



Getting Ready for Senior Year and Beyond

Where am I going and what do I need to do to get there?



Step 1

Are you on track to graduate?

- Yes
- No

Classes I need to graduate:

Step 2

What will you do post graduation?

- I have an idea of what I want to do after I graduate?

My Career/Field Of Interest is:

- I'm unsure of what I'd like to do after graduation.

Hint: Determine your career interests! (pg 2)

Step 3

What should you do to prepare for post-graduation?

Choose a post-graduation path (check one):

- College (pg 4-7)
- Military (pg 8)
- Workforce (pg 8)

Reminder: If you ever have questions, make an appointment with your school counselor.



Getting Ready for Senior Year and Beyond

Learning about your career interests and your abilities will help provide you with direction for life after high school graduation!

Tip # 1: Learn about yourself!	Tip # 2: Start broad then hone in!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What are your interests? What subjects do you enjoy? What do you love to do? ➤ What type of people do you enjoy working with? ➤ What's your ideal work environment? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Once you identify a field of interest, you can look at specific career options in that field. ➤ Do the jobs you're considering look like they will have job openings or is it difficult to find jobs in that field?

Resource 1: www.careercruising.com

Resource 2: www.gafutures.org

- Use your access card to log in. See your counselor if you don't have your login info.
- Click **Assessments**
- Use **Matchmaker** to find careers that might interest you.
- Click on the careers to learn about that specific field and the education you need to get there. You can save careers to your profile.
- Use the careers tab to explore careers, enter a career you want to know more about & complete the table below.

- Create an Account on GA Futures
 Username: _____
 Password: _____
- Use the **Career Planning** section to:
 - **"Learn about Yourself"**
 - **"Explore Careers"** --> use "Career Finder" together with "Learn about Yourself"

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Career Possibility			
Next step after graduation	<input type="checkbox"/> Technical College <input type="checkbox"/> Two-Year College <input type="checkbox"/> Four-Year College <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce	<input type="checkbox"/> Technical College <input type="checkbox"/> Two-Year College <input type="checkbox"/> Four-Year College <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce	<input type="checkbox"/> Technical College <input type="checkbox"/> Two-Year College <input type="checkbox"/> Four-Year College <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce



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TESTS YOU MAY HAVE TO TAKE

The **SAT** is an aptitude test,
Testing reasoning & verbal abilities.

Register <https://sat.collegeboard.org>

NCHS Code: 110005

Perfect score: **1600**

Nat'l Average: **not yet available**

*Each section is worth 200-800 points, which are added together for a combined score.

- ✓ There is no penalty for wrong answers, so leave nothing blank.

*2 subjects: Math & Evidence based Reading/Writing. (Essay optional)

The **ACT** is an achievement test,
Measuring what a student learned.

Register www.actstudent.org

NCHS Code: 110005

Perfect score: **36**

Nat'l Average: **21**

*Each subject is worth 1-36 points, which are averaged together for a composite score.

- ✓ There is no penalty wrong answers, so leave nothing blank.

*5 subjects: English, Math, Reading, Science, Writing. (Essay optional)

COMPASS or Accuplacer EXAM: Computer-Adaptive College Placement Test (students do not have to take ACT or SAT if attending a 2 year or technical college)

- College placement test used to gain admission at 2-year or technical schools
- This exam is scheduled through the individual colleges
- **Evaluates skill levels** in Reading, Writing, and Math,
- **Helps place students** in appropriate courses (college level or remedial level courses)

ASVAB (Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery): The ASVAB tests cover General Science, Arithmetic Reasoning, Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension, Numerical Operations, Coding Speed, Auto/Shop Information, Mathematics Knowledge, Mechanical Comprehension and Electronics Information.

Great test to learn about your career aptitude even if you are not interested in the military.

The AFQT score (overall score) determines if you can enlist in the military. All branches of the military require different minimum AFQT scores for entrance. The ASVAB also measures 10 other composite scores known as "line scores" that determine what MOS (job area specialty) an individual may qualify for. Listed below are the parts of the ASVAB that affect your AFQT and each of the ten line scores:

Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) - Paragraph Comprehension, Word Knowledge, Mathematics Knowledge, and Arithmetic Reasoning.

Clerical (CL) – Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension, Arithmetic Reasoning and Mathematics Knowledge.

Combat (CO) - Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension, Auto & Shop and Mechanical Comprehension.

Electronics (EL) – General Science, Arithmetic Reasoning, Mathematics Knowledge and Electronic Information.

Field Artillery (FA) - Arithmetic Reasoning, Mathematics Knowledge and Mechanical Comprehension.

General Maintenance (GM) – General Science, Auto & Shop, Mathematics Knowledge and Electronics Information.

General Technical (GT) - Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension, and Arithmetic Reasoning (AR).

