

CONTINUING THE COUNTDOWN TO COLLEGE!

Checklist for 10th Graders

General Time Frame	College Admissions & Career Planning	Testing	Financial Planning
AUGUST—OCTOBER	<p>*Work hard in all of your classes—it's difficult to pull up a low GPA (grade point average)! Manage your time effectively.</p> <p>*Make a strong commitment to your extracurricular activities. They will look great on your high school resume.</p> <p>Tip—Use GCIS, www.gcis.peachnet.edu, at school. You should also use http://www.gacollege411.org/ to start or continue a college and career planning account.</p> <p>*Continue to take college preparatory classes. Also consider taking classes that offer career training.</p> <p>*Explore joint enrollment options including residential early entrance college programs for accelerated juniors and seniors.</p> <p>Tip—attend the PROBE college fair and use the college/career center at your school to find out more information about colleges you are interested in attending.</p>	<p>*Take rigorous courses and maintain good grades. You will need a minimum academic GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale to qualify for HOPE.</p> <p>Tip—Writing has become more important to college admissions tests. Work on your writing skills now!</p> <p>Tip—obtain the college bound reading list from your school's website and focus on reading as many of the selections as possible.</p> <p>*Take the PSAT</p>	<p>*Begin planning now for financing your college education—it's never too soon to start!</p> <p>*Locate the list of scholarships for underclassmen on your school's website. Many of these are essay contests which provide writing practice, as well as a potential financial reward.</p> <p>Tip—check out the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators website: www.nasfaa.org</p> <p>*Check the HOPE website, http://www.gsfc.org/HOPE/Index.cfm, for requirements that will apply to your graduating class. Make sure you stay on track!</p> <p>*Begin looking for senior year scholarships. GCIS, FastWeb.com, and http://www.collegeanswer.com are good resources.</p> <p>Tip—avoid scholarship scams. If you are asked for money, or if something seems too good to be true, it may be questionable. Check http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/edcams/scholarship/ for answers to your questions.</p> <p>*Discover how the military can help pay for college through ROTC scholarships, academy appointments, or educational benefits for enlisting. Check www.myfuture.com for information.</p>
NOVEMBER & DECEMBER	<p>*As your family makes plans for holiday travel, include brief tours of nearby colleges.</p> <p>Tip—If you call a college's admissions office, they will set up a free tour of the school for you.</p>	<p>*Continue working on study skills. Focus on vocabulary building and mathematics.</p> <p>*If your writing skills are not what they should be, get help now from a teacher.</p>	<p>*Work with your parents and ask your counselor how to plan for college costs.</p> <p>*Research the cost of the specific colleges you are interested in attending. Find information at GCIS. Ask your counselor for the password.</p>

JANUARY—MARCH	<p>*Work on improving any disappointing grades. Ask for help and/or weekly reports.</p> <p>*Ask about opportunities to experience different work situations first hand, including job shadowing, Youth Apprenticeship, and part-time employment.</p> <p>*Continue talking with your parents and school counselor about your postsecondary plans.</p> <p>*Notify your counselor if you are interested in attending a college during your senior year, participating in the Youth Apprenticeship program, attending either a military academy or a highly selective college after high school, or participating in a college summer program. (These choices may accelerate the timetable of recommended activities.)</p> <p>*Take any Advanced Placement courses available and/or talk to your counselor and teachers about taking Advanced Placement courses in the future.</p>	<p>*Explore internet resources for help with test preparation.</p> <p>*If you are interested in highly selective schools, ask whether they require SAT II subject exams and begin reviewing for any needed.</p>	<p>*Talk with your parents about coming up with a plan to meet college expenses without going into debt.</p> <p>*Research different ways to save for college. Establish a savings plan and set aside money regularly.</p> <p>*To help you understand how financial aid rules work, check out the book <i>Don't Miss Out</i> offered by Octameron Press. www.octameron.com/productsframe.html</p> <p>Tip—Find federal financial aid information at www.fafsa.ed.gov</p> <p>*Take advantage of opportunities to develop any special talents, exercise leadership ability, and volunteer for community service projects. Keep good records for your high school resume.</p>
APRIL—JUNE	<p>*Begin to narrow your list of college choices. Familiarize yourself with those colleges' admissions standards.</p> <p>Tip—With the implementation of the HOPE scholarship, admissions standards at Georgia colleges have become much stricter.</p> <p>Example: <u>UGA 2007 Admitted Student Profile</u> Middle 50% Core GPA: 3.63—4.0 Middle 50% SAT: 1150—1310 Middle 50% ACT: 25—29</p>	<p>*Keep reading and expanding your vocabulary.</p> <p>*Become familiar with the format of both the ACT and the SAT.</p> <p>Tip—If you are interested in a technical school, you should check with the school to see what placement testing will be necessary.</p> <p>Tip—Register for ACT or SAT online courses if needed.</p>	<p>*Continue developing money management skills.</p> <p>*Save regularly for college.</p> <p>*If you work, put part of every paycheck into your college savings account.</p> <p>*If you hope to finance your college education through an athletic scholarship, the end of your sophomore year may be a good time to make preliminary inquiries to colleges that interest you. A brief letter to the coach indicating interest may be beneficial.</p> <p>Tip—Check out http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net for information on the recruiting process colleges may use.</p>
SUMMER	<p>*Work, travel, or participate in a college summer program. Visit colleges that are near your family's vacation spots.</p>	<p>*Continue reading and mastering vocabulary words as well as developing mathematical and writing skills.</p>	<p>*Collect information for your high school resume.</p> <p>Tip—Keep names, numbers, and addresses from volunteer or part-time work. You will need them for future use.</p> <p>Tip—Visit your school's visit for a sample resume.</p>