Aug 27, 2022	Jul 30, 2022	Aug 13, 2022	Sep 9, 2022
Oct 1, 2022	Sep 3, 2022	Sep 17, 2022	Oct 14, 2022
Nov 5, 2022	Oct 8, 2022	Oct 22, 2022	Nov 18, 2022
Dec 3, 2022	Nov 5, 2022	Nov 19, 2022	Dec 16, 2022
Mar 11, 2023	Feb 11, 2023	Feb 25, 2023	Mar 24, 2023
May 6, 2023	Apr 8, 2023	Apr 22, 2023	May 19, 2023
Jun 3, 2023	May 6, 2023	May 20, 2023	Jun 16, 2023

Test Prep Resources	
<p style="text-align: center;">SAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khan Academy • Full-Length Practice Tests • Paid Classes • Union SAT Test Prep • Magoosh SAT Test Prep • Daily Practice for the SAT Phone App • SAT Up Phone App • The Grading Game Phone App • Math Brain Booster Phone App 	<p style="text-align: center;">ACT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaplan Test Prep <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Free with ACT Waiver • Official ACT Test Prep • Mometric ACT Test Prep • Union ACT Test Prep • Magoosh ACT Test Prep • ACT Up Phone App • The Grading Game Phone App • Math Brain Booster Phone App

Fee Waivers

11th & 12th grader students are eligible to take the SAT/ACT for FREE if they meet at least one of the requirements below:

- Family's annual family income falls within the Income Eligibility Guidelines set by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service.
- Student or a member of their immediate family is enrolled in a federal, state, or local program that aids students from low-income families (e.g. Federal TRIO programs such as Upward Bound).
- Family receives public assistance.
- Student lives in federally subsidized public housing, a foster home or is homeless.
- Student is a ward of the state or an orphan.
- Household receives TANF or SNAP or other public assistance.
- Student or another child in their household receives free or reduced meals

To Receive a Fee Waiver:

Students have to “apply” for fee waivers using a fee waiver form. After completion, students need to submit the form to their respective counselor (Rucker, Falcone, Young) in person or through email. If a student is under 18, a parent signature on this form is required. If approved for a fee waiver, the counselor will send the code via email. The same fee waiver form is used for application fee waivers. For the ACT, students can receive four waivers and a free \$120 online test prep course. For the SAT, students can receive one waiver valid for two tests.

Applying to College

Application Deadlines

Before you start your college application, there are a few things you need to know. The most important thing to know is when deadlines are. **Unlike in high school, college deadlines are strict.** If you miss the application deadline or document submission deadline, your application will not be accepted. Ms. Vu has compiled a [College and Career Calendar](#) with many college applications, SAT/ACT, and document submission deadlines on it, but it is your responsibility to check. Different type of applications have different deadlines:

- **Early Action:** Typically in October or November. Colleges will usually offer extra scholarship opportunities, honors college, or other special programs.
- **Early Decision:** Typically in October or November. Colleges will usually offer extra scholarship opportunities, honors college, or other special programs. However, this application is **binding**, and **requires that a student attends the university**. If accepted, students **have to attend**.
- **Regular Decision:** Ranges from January all the way to June. This is a regular deadline students have to submit documents.

Where to Apply

There are four main locations students would apply to college:

- **[GAFutures](#):** Hosts the location of nearly all applications for colleges in Georgia. Many colleges have their application through GAFutures like Kennesaw and Clayton.
- **[Common App](#):** One application used by 950+ colleges internationally. Multiple colleges in Georgia use it including UGA, Georgia State, Georgia Tech, and Spelman.
- **[Common Black App](#):** One application used by 68 HBCUs including Alabama State University, Tuskegee, and Bethune-Cookman.
- **Institution Website:** An application created specifically for the given college. Some colleges may have their own application in addition to one on any of the other locations.

Students will have to make their own accounts to apply on any given platform. Make sure to **use your personal email address** on all applications. Your Atlanta Public School email address will not be available to you post-graduation, so in order to keep access to all of your accounts and applications, you **must use your personal email address**.

