

CLASS OF 2010 PLANNING YOUR FUTURE



ALLATOONA HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE

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REGISTRATION EXPERT

AHS Code 110057

COUNTDOWN TO GRADUATION

August – December

Have you taken the SAT/ACT or ASSET/COMPASS exam.....why not??

Were your scores high enough to gain admission to the school of your choice?

SAT registration: www.collegeboard.com

ACT registration: www.act.org

Asset / Compass exam locations & practice tests:

Chattahoochee Technical College:

<http://www.chattcollege.com/admissions/testing.php>

Georgia Highlands:

<http://www.highlands.edu/academics/academicaffairs/success/assessment/CompassPlacementTest.htm>

North Metro Technical College:

<http://www.northmetrotech.edu/index.html?lmenu=Services&content=Services/Assessment>

Create an account on www.gacollege411.org

View your preliminary HOPE transcript information

Begin your college and scholarship application process

Send transcript to colleges

(Transcripts can be requested through the counseling office (First one is free - \$2.00 for each additional) or you can send them directly from your www.gacollege411.org account)

Attend A College Fair:

Marietta High School Monday Sept 14, 09 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Kennesaw State Univ. Tuesday Sept 22, 09 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Cherokee High School Wednesday Oct 14, 09 6:00pm – 8:30pm

E. Paulding High School Wednesday Oct 21, 09 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Continue researching scholarships (Watch for the Buccaneer Beat Newsletter)

Continue your career and college major searches (Stop by the Career Center)

January – February

Apply for HOPE and Free Federal Aid by completing

BOTH the FAFSA Application & GSFAPPS Application

(both can be found on www.gacollege411.org).

May

GRADUATE !!!!!!!!!!!!!

#1 WEBSITE FOR COLLEGES, CAREERS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FINANCIAL AID

www.GAcolllege411.org

ADDITIONAL CAREER INFORMATION

www.careercruising.com user name: allatoona password: buccaneers

www.careers.org
www.myfuture.com
www.bls.gov/oco/
www.militarycareers.com
<http://www.mappingyourfuture.org>

ADDITIONAL COLLEGE SEARCH INFORMATION

www.collegesource.org
www.campustours.com
www.search4college.com
www.universities.com

Athletics

<https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common>

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

www.fafsa.ed.gov (HOPE APPLICATION)
www.fastweb.com
www.salliemae.com
www.college-scholarships.com
www.scholarshipexperts.com
www.guaranteed-scholarships.com
www.schoolsoup.com
www.uncf.org
www.collegesavings.org
www.hsf.net
www.atlantascholarships.com
www.meritaid.com
www.scholarships.com

Applying to College

1. College Entrance Exams

Take the appropriate College Entrance Exam

University or College Admission**:

SAT - Scholastic Assessment Test www.collegeboard.com or

ACT - American College Test www.act.org or www.actstudent.org

**Georgia Two year colleges have temporarily eliminated the SAT/ACT requirement for eligibility.

Career/Technical College Admission:

ASSET

(Can be taken either through specific career classes in high school or at a Technical College) sample test questions: <http://act.org/compass/sample/index.html>

2. College Applications

Submit your college application **EARLY IN THE FALL OF YOUR SENIOR YEAR.**

******* COLLEGES PREFER ON-LINE APPLICATIONS*******

When you apply on-line or by paper copy, unless the school advises you differently, you **MUST** send a transcript to the schools that you are applying to. (*Transcripts can be requested through the counseling office (First one is free - \$2.00 for each additional) or you can send them directly from your www.gacollege411.org account*)

YOU MUST ALSO SUBMIT A FINAL TRANSCRIPT ONCE FINAL GRADES ARE POSTED (Again, *transcripts can be requested through the counseling or you can send them directly from your www.gacollege411.org account.*

Some colleges and scholarships will request a recommendation from a teacher and/or counselor. *You should give your teacher and/or counselor two weeks notice if you need a recommendation.* **WATCH YOUR DEADLINES.** There is a form in the back of this packet that you will need to complete and turn into your teacher and/or counselor when requesting a recommendation letter.

College visitation absences can be **pre-arranged** through the Attendance Office for excused absences. Seniors are permitted 2 pre-arranged college visit absences per school year.

College Admissions Glossary of Terms

Regular Decision: Submit an application by a specified deadline and receive a decision by a specified date.

Rolling Decision: This means that once an application has been submitted and all necessary credentials have been received, the applicant will be notified by letter of an admission decision. Qualified students are accepted until classes are filled. Please check with the colleges of your choice - deadlines vary from school to school.

Early Action: Students who apply under a college's Early Action Plan receive a decision earlier than the standard response date BUT are NOT required to accept the admission offer or to make a deposit prior to May 1. Check with individual colleges to determine if the college you are applying to offers an early action plan.

Early Decision: Allows you to apply early and get an admission decision from the college well in advance of the usual notification date. **There is a catch.** Early decision plans are "binding", which means if you apply as an Early Decision candidate, you agree to attend the college IF they accept you and offer you an adequate financial aid package. If you have applied to more than one college and are accepted EARLY DECISION, you must withdraw all other applications.

COLLEGE ESSAY TIPS

- Be unique
- Let your personality shine through
- Proof-read, Proof-read, Proof-read
- Let someone else (parent, mentor, teacher) read for appropriateness or mistakes
- If a topic is provided, be sure not to stray - stay on topic
- Let your essay be the one that the reader wants to read again
- AND MOST OF ALL.....
- ONLY include a teacher recommendation letter if it is requested on the application or by a college admissions representative. Don't send one because your friend told you it would make you look better. Follow each school's directions carefully.

