



***Frederick J. Furtah Preparatory School***

***High School 101***

## ***Getting Started***

As a student moves from middle school to high school, it is our mission at FPS to make that transition as natural as possible. We feel it is imperative to understand where the student is coming from and to assist in any way possible to focus on new learning opportunities, as well as guide the student and family to making appropriate choices for life after graduation. During your high school years, you will have multiple academic, community, and social activities to be involved with, which will provide you with a wealth of experiences. Get involved, take charge, and become the best students you can! Run for Student Council, host an international student, join a team or the Yearbook Staff. We even encourage you to start something new!

This handbook is designed to assist you and your parents in making the high school experience both informative and successful. The information outlines graduation requirements, including course requirements for the high school diploma as well as required testing.

At Furtah Prep School, we believe it is essential to educate the whole student in order to inspire hope and change lives. Our society is changing on a daily basis, and it is our intent that our students graduate with knowledge of the world as much as their academic skills. Students are encouraged to improve in every facet of education, from academics to any of our enrichment activities.

***Welcome to high school!***

## SUGGESTIONS FOR PARENTS

- Attend the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting held in March with the High School Faculty.
- Get involved with your student's teachers and attend school functions.
- Encourage your student to become involved in the school community.
- Understand that it may take your student several weeks or months to get used to high school.
- Continue to encourage your student to be responsible and make good choices.
- Make sure school personnel and teachers have correct phone numbers and email addresses for communication purposes.
- Review the high school student handbook that is given out each fall.
- Use RenWeb to continually review grades.
- Use the FPS website and Renweb Calendar to review calendar, testing, academic, and athletic/extra-curricular information. [www.furtahprep.org](http://www.furtahprep.org)

## ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

For your student to be successful in high school, ensure that your student does the following:

- Attends class every day—Be in all classes every day! Studies show us that students perform better when they are actively engaged in instruction.
- Brings all materials to class—Always be prepared and take proper materials with you to class
- Completes work on time—Keep up with all assignments and turn in projects.
- Demonstrates personal organizational skills, such as record keeping, time-management, homework habits, note-taking skills, and listening skills.

Develop these areas to be successful in your education:

- Seek help from your teachers early when there is something that you do not understand.
- Use and improve both oral and written communication skills.
- Read additional books to enhance and supplement vocabulary.
- Apply knowledge to new situations.
- Increase research skills.
- Improve basic keyboarding skills.
- Strengthen math skills—the ability to work fractions, percentages, decimals, algebra, geometry and averaging problems.
- Review all materials thoroughly as you prepare for an assessment or project.

## HOW TO STUDY AND ACHIEVE ACADEMIC SUCCESS

### Study Plan and Study Preparation

Find a good place to study which eliminates all distractions, has good lighting, and all books and notes that you need. In your study plan identify and know your daily study schedule, what you need to study, review and recall key points, and review notes taken in class.

### Review Techniques

Plan enough to allow an adequate review before all tests. Summarize your notes. Predict what you may be asked on a test.

### Attitude

Think of learning as an opportunity to increase your knowledge and skills. Think of tests as a way to show yourself what you know, and what you don't know.

**Organize**

Plan to study and review on an ongoing basis. This will help you stay calm for tests.

**Pace Yourself**

When you are completing a test or project, carefully read the instructions. If a rubric is involved, ask questions until you understand the rubric. Budget your time well, particularly when you are taking an in class assessment. **Always reread and check your work.**

**LISTENING SKILLS AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS****Stay Focused and Listen**

Listening is one of the most important skills you can develop. It is the second most difficult skill next to reading.

**Predict What You Will Learn**

Think about the main points of the last class and review any reading, problems, or other work that you have been assigned.

**Keep It Relevant**

What did the assignment have to do with your class? What comes to mind during instruction? Do you have enough background knowledge about what you are trying to learn? Can you connect this knowledge to future learning, i.e. math problem solving helps you with life problem solving skills?