Colleges see what your personal email address is! Embarrassed? Make an email specifically for college. A basic one could be [First.Last.classof2023@gmail.com](#). That would be [Wendy.Warhawk.classof2023@gmail.com](#) when filled out. All college emails can go here!

What's Needed to Apply

Colleges may require different items depending on academic rigor, competitiveness, and school type. Here's a list of what colleges will require the most to least:

- All colleges require: Completed Application, Transcripts, Application Fee (if applicable)
- Many colleges require: SAT/ACT scores, Letters of Recommendation, Essay(s)
- Some colleges require: Additional portfolio (typically for fine arts degrees), alumni interview (typically for prestigious universities)

Students can learn how to submit the following documents below:

- **Completed Application:** Through the application portal.
- **Transcripts:** [GA Futures](#) (Georgia Colleges only), or through [ScribOrder](#) (requires GA ID/License/Permit).
- **SAT Scores:** via [College Board](#). Scores are 12\$/college, but free with SAT waiver
- **ACT Scores:** via [ACT](#). Scores are 16\$/college, but free with ACT waiver
- **AP Scores:** via [College Board \(instructions\)](#).
- **Letters of Recommendation:** Through the application portal.
 - Students ***must*** ask their recommender for a letter of recommendation before requesting a recommendation for an application. Counselors require a completed form to write recommendations.
- **Essays:** Through the application portal
- **Additional Portfolio:** Through the application portal.
- **Alumni Interview:** See college for more information.

Additional documents will be required after your application is submitted. Common items include Verification of Lawful Presence, Proof of Immunization, and Georgia Residency Verification. Each college has a list of what can be used to satisfy the requirements. Students can check on their admissions website and requirements for the major:

- Google > "College Name" "Insert Document Name" Documents > Select first link from the College > View Acceptable Documents

Free Applications and Application Fee Waivers

November and March are often FREE application months for many public colleges in Georgia, so this may be an option for some students, however, these free application months are never guaranteed. Students wishing to apply should hold off until these two months to apply for free easily.

Students can also receive Application Fee waivers for non-Georgia colleges and if they apply any other time, but students will have to use a fee waiver form. After completion, students need to submit the form to their respective counselor in person or through email. If a student is under 18, a parent signature on this form is required. If approved for a fee waiver, the counselor will send the code via email. The same fee waiver form is used for tests.

Sending Transcripts

College applications require your official transcripts. Below are the options for submitting official transcripts.

- GA Futures (Georgia Colleges only)
- Parchment (<https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/196891/account>)
 - a. Follow these instructions to set up your parchment account
 - Once you are on the website, proceed as a “New Learner”
 - Select “I do not have a registration code (provided by my school)”
 - b. When creating your account, make certain that you provide the correct year that you began high school, **otherwise if you do not, you will collect a fee.**
 - Current seniors began high school in 2019 and will end in 2023
 - Current juniors began high school in 2020 and will end in 2024
 - Current sophomores began high school in 2021 and will end in 2025
 - Current 9th graders began high school in 2022 and will end in 2026

Financial Aid

HOPE/Zell Scholarship

The HOPE program enables students to have a percentage of their tuition be covered at an eligible college in Georgia. The HOPE Scholarship only covers an associate's or bachelor's degree. The Zell Miller Scholarship Program is similar to HOPE, but pays up to the total standard tuition cost at an eligible college or university in Georgia. **Students will receive the full benefits of HOPE/Zell at USG schools and will only receive partial benefits at specific private colleges in Georgia.**



Requirements

For HOPE eligibility, students must have:

- 3.0 HOPE GPA
- 4 Rigorous Courses

For Zell eligibility, students must have:

- 3.7 HOPE GPA
- 4 Rigorous Courses
- 1200 SAT or 26 ACT

HOPE	ZELL
 <p>Min 3.0 HOPE GPA AND 4 Rigorous Courses</p>	 <p>Min 3.7 HOPE GPA AND 4 Rigorous Courses</p>
No test scores are required to be eligible for HOPE Scholarship	Min 26 ACT OR Min 1200 SAT OR Valedictorian or Salutatorian that meet HOPE
Pays for a percentage of tuition at a college, which varies based on college attended	Typically pays for the standard tuition rate at a college, which varies based on college attended
3.0 GPA required to be maintained during college, check at 30/60/90 attempted credit hours	3.3 GPA required to be maintained during college, check at 30/60/90 attempted credit hours

Calculating HOPE GPA

A student's high school HOPE GPA is not the same as their high school GPA. The HOPE GPA uses the following courses: English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language. CTAE and elective classes like JROTC and Health/PE do not count. Classes taken in middle school like Spanish I and Algebra I will not be calculated in HOPE.