Financial Aid

WANT TO KNOW IF YOU QUALIFY FOR "HOPE" FUNDS TO GO TO COLLEGE??

YOU MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

1. Create an account on www.GAcollge411.org

A few points to remember:

- Follow all directions on screens 1, 2 & 3. *Please note that college officials will see your user name ~ create a name that is appropriate.*
- **Do not forget** to include your Social Security Number.
- **SAVE** your profile.

2. Follow these steps:

Click on the GREEN tab (Financial Aid Planning) at the top of www.GAcollge411.org

Under Short-cuts -

Follow the link to HOPE Scholarship Information

There you will find eligibility criteria, award amounts, award limits and
APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINES.

You may begin your application process after January 1, 2010.

A *FAFSA on the web* worksheet can be picked up in the counseling office

The FAFSA requires your parent's income tax information from the previous tax year (2009)

Print a copy of your completed applications for your records.

If you have any questions, please see your Counselor.

The *Buccaneer Beat Newsletter* will include additional scholarship information and will be distributed periodically through senior homerooms and can be found on the AHS website.

Limited scholarship applications can be obtained in the College and Career Center.

Please refer to Georgia Student Finance Commission (www.gsfc.org) for additional HOPE information and questions.

HOPE Scholarship

Graduates completing a college prep diploma MUST have at least a 3.0 CORE* GPA to qualify for the HOPE Scholarship.

Graduates completing a technical diploma MUST have at least a 3.2 CORE* GPA to qualify for the HOPE Scholarship

- * CORE GPA: Courses in English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language are calculated in the HOPE GPA. **ALL** courses within these subject areas are calculated.

Courses excluded from the HOPE GPA include:

Elective courses OUTSIDE of English, Math, Science, Social Studies and Foreign Language.

Middle School courses transferred to High School.

All other elective courses (PE, Art, ROTC, Business, Fine Arts).

- Only Advanced Placement (AP) courses receive a 0.5 quality point weight in the calculation of the HOPE GPA. No student's HOPE GPA will be higher than 4.0.
 - An "A" in an AP course will only receive 4 quality points, not 4.5.
 - Honors courses do NOT receive additional weight
 - ***Please note: this is different from the way Cobb County weights it's AP and Honors courses.***
- The Final HOPE GPA will not be rounded up. For example, if the student earns a 2.99 HOPE GPA, then he/she WILL NOT be eligible for HOPE scholarship.

HOPE Grant

If you are a Georgia resident enrolling in a certificate or diploma program at a Georgia public college, university, or technical college, you may be eligible for the HOPE Grant regardless of high school graduation dates or grade point averages. The HOPE Grant covers tuition, HOPE-approved mandatory fees, and a book allowance

SAT

www.collegeboard.com

The SAT is more of an aptitude test, testing reasoning and verbal abilities

<u>Test Dates</u>	<u>Regular Deadlines</u> (\$45.00)	<u>LATE Deadlines</u> (\$68.00)
October 10, 2009	September 9, 2009	September 23, 2009
November 7, 2009	October 1, 2009	October 15, 2009
December 5, 2009	October 30, 2009	November 12, 2009
January 23, 2010	December 15, 2009	December 30, 2009
March 13, 2010	February 4, 2010	February 18, 2010
May 1, 2010	March 25, 2010	April 8, 2010
June 5, 2010	April 29, 2010	May 13, 2010

ACT

www.act.org

The ACT is an achievement test, measuring what a student learned in school

<u>Test Dates</u>	<u>Regular Deadlines</u> (\$47.00)	<u>LATE Deadlines</u> (\$68.00)
September 12, 2009	August 7, 2009	August 21, 2009
October 24, 2009	September 18, 2009	October 2, 2009
December 12, 2009	November 6, 2009	November 20, 2009
February 6, 2010	January 5, 2010	January 15, 2010
April 10, 2010	March 5, 2010	March 19, 2010
June 12, 2010	May 7, 2010	May 21, 2010

ALLATOONA HIGH SCHOOL CODE: 110057

The SAT is more of an aptitude test ~ testing reasoning and verbal abilities.
The ACT is an achievement test ~ measuring what a student has learned in school.

SAT vs. ACT

SCORE COMPARISON

<u>SAT</u>	<u>ACT</u>
2200-2400	32-36
2140-2190	31
2100-2130	30
2040-2060	29
1960-1980	28
1910-1920	27
1850	26
1800	25
1730	24
1670	23
1610	22
1550	21
1490	20
1420-1430	19
1370	18
1310	17
1240	16
1170	15

	SAT	ACT
What is the top score/national average?	2400 is perfect 1500 is the national average	36 is perfect 21 is the national average
What if you miss a question?	You lose points for incorrect answers, so don't guess blindly	There is no penalty for a wrong answer, so don't leave blanks
What does it test?	Reasoning and Logic	Based closer on curriculum learned in high school
What topics are tested?	Math (Up to Algebra II)/ Reading/Writing/Grammar	Math (up to Trig.)/ Reading/Grammar/Science
How should you prepare?	The SAT is tricky and requires you to utilize analytical thinking and logic. It is very "coachable" as you can learn to use reasoning to solve these problems.	The ACT is similar to your high school exams, but you need to know what is tested. The more you practice the questions, the better you'll score.
Where do you sign-up?	www.Collegeboard.com	www.ACT.org