**JHS TO-DO LIST FOR COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS**

**\*For additional details about a topic, click the links within this document\***

**1.  Study for and register for either an ACT (**[**act.org**](http://www.act.org)**)  or SAT (**[**collegeboard.org**](https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register)**) .** Do not take the exams cold (See “[ACT/SAT Comparison](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OUCuKV5ZbRGv9Eyjgh9nRqHw1ZtPD8bT/view),” “[Why Take the ACT](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pcpZEtAGZ6YSSMeKW8MJUrCcDh-mUeh6/view)” and “[Official SAT Practice](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ipul1xqlnGdVM--dR6wloAgsdge1lgrM/view)”)!

**2. Visit colleges of interest.** With your career goal and college major as your guide, compile a list of 3 – 5 colleges and contact them for a formal visit (See “[Tips on Touring a College Virtually](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s89ZvrGMm19aKKGmjb4vShgZvpVHGnKQKTpD8XxoxzU/edit)” , “[Choosing the Right College](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eO1lxOSi0dFqivC0hQZI7yoqYkpGm_Z-/view)”,  & “[Top 10 Reasons Why You Should Attend a Technical College](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1e-t3gXodrvzTG7na0DetpGqiz36XkL2r/view)”).

**3. Apply to colleges/technical colleges of interest.**

* Create or use your [GAFutures.org](https://www.gafutures.org/?action=signin) account to apply to Georgia schools or on the college’s website.
* Be mindful of schools requiring the [Common Application](https://www.commonapp.org/).
* Request a transcript for any in-state institutions from gafutures.org. Out-of-state colleges you will need to request the transcript from the counseling office for each institution. There is a $2 fee pertranscript.
* Send your scores to the colleges from the applicable testing agency ([ACT](https://my.act.org/account/signin?location=https://my.act.org) or [SAT](https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat)).
* Adhere to all admission deadlines.
* Once accepted, follow the next steps/guidelines and send required documents/deposits as directed by the institution.
* Apply for the [FAFSA](https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa), the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (automatically includes HOPE application) or only [HOPE scholarships/grants via GSFAPP](https://www.gafutures.org/hope-state-aid-programs/state-aid-applications/state-program-applications/).

**4.Continue conversations on financing your education** (See “Scholarship Connection”)**.**

* Log in to your [www.GAFutures.org](http://www.gafutures.org) account and select “Your HOPE GPA” to see if you are on track to qualify for the [HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship](https://www.gafutures.org/hope-state-aid-programs/hope-zell-miller-scholarships/).  Be sure to check your [graduation and HOPE rigor](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XymGDxOzpBI_jfHsCJU_ShXsNJUOcTVS/view) requirements as well.  Within your GAFutures profile, you must enter your Social Security Number (SSN) so your transcript may be uploaded by the state for HOPE GPA calculation.  Your SSN entered on GAFutures and SSN provided to JHS must match or your HOPE GPA will not be calculated.
* Scholarship information will be communicated through the Senior Google classroom for the class of 2023.
* Scholarships may also be found on [FASTWEB.com](https://www.fastweb.com/) and [GAFutures.org](https://www.gafutures.org/scholarship-search).

**5. Continue working towards the HOPE.**

* Understand [HOPE Academic Rigor Requirements](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XymGDxOzpBI_jfHsCJU_ShXsNJUOcTVS/view) and check your [HOPE GPA](https://www.gafutures.org/) on GAFutures.
* [HOPE program and awards](https://www.gafutures.org/hope-state-aid-programs/):
	+ HOPE *Grant*:  Pays a portion of tuition for students enrolled in a Certificate or Degree program at a state technical college. There is no minimum GPA required for initial eligibility.  Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA to retain the HOPE. The scholarship may only be regained once.
	+ Zell Miller *Grant*:  Pays full standard tuition for students pursuing a Certificate or Degree program who maintain a 3.5 or higher GPA. The first term is awarded retroactively after earning a 3.5 GPA.
	+ HOPE *Scholarship*:  Pays a portion of standard tuition. Students must have a 3.0 [HOPE GPA](https://www.gafutures.org/) to qualify initially. Students must maintain a 3.0 at the end of each spring and fall semesters, and at 30/60/90 semester hours or 45/90/135 quarter hours attempted.
	+ Zell Miller *Scholarship*:  Pays full standard tuition. Students must have a 3.7 [HOPE GPA](https://www.gafutures.org/) with either a 26 on the ACT or 1200 on the SAT during a single administration. Students must maintain a 3.3 GPA at the same designated checkpoints listed previously.

**6.If you are an athlete, register with the** [**NCAA**](https://www.ncaa.org/) **or** [**NAIA**](https://www.naia.org/landing/index) **and learn about** [**eligibility requirements**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ufjk6XiPqqP-JxZTy0uFRmXcWVlClugO/view)**.**

* Determine which is needed for eligibility and complete the online registration process as soon as possible at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) or [www.playnaia.org](http://www.playnaia.org)

**7.Request a letter of recommendation (LOR), *ONLY if required by the College or Scholarship Sponsor*.**

* Complete the Senior Brag Sheet and please provide no less than two weeks for the recommender to write the letter of recommendation.

1. **Request transcripts for college applications/scholarships**
* To send transcripts to a Georgia institution electronically, complete the request online through your GAFutures.org account. You will need to enter your social security number in order to complete this process.
* Paper requests for transcripts will be printed, embossed, signed, sealed and ready for pick-up the next business day for you to stamp and mail.
* Colleges/NCAA/NAIA will not accept unofficial or opened transcripts.
* We will only upload transcripts through the following trusted sources:  GAFutures.org, The Common Application, UGA’s portal, and NCAA/NAIA. All other transcripts will need to be mailed.  Our system requires an accurate social security number in order to complete the upload.

**Final Steps – Review your transcript**

* Check the social security number for accuracy and provide a copy of your card to your counselor if a correction is needed.
* Check and correct personal information.
* Check your credits and required coursework for graduation.
* Check to make certain you will have met the [HOPE Rigor requirements.](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XymGDxOzpBI_jfHsCJU_ShXsNJUOcTVS/view)
* Work closely with your counselor and email if you have any questions.