A student's high school HOPE GPA is not the same as their high school GPA

Any weight added to a student's GPA for honors, AP, or Dual Enrollment classes is removed. Half a point (0.5) is re-added to Advanced Placement (AP), and Dual Enrollment classes. Since the HOPE GPA is on a 4.0 scale, no weight is added to classes the student received an "A" (4.0).

No weight is added for honors. Students can check their HOPE GPA and rigor courses on GAFutures. Instructions below.

MHS Hope GPA Instructions

HOPE/Zell Grant

The HOPE Grant program is for students working towards a certificate or diploma at an eligible trade school/college in Georgia. **Full-time enrollment is not required** and students aren't required to graduate from high school with a specific GPA. This is a perfect opportunity for students looking at trade schools.

Type of HOPE Grants

HOPE Grant	Zell Grant	HOPE Career Grant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covers a percentage of tuition at the beginning of the semester Students must maintain a 2.0 college GPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reimburses 100% tuition at the end of each semester Given to students with a 3.5 GPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extra funding for high demand jobs/careers
		Click here to see which Programs Qualify

Applying for the HOPE/Zell Programs

Students can apply for the HOPE/Zell Miller Programs through one of two applications:

- Complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#)
- Complete the online [Georgia Student Finance Application \(GSFAPP\)](#)

There is a difference between these two applications. Those are listed below:

FAFSA	GSFAPP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used by colleges nationally for their own scholarships and required for some 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used only for colleges in Georgia Can only receive Georgia funding like the

- Can receive Pell Grants, federal student loans, and other federal funding
- Have to complete every year
- HOPE/Zell Scholarship
- Valid for 10 years, so you only have to complete it once

We recommend that students file for FAFSA every year, but also file the GSFAPP once as insurance for their HOPE/Zell funding.

FAFSA

What is FAFSA?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is an application students must fill out to receive financial aid from the federal government and most colleges. FAFSA uses personal and financial information from students and parents to create an Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The most important factors are family income, assets, and the number of children in college. Students will receive a financial aid package from the colleges they sent their FAFSA to based on information submitted through the application.

Why fill out FAFSA?

- FAFSA is free and if students/families have all their information prepared, it can take 30 minutes to fill out.
- FAFSA is required for many scholarships provided by colleges. If students want to receive money from their college, they'll need to have a FAFSA on file.
- FAFSA is used for other forms of financial aid. Students with a filed FAFSA were eligible to receive funding from the CARES Act.
- FAFSA is required for numerous private scholarships.
- FAFSA does not require an essay.
- FAFSA can be used to apply for HOPE/Zell Scholarships and Grants.
- FAFSA changes each year. Families who didn't receive funding the previous year could qualify for funding the present year.

Eligibility

To receive federal student aid, you'll need to:

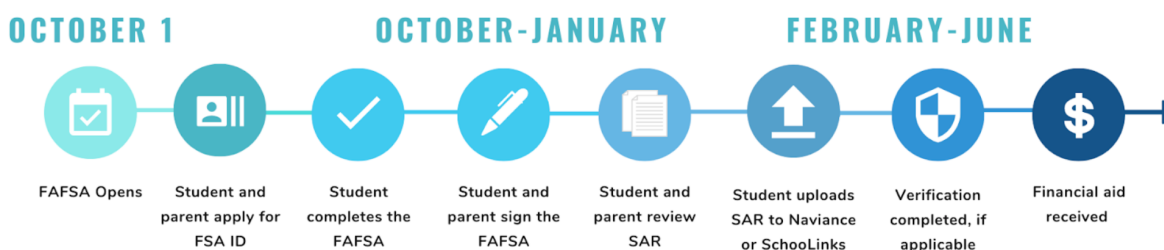
- Obtain a college or career school education, either by having a high school diploma or equivalent, or by completing a high school education in a homeschool setting approved under state law; AND,
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student in an eligible degree or certificate program; AND,
- Have a valid Social Security number; AND,
 - Be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national; OR,
 - Have a green card (Form I-551, I-151, or I-551C); OR,