Mechanical Maintenance (MM) – Auto & Shop, Mechanical Comprehension and Electronic Information.

Operators and Food (OF) - Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension, Auto/Shop & Mechanical Comprehension.

Surveillance and Communications (SC) - Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension, Arithmetic Reasoning, Auto & Shop and Mechanical Comprehension.

Skilled Technical (ST) - Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension, General Science, Mechanical Comprehension and Mathematics Knowledge.



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Know Your Personal Stats!

_____ = My Weighted GPA

_____ = My HOPE GPA

_____ = My SAT Score

_____ = My ACT Score

Compare your personal stats against the average &/or minimum GPA & test scores of the schools you are interested in. How do you compare?

Take Advantage of www.gafutures.org

- 1) Keep track of your HOPE GPA
- 2) Apply to GA colleges
- 3) Complete FAFSA after October 1 senior year (this fulfills HOPE application requirements)

Username: _____

Password: _____

**make sure username is appropriate colleges may see it.

- Plan to apply to at least three colleges; one where you are likely to be accepted (safety), one that is your target school, and one that would be a “reach” or challenge.

Safety= your GPA, course difficulty, and test scores are above the average/minimum

Target= your GPA, course difficulty level, and test scores are within the average/minimum

Reach= your GPA, course difficulty level, and test scores are below the average but still meets the minimum requirements

Not all schools have a competitive admissions process. Some colleges set minimum admissions standards that if met, grants your acceptance. You should call or email the college’s admissions office & ask about their specific admissions criteria if you cannot find it online





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Researching College Options

- ❑ Check the NCHS Counseling Website and the Notebook at the Counseling front desk to see which colleges will be visiting the Future Shop. Sign up in the notebook for a pass.
- ❑ Attend college fairs in the Cobb County area like the PROBE fair and QUEST College fair
- ❑ Go on one of the NCHS college tours
- ❑ Log into www.careercruising.com to research colleges.
 - Click on **Education** and choose a state to see a list of all colleges (you can filter by 4 yr/2yr/career technical). Click on the school’s name to learn more about it or go to their website. You can save schools to your profile by clicking on name of the school and clicking the blue save button.
 - Click **School Selector**, answer all survey questions to come up with a list of schools that match your answers (sometimes you have to look at close matches rather than exact matches). You can save schools to your profile.

Choose 3-6 schools. Gather admissions information and schedule visits at the colleges.

College Name:			
Website			
Application Deadline			
Average/Minimum GPA			
Average/Minimum ACT			
Average/Minimum SAT			

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Website			
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**TERMS TO KNOW	<p>Regular Decision—No application decisions are made until after the set deadline.</p> <p>Rolling Decision—Application decisions are made as they are received until classes are filled.</p> <p>Early Action—Application decisions are made earlier than a regular decision date.</p> <p>Early Decision—An admission decision is made before the usual notification date. There’s a catch! An early decision plan is <i>binding</i>—if you’re accepted, you agree to attend the college & withdraw all other applications.</p>
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North Cobb Counseling Department College Application Procedures

- Plan to apply to at least three colleges; one where you are likely to be accepted, one that is your target school, and one that would be a “reach” or challenge. **Use the college’s website to apply.** All Georgia colleges and university applications can also be accessed through www.gafutures.org . Some colleges accept the Common Application, at www.commonapp.org.

Applications can be submitted before you send your transcript or test scores.

- Check the requirements listed on the application. Take note of the **deadline** and have all information submitted at least a week before.
- Request transcripts at the Counseling Office front desk.** Your transcript can be sent directly from North Cobb to the college admissions office (preferred method), or you may have it issued to you for mailing. Your first transcript is free. Each transcript after the first is \$2.00.
- Make sure you have taken the required entrance test (SAT/ACT/COMPASS or Accuplacer). Have your scores sent to the college. **We do not send SAT/ACT scores. They must be requested from College Board or ACT directly.**
- If required**, plan your recommendations early (at least 2 weeks). **Counselors must have your requests at least 2 weeks in advance of the deadline. A Senior Biography must be on file with your counselor in order for a recommendation to be completed** (available in the Counseling Office and on the Counseling Website).
- Prepare any required essay(s) based on the topic choices. Your essay should be conversational, specific and relay the essence of your personality. It should not be boring, idealistic, or boastful. Always have someone **PROOFREAD**; enlist the help of an English teacher to proofread, if needed.