**Learning to Listen**

Do not confuse hearing with listening. Good listening means paying attention as well as thinking about and around the topic. Listening is an active, not passive, activity.

**TIME MANAGEMENT**

Success in school depends on how well you plan your time. While in high school, always think about balancing your time. Of course, you need time to attend class and study. However, you will also take time to participate in sports, art, and other extracurricular activities. You also need time to enjoy. Remember exercise reduces stress! Take some time to reward yourself and do something special.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

### Required High School Curriculum (RHSC) for Students Graduating High School 2012 or Later

Students graduating high school in 2012 or later should complete the following curriculum:

Carnegie Unit Requirements*	In Specific Subject Areas
4 units English	Literature (American, English, world) integrated with grammar, usage and advanced composition skills
4 units mathematics	Mathematics I, II, III, and a fourth year of advanced math or algebra I and II, geometry, and a fourth year of advanced math, or equivalent courses.
4 units of science	The four science units should include two courses with a laboratory component. Students graduating from a Georgia public high school should have at least one unit in biology, one unit of physical science or physics, one unit of chemistry, earth science or environmental science and a fourth science.
3 units social science	Must include one unit focusing on U.S. studies and one unit focusing on world studies
2 units of the same foreign language or American Sign Language	Emphasizing speaking, listening, reading and writing skills

\*Note: A Carnegie unit is a full academic year of credit

### Georgia Graduation Rule Revision (Began with Class of 2012)

#### State Board Passes New Graduation Rule

In an effort to establish higher expectations for all students, the State Board of Education passed a set of graduation requirements in September 2007.

#### Q: Why did Georgia decide to revise the current graduation rule?

A: The Georgia State Board of Education determined that a new set of graduation requirements were needed to assure that Georgia's high school graduates are college and work ready. State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox noted that, "We are no longer setting high expectations for just some students. As a state, we are saying that ALL students can learn at a high level."

#### Q: Who will this new rule affect?

A: The new graduation rule officially went into effect during the 2008-2009 school year. It is also important to note:

- The only courses that count for credit at the middle school level for eighth grade students are foreign language and Math I/Algebra I. If foreign language or Math I/Algebra I classes are taken during the 8th grade year, it will count in the student's high school GPA and will be recorded on the high school transcript.
- Any course taken in Middle School for High School credit **must be passed with an 80 or better.**

- Per state legislation (beginning with the Senior Class of 2007), **high school courses taken in middle school do not count toward the HOPE Scholarship.**

**Q: What are the major changes in the new graduation rule?**

A: The new rule requires that all students have **23 credits** to receive a diploma, including:

- Four credits in English/Language Arts (same requirement for number of credits)
- Four credits in Mathematics (an increase for students on a career technology track)
- Four credits in Science (an increase of one unit)
- One credit in Health/Physical Education (same requirement)
- Three credits in Foreign Language\*\* and/or Fine Arts and/or Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE)\*\*\*
- Four electives

There are no changes to the number of credits required in English/Language Arts (four credits) or Social Studies (three credits).

**FPS is, however, currently accredited by the Georgia Accrediting Commission (GAC) and will allow students to graduate with 21 credits if necessary. This is not preferred, but allows our students some flexibility.**

\*\* Any student going to a University System of Georgia college or university must take at least two years of the same foreign language to meet admission requirements.

\*\*\* Students wishing to receive industry certification in certain areas under Career, Technical and Agricultural Education programs must follow specific pathways.

**Q: What about students who receive special education services?**

A: Students with disabilities will be eligible to earn a regular diploma following specific criteria as outlined in the graduation rule.

## NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

**GAcollege411.org** is an online, interactive tool that helps students make choices about careers, colleges, technical schools, and financial aid. It is a resource to help students and their families maneuver through high school requirements, select a college, apply for admission, and plan to finance higher education. The mission of GAcollege411 is to:

- 1) increase access to postsecondary education in the state of Georgia
- 2) simplify the tasks and processes related to planning, applying and paying for higher education.