- Have an Arrival-Departure Record (Refugee, Asylum Granted, Cuban-Haitian Entrant (Status Pending), or Parolee); OR,
- Have Battered Immigrant Status (victim of abuse by your citizen or permanent resident spouse, or you're the child of a person designated as such under the Violence Against Women Act); OR,
- Have a T-VISA.

Filling out the FAFSA

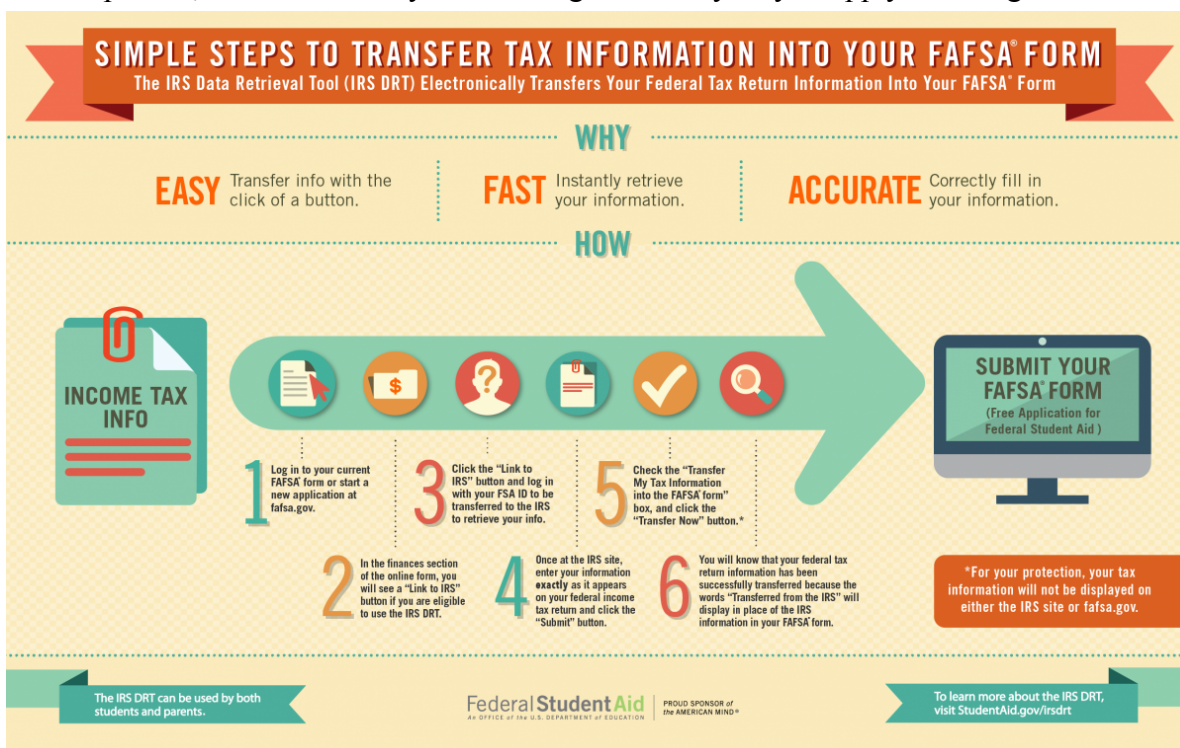
FAFSA has changed a lot in the past few years. Students and parents who are prepared for the application process can complete the form in 30 minutes or less! Students and parents should expedite the process by creating their FSA IDs before the FAFSA application opens on October 1st, 2022. [Instructions can be found here.](#)

More in-depth information will be provided throughout the school year, but the graphics below show the general timeline and application process.