College Name			
Application Procedures <small>†Not every college requires an application fee</small> <small>††Not every college requires recommendations</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> Submit application <input type="checkbox"/> Pay fee [†] <input type="checkbox"/> Submit test scores <input type="checkbox"/> Send transcript <input type="checkbox"/> Counselor Rec ^{††} <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher Rec ^{††}	<input type="checkbox"/> Submit application <input type="checkbox"/> Pay fee [†] <input type="checkbox"/> Submit test scores <input type="checkbox"/> Send transcript <input type="checkbox"/> Counselor Rec ^{††} <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher Rec ^{††}	<input type="checkbox"/> Submit application <input type="checkbox"/> Pay fee [†] <input type="checkbox"/> Submit test scores <input type="checkbox"/> Send transcript <input type="checkbox"/> Counselor Rec ^{††} <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher Rec ^{††}

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Financial Aid & Scholarships

- FAFSA:** Complete and submit your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or www.gafutures.org as soon as possible after October 1 (in order to complete the application parents/guardians & eligible students must have completed tax returns). *If you complete the FAFSA application you have completed the Hope Scholarship/Hope Grant application.* When you fill out the FAFSA you are applying for government grants (money you do not have to pay back), federal loans, and work study programs. Each college you are accepted at will notify you of your estimated financial aid awards by late spring.
- HOPE Scholarship:** (students with a 3.0 Core GPA and above and meet course rigor requirements) Notification of preliminary qualification will be given to you fall & spring semester. If you are qualified and **not completing FAFSA** you should go ahead and apply for the HOPE Scholarship through www.gafutures.org (GSFAPPS). Final qualification will be calculated after you complete high school and all grades are posted to your transcript in late May or early June. North Cobb will send your transcript electronically to the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC), and they will determine if you are eligible for the HOPE. If you qualify, your college of choice will get the verification from the GSFC and you will be notified by them through a financial aid award package. For more details on HOPE Scholarship calculation, requirements and procedures, see www.gafutures.org.
- HOPE Grant:** Available to students going to any technical college in the state of Georgia. Unlike the HOPE Scholarship, students are not required to graduate from high school with a specific grade point average. However, students are required to maintain a minimum GPA while in college, find detailed information at www.gafutures.org.
- HOPE or Core GPA:** Includes all your grades from English, Science, Math, Social Studies, and Foreign Language. Your HOPE GPA IS NOT listed anywhere on your transcript. Your HOPE GPA can be found by creating a profile on www.gafutures.org.
- Scholarships:** NCHS creates a monthly Scholarship Bulletin that is available for pick up in the counseling office.

REMEMBER: It is your responsibility to meet all deadlines. The earlier you organize and plan, the easier the college application process will be!

Information for Prospective College Athletes

- For NCAA information, go to www.eligibilitycenter.org. Choose "Enter Here" for "NCAA College-Bound Student-Athletes." Choose the "Resources" link at the top of the screen that appears.
- For NAIA, go to <http://www.naia.org/>. Using the dropdown menu for the "About the NAIA" tab, choose "Play Sports in College." Look under the "Quick Links" section.



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Joining the Military

- Learn more about the military. Decide if you're ready to join, and discuss your decision with your family.
- Go to www.military.com/recruiting/home.
- Choose the right path for you.
- Meet with a recruiter.
- Take the ASVAB. Go to www.military.com/ASVAB. Sign up for the ASVAB in the NCHS Counseling Office. The ASVAB is offered every year in October or November at NCHS.
- If enlisting a recruiter will go with you to visit MEPS (Military Entrance Processing Station) where you will take the ASVAB if you have not already done so, complete a physical, select a MOS (military Occupational Specialty), and join the military branch of your choice.

Branch	Website	Phone Number
U.S. Army	http://www.goarmy.com	1.800.U.S.A.ARMY
Army National Guard	http://www.nationalguard.mil/	1.800.GO.GUARD
U.S. Navy	http://www.navy.com	1.800.U.S.A.NAVY
U.S. Air Force	http://www.airforce.com	1.800.423.USAF
U.S. Marine Corps	http://www.marines.com	1.800.MARINES
U.S. Coast Guard	http://www.gocoastguard.com	1.800.424.8883

Entering the Workforce

- **Decide** what type of work you would like to pursue.
- Visit www.gafutures.org, click the "Career Exploration" tab. Also visit www.careercruising.com and choose "Employment" or visit www.fastweb.com and choose "Career Planning" to get to the "Job Search" section.
- **Create a resume** Career Cruising.
- **Find references** to include on your resume, ask permission first!
- **Look** for job openings and internships on GA Futures and on www.internships.com, **attend** career fairs, and **search** want ads and websites like www.monster.com and www.ajcjobs.com.
- Complete and submit **applications**.
- **Prepare for interviews** by researching the employer so you can **ask 3 questions** during the **interview**.
- **Before interviewing** know what to wear, know the company, arrive early, and bring a few copies of your resume in a folder.
- During the **interview** make sure you **ask the names(s) and contact information** of the person(s) interviewing you so you can **send a thank you note or email** after the interview to let them know you are interested in the position and you enjoyed meeting with them. **This will help you stand out.**