**HOPE Scholarship:** (from the [www.gaCollege411.org](http://www.gaCollege411.org) site)

### **Georgia's HOPE Program**

**HOPE - Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally** - is Georgia's unique scholarship and grant program that rewards students with financial assistance in degree, diploma, and certificate programs at eligible public and private colleges and universities and public technical colleges in Georgia.

HOPE is funded entirely by the Georgia Lottery for Education, which also funds Georgia's statewide pre-kindergarten program. Since the HOPE Program began in 1993, over \$6.4 billion in HOPE funds have been awarded to more than 1.5 million students attending Georgia's colleges, universities, and technical colleges. You can benefit from HOPE in several ways.

### **HOPE Scholarship, Zell Miller Scholarship, HOPE Grant and Zell Miller Grant**

The **HOPE Scholarship** program is for students that have demonstrated academic achievement and are seeking a college degree. There are several ways to become eligible for the HOPE Scholarship, either by graduating from high school as a HOPE Scholar or by earning it while in college. For more information, please review the [HOPE Scholarship regulations](#).

The **HOPE Grant** program is for students seeking a technical certificate or diploma, regardless of the student's high school grade point average or graduation date. For more information, please review the [HOPE Grant regulations](#).

The **Zell Miller Scholarship** program is for students who have demonstrated academic achievement and are seeking a college degree. Generally, to become eligible, a student must graduate from an eligible high school with a 3.70 GPA and a minimum score on the SAT/ACT. For more information, please review the [Zell Miller Scholarship regulations](#).

The **Zell Miller Grant** program is for students seeking a technical certificate or diploma, regardless of the student's high school grade point average or graduation date. To be eligible for the Zell Miller Grant, a student must earn and maintain a minimum 3.5 cumulative postsecondary GPA. For more information, please review the [Zell Miller Grant regulations](#).

The **HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarships** and **HOPE and Zell Miller Grants** pay a certain amount for tuition. The amount of the award depends on the type of school the student is attending, the number of credit hours the student is enrolled, and the specific tuition rate for the college. To view the award amounts, please view the chart found on the HOPE Scholarship website.

### **HOPE GED Grant**

Georgia's **HOPE GED Grant** is available to students who earned a General Education Development (GED/high school equivalency) diploma awarded by the Technical College System of Georgia after June 30, 1993.

The grant provides a one-time \$500 HOPE award that can be used towards tuition, books or other educational costs at an eligible public technical college or public or private college or university. Full-time enrollment is not required. Students must use their HOPE GED Grant award within 24 months of the date of their GED diploma. For more

information, please review the [HOPE GED Grant regulations](#).

All four HOPE programs require students to meet basic requirements. An eligible student must:

1. Meet HOPE's U.S. citizenship or eligible non-citizen requirements;
2. Be a legal resident of Georgia;
3. Meet enrollment requirements;
4. Be in compliance with Selective Service registration requirements;
5. Meet academic achievement standards required by the program or the college;
6. Be in good standing on all student loans or other financial aid programs;
7. Be in compliance with the Georgia Drug-Free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990;
8. Not have exceeded the maximum award limits for any HOPE program.

For a complete listing of eligibility requirements, please review the individual [HOPE Scholarship, Zell Miller Scholarship, HOPE Grant, Zell Miller Grant or HOPE GED Grant program regulations](#).



## IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

**Carnegie Unit:** High school courses are set as a 100-minute course earning 1.0 credit at the end of the semester or as a 50-minute course carrying ½ unit of credit at the end of a semester. A student earns either one or ½ unit of credit in December and one or ½ unit of credit in May for each course if he/she has a passing grade (70 or above). Students are scheduled with the possibility of earning a maximum of 6 Carnegie units of credit per school year with three credits earned in the fall semester and three credits earned during the spring semester.