Pell Grant

The Pell Grant is money the government provides for low-income students who need it to pay for college. Unlike a loan, the Pell Grant does not have to be repaid. Students may be eligible to receive up to \$6,895 for the first year of college. The only way to apply is through the FAFSA.



Scholarship Information

Scholarships can be based on merit (high academic performance or other specific talents, interests, or majors), or on financial need. HOPE and Zell Miller scholarships are examples of merit scholarships; Achieve Atlanta is an example of a need-based scholarship. Grants are often needs-based, such as the Pell Grant, which is a federal award that does not need to be repaid.

When considering finances for colleges, there are several resources to help you understand what exactly it will cost to attend college. Every college has a cost calculator on their website to help you get a better idea of what that school might actually cost you. Additionally, there are numerous scholarship databases available to search for scholarship money. It is important to remember to complete scholarship applications *as soon as possible* because **scholarship applications are often due earlier than college applications.** Many are due as early as October of your senior year.

Scholarship Highlight Reel

- [Achieve Atlanta scholarship](#)
 - Needs-based scholarship designed to support Atlanta Public Schools students
- [Boys High Scholarship](#)
 - For Midtown High School seniors graduating with a 3.0 minimum GPA
- [5 Strong Scholarship](#)
 - 5 Strong gives scholars the support they need to succeed at HBCUs
- [The Coca-Cola Scholars Program scholarship](#)
 - Achievement-based scholarship awarded to students in their final year of high school
- [United Negro College Fund](#)
 - The nation's largest private scholarship provider to minority group members, especially students interested in attending HBCU's

Scholarship Search Resources

- Free scholarship search platforms that match students with scholarships that align with students' merits, interests, and values-based organizations.
 - [Going Merry](#)
 - [Scholly](#)
 - [Fast Web](#)
- [Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta](#)
 - Curated list of many local scholarships for Atlanta Public School students.
- Rise First [Georgia Scholarships Directory](#)
- [Cappex](#)
 - Create a profile that goes well beyond test scores and grade-point averages to help you discover interesting schools that you might not have heard of. Scholarship information is also available.
- [Careeronestop.org](#)
 - The U.S. Department of Labor's scholarship search tool that allows you to find 8,000+ scholarships, fellowships, grants, & other financial aid opportunities

Military

How can we help?

Just because students are military-bound doesn't mean we can't help them. We can help students:

- View Officer Programs/Scholarships
- Get in contact with a military recruiter
- Schedule practice ASVAB testing at the school during the day
- Find study resources for the ASVAB



Different Enlistment Routes

	Reserve	Active	National Guard
Training	Basic Training lasts 8-12 weeks. Depending on your job, you may also attend an advanced training course. Annual Training is two weeks a year.	Basic Training lasts 8-12 weeks. Depending on your job, you may also attend an advanced training course. Annual Training is two weeks a year.	Basic Training lasts 8-12 weeks. Depending on your job, you may also attend an advanced training course. Annual Training is two weeks a year.
Obligations	Monthly Drills - 48 units a year - Typically weekends Voluntary/Involuntary full time activation	Military Full Time Dependant on the chosen branch and job in the military	Monthly Drills - 48 units a year - Typically weekends Respond to national emergencies
Contract Length	Typically 6 years	Typically 6 years	Typically 3-8 years
Benefits	Military TriCare Partial College Tuition Rank Based Pay	Military TriCare College Tuition Perks Rank Based Pay	Military TriCare Partial College Tuition Rank Based Pay
Branches	All Branches	All Branches	Air Force and Army

Steps for Military Enlistment

1. Be a senior on track to graduate
2. Meet height/weight standards of the chosen branch
3. Meet with recruiter
4. Take/pass practice ASVAB
5. Collect SSN card and state ID
6. Take/pass real ASVAB
7. Complete a military physical (includes vision, hearing, and drug test)
8. Select job/ship date to basic training



Tattoo Restrictions

The following tattoo restrictions were compiled **Apr 11, 2022** and may be subject to change at will of the United State's Department of Defense. For the most up to date information, please contact the military recruiter for the desired branch.

	Navy	Army	Marine Corps	Air Force	Coast Guard
Hand	One Allowed	None Allowed	One Ring Band Tattoo Allowed	One Ring Band Tattoo Allowed	One Allowed
Above Neck/ Collar Bone	Quarter Sized	Quarter Sized	None Allowed	None Allowed	None Allowed
Sleeve	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Offensive, Violent, or Sexual in Nature	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed

*Sleeve tattoos for the Army, Marine Corps, and Air Force may not pass the wrist bone

ASVAB

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a test used by the United States to determine enlistment eligibility, assign military jobs, and help students explore careers. The test measures in four areas: Verbal, Math, Science and Technical, and Spatial. Students will receive a score on the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT). These scores are percentiles between 1-99. Percentile scores indicate how each examinee performed compared with the base youth population. If a student scored a 75, they scored higher than 75% of those who took the test. The minimum AFQT score varies according to a branch of service.

The ASVAB requirements for the military branches are listed below. These may be subject to change, so please check with your recruiter. Study guides for the ASVAB can be found [here](#), and the CCC website will also have additional resources.

AFQT Category	Score Range
I	93 – 99
II	65 – 92
IIIA	50 – 64
IIIB	31 – 49
IVA	21 – 30
IVB	16 – 20
IVC	10 – 15
V	1 – 9

	Navy	Army	Marine Corps	Air Force	Coast Guard
Score	31	31	31	50	40

Military Recruiter Contact Information

Army Sergeant Corey A. Bishop Phone: (470) 336-8735 Email: corey.a.bishop.mil@mail.mil	Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Pierre Phone: (904) 402-2857 Email: Jeremy.Newsome@marines.us.mc.mil
Air Force Contact Information will be updated on the CCC Website	Navy Contact Information will be updated on the CCC Website
Coast Guard Atlanta Office Phone: (770) 671-9688 Email: HQS-DG-CGRC-ROAtlanta@uscg.mil	

Military Commissioned Officer Route

- Commissioned officers generally enter the Military with a four-year college degree or higher. In certain cases, enlisted service members can advance and transition to officers during the course of their military career as well. Officers are employed in management roles or highly specialized fields that require professional degrees (e.g., doctors, lawyers and chaplains). Their duty is to lead. An officer's education often determines which career they will have in the Military. Candidates will meet with a military advisor or career counselor during college to select a potential job specialty.

Methods of Becoming an Officer

- Attend a senior military college or service academy
 - These highly competitive schools are virtually free of charge for those accepted. The government pays for each student's tuition, room and board, uniform and books. Students are sometimes given a living stipend as well to help cover fees, a personal computer and other class supplies. In return, the student commits to serving as an officer for a set period after graduation, usually five years.
- Enroll at a college with a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program
 - ROTC programs provide officer training for students during college in exchange for scholarship money. In return, the students commit to serving for a set period of time after graduation.
- Attend Officer Candidate School (OCS) after graduating from college
- Receive a direct commission after earning a professional degree
- Advance through the enlisted ranks and then complete officer training

College ROTC Programs

Georgia Colleges with Army ROTC

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| ● Agnes Scott College | ● Clark Atlanta University | ● East Georgia State |
| ● Augusta State University | ● Clayton State University | ● Emory University |
| | ● Columbus State | ● Fort Valley State |

- Georgia Military College
- Georgia Southern
- Georgia State
- Georgia Tech
- Kennesaw State University
- Mercer University
- Morehouse College
- Savannah State
- Spelman College
- University of Georgia
- University of North Georgia

Georgia Colleges with Navy/Marine Corps ROTC

- Georgia Tech
- Georgia State University
- Savannah State University
- Kennesaw State University

Georgia Colleges with Air Force ROTC

- Agnes Scott College
- Clark Atlanta University
- Clayton State University
- Emory University
- Georgia Military College
- Georgia State University
- Georgia Tech
- Kennesaw State University
- Morehouse College
- Oglethorpe University
- Spelman College
- University of Georgia
- University of West Georgia
- Valdosta State University

Twelfth Grade College-Planning Checklist

✓Remind 101

Sign up to receive reminders from the CCC. Text to the number 81010, and in the message, type @midtown23.

✓Visit the CCC/Make an Appointment With Your College Adviser

Have individualized meetings with your advisers, Ms. Collier and Ms. Gaggar, attend workshops and college visits, get essay help, research colleges, find helpful books, etc.

✓SAT and ACT

August: If you still need to take the SAT or ACT, register now, and get this out of the way as early as you can. Do some test prep beforehand—there are free and paid options. If any of your schools require SAT Subject Tests, take them in October.

✓Create a Common App Account

August: Create an account at www.commonapp.org. Fill in your personal and family info and list the schools you might apply to in your dashboard. You can keep adding or deleting schools as you refine your list.

✓College Visits

Come and meet college reps in the CCC, and if it is possible for you, travel to tour colleges you are interested in.

✓Resume

Early September: If you don't have a resume, create one now. You will need it when you ask for letters of recommendation, and it will also help you when you're filling out the Common App or other applications.

✓Create a Parchment Account

Mid-September: Midtown uses Parchment to send transcripts electronically. Set up your account now at www.parchment.com. Then you'll be ready to quickly request that your transcript be sent to the schools you apply to.

✓Write Your Common App Essay and Supplemental Essays

August-October: The Common App requires you to write an essay. If you don't know how to get started or if you'd like help developing, editing, or proofing your essay, the CCC can help. Email cccessayhelp@gmail.com. Help is also available from your teachers and your College Advisers.

Some schools require additional supplemental essays. Check the requirements carefully. The more selective the school, the more likely you will have to write extra essays. Give yourself plenty of time (which is easier to plan if you know how many you'll have to do). Come to the CCC for editing help. Even if you don't think you need much help, please ask someone (teacher, parent, friend, CCC volunteer, College Adviser, etc.) to proof all your essays before you send them.

✓ Letters of Recommendation

Mid September: Many schools require one counselor and one or two teacher recommendations. Contact two junior-year teachers of core subjects (English, science, math, social studies) and ask if they'd be willing to write a letter of recommendation. If they agree, provide your resume and let them know when your first application is due. If you asked teachers last spring to write a recommendation, remind them politely now (don't expect them to have written it over the summer) by email or in person, and provide another copy of your resume.

Ask your counselor for a letter of recommendation as well. Colleges understand that most high school counselors serve hundreds of students, so they don't expect them to know you personally. The counselor will speak to your academic record in the context of the school. Provide your resume to the counselor when you ask. Be sure to thank teachers and counselors!

✓ College Visits

Attend college visits in the CCC. Find out who's coming through Remind 101 texts, the Knightly News, the board outside CCC, or our website, www.midtownhighccc.com. If any schools on your list are visiting, come meet the rep, who is likely the person who will first read your application. But don't limit yourself to schools on your list—you may learn about a school you hadn't considered that turns out to be a great fit for you.

Continue to visit colleges on your list if you can. If you don't have a chance to see them all before you apply, you can still visit in the spring if you're admitted.

✓ Complete the FAFSA

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) becomes available **October 1**. Parents should complete this as soon as possible at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You should have this on file whether you think you qualify for aid or not! You'll need it for HOPE.

✓ Refine Your College List

If you have not yet completed (or begun) your college list, compile a list of potential schools by visiting one of the many college search engines out there, such as Collegexpress, Cappex, College Board, College Navigator, College Confidential, or Unigo. GAFutures is great for in-state searches. Find links on the CCC website. Type in what you're looking for, and these sites generate a list of potential matches.

If you have a long list, narrow it down. Delete any schools you wouldn't really be happy to attend. Shoot for 5 to 9 schools to apply to. Include some reach, probable, and safety schools, based on GPA and test scores as well as cost. Don't rule out schools because of cost, though; many schools offer merit-based and need-based financial aid.

✓ Scholarships

Most financial aid will come from the school you attend. Check to see if you're automatically considered for scholarships when you apply or if a separate application is required. Consider applying to Honors programs. Research private scholarships (those not from the college), but realize that only about 5% of scholarship money comes from sources outside the college.

✓Clean Up Your Online Image

Create professional-sounding email accounts (sue.smith@gmail.com, for example, not sexy.kitty@gmail.com). Do you have potentially embarrassing photos or angry rants on social media? Delete them now.

✓Academics

Continue to work hard. Grades remain important, as does the rigor of your classes. The college you decide to attend will want to see your final transcript.

✓Apply to College!

October-January: All the pieces are in place. It's time to apply. Complete the application online (on Common App, Coalition App, school's website, etc.), attach the essay or essays, choose your recommenders (they will have uploaded their recommendations to your Common App account), take a deep breath, and hit "submit." Note that each school on the Common App has a separate application fee, although waivers are available—see your counselor.

✓Send Test Scores and Transcript

Make sure your ACT or SAT scores are sent to each school you apply to (if you didn't designate a school when you took the test, log into your ACT or SAT account to request scores be sent). Send your transcript to each school through Parchment.

✓Pay Close Attention to Application Deadlines

Early Action (EA) and Early Decision (ED) deadlines come as early as mid-October. Regular admission deadlines are usually around the first of the year. Remember: EA is not binding, but if you apply to a school ED, you are obligated to attend if admitted.

✓Follow Up

It's up to you to make sure colleges receive all your information. Check to make sure!

SPRING

✓Hear from Colleges

EA or ED applications usually receive a response before or just after winter break. If you're accepted by ED, you must withdraw other applications. You'll continue to hear about Regular Decision applications throughout the spring. Celebrate every acceptance!

✓Financial Aid

With each letter of acceptance, you'll likely receive a financial aid package. Each school may offer you a combination of scholarships or grants (which don't have to be paid back), loans (which do), and possibly work-study. Call the college's financial aid office with any questions. Ask if there are other scholarships you can apply for or if there's any more aid available; schools can sometime find more funds, especially if your financial situation has changed. Compare the bottom line on the financial aid packages you receive—an expensive school that offers a large scholarship may still cost more than a less expensive school that offers a smaller financial aid package.

✓CSS Profile

You may have to fill out the CSS Profile in addition to the FAFSA; some private schools require this more in-depth picture of your financial situation.

✓HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarships

If staying in-state, verify whether you are eligible for a HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship. Make sure Midtown has your social security number, which must be on file before the end of the school year for you to receive HOPE or Zell.

✓Pell Grants and Achieve Atlanta Scholarships

These are need-based grants. Complete the FAFSA, and if you're eligible you can receive up to \$6,895 per year for a Pell Grant (a federal program), and \$5,000 per year for an Achieve Atlanta Scholarship (for APS students).

✓Private Scholarships

If there is a shortfall between the financial aid a school offers and what you can afford to pay, look for additional scholarships. There are thousands available. Many require an essay and must be renewed each year. There are many search engines, such as Fastweb, College Board, and others, to help you find them. Never pay to do an online search. Check the CCC website for links.

✓Make Final Visits

If you didn't get to visit all your colleges earlier or if you want to visit your top picks again, plan a spring break trip to the colleges where you've been admitted.

✓Make Your Decision

May 1: Congratulations! You've received your decisions and compared financial aid packages. It's time to make your final decision and pay a deposit to your chosen college. Don't forget to visit Parchment and send your final transcript.



College Checklist for Rising Seniors



- ☐ Visit the CCC/Meet with your College Adviser
- ☐ Start On Your College Essay
- ☐ Finish up Your Testing (ACT/SAT)
- ☐ Complete the FAFSA/Scholarships
- ☐ Build Your Resume
- ☐ Consider Letters of Recommendations
- ☐ Visit Colleges
- ☐ Create Important Accounts (Common App/Parchment/Gafutures)
- ☐ Sign Up for the CCC's Remind 101 Texts by texting @grady2022 to 81010

Start Today!

Visit the CCC website for information, helpful links, and other updates. On the Midtown website, look for CCC under "Guidance," or use this shortcut: <https://www.midtownhighccc.com/>