**Core Courses:** Courses from English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and World Languages. For industry certification in the Career, Technical and Agricultural Education area three courses in the same area are considered core. In addition, for a student to complete a CTAE Career Pathway the courses must be taken in sequence and completed within the pathway. **Currently, FPS does not offer these classes, but if a student wishes to pursue a VOC/TECH Diploma, there are ways we can assure this is done.**

**Elective Courses:** Courses that a student may select beyond the core requirements to fulfill the total Carnegie unit requirements for graduation.

**Prerequisite Courses:** courses that must be passed in order to enroll in the next or subsequent course in a subject area.

**Promotion:** For a 9th grader to move to 10th grade status, he/she must earn a minimum of 5 Carnegie units.

**Required Courses:** Specific courses or their equivalent which must be taken and passed in order to graduate and receive a diploma

**Transcript:** A written record of a student's academic progress toward a diploma.

## HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES AND GRADING

1. The school year is divided into 2 semesters of approximately 18 weeks each.
2. A student takes a minimum of 6 credits of courses each year for four years.
3. Taking 6 classes, a student can earn 6 units of credit per year if all classes are passed.
4. Generally, a freshman takes 4 or 5 core courses including one in each area of English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. 9th graders can begin by taking Health/Personal Fitness during the 9th grade year, while some students begin or continue their World Language requirement during the 9th grade year. World Language (Modern Language/Foreign Language) is considered a core course. Students must graduate with two courses in the same World Language in order to be admitted to a college or university.
5. All 9th grade core courses are full year courses with grades and credits finalized at the end of first semester and then, again, at the end of second semester. Both first and second semester grades and credits are a part of the permanent record and transcript. For semester courses, i.e. Health and Personal Fitness, semester grades and credits are earned either at the end of first or second semester. **All courses, whether passed or failed, are recorded on the high school transcript.**
6. The overall grade for the course determines whether or not credit is awarded. A final grade of '70' or better is required for passing and earning credit for a course.
7. If a student fails any required course, the student must repeat the class until it is passed. A failing grade remains on the academic record and is included in the student's overall Grade Point Average (GPA). If a student fails a required class, the student must make immediate plans to retake the class. Summer school, night school, online courses, and Georgia's Virtual High School are the best routes to follow for make-up work. Credit recovery information is available through school counselors, homeroom teachers and graduation coaches.
8. A total of 5 units must be passed in order to become a 10th grader.
9. Individual teachers will provide a course syllabus with an outline of the course, classroom expectations and a grading plan. Performance standards are provided by each teacher.

## ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

(4 units required)

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Course Required for Graduation		Course Required for Graduation	
9 <sup>th</sup> Literature/Composition 9 <sup>th</sup> Lit/Comp - Honors	10 <sup>th</sup> Lit/Composition 10 <sup>th</sup> Lit/Comp – Honors World Lit/Composition World Lit/Composition - Honors	American Lit/Comp American Lit/Comp - Honors	English Lit/Composition AP Lit/Composition

**NOTE: All students are required to pass a full year of 9th Literature/and Composition and American Literature/Composition**

### **Ninth Grade Literature/and Composition**

This course integrates writing, grammar and usage, literature, speaking, listening, and critical thinking skills. In the course, the writing process is presented: planning, drafting, revising, editing, and proofing as well as the study of form in personal narratives, descriptions, and expository papers with an emphasis on persuasive writing. Also, this course includes reading a variety of multicultural literature: short stories, novels, tales, poetry, mythology, characteristics of various genres, literary elements, and vocabulary study.

All students are required to complete 4 units of English including one full credit of 9th Grade Literature/and Composition and one full credit of American Literature/Composition.

## MATHEMATICS

**(4 units required)**

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Mathematics I: Algebra/Geometry/ Statistics*	Mathematics II: Geometry/Algebra II/ Statistics	Math III: Algebra/Geometry/ Statistics	Mathematics IV: PreCalculus/Trigonometry/ Statistics or other approved 4th year math courses
Accelerated Mathematics I: Geometry/ Algebra II/ Statistics	Accelerated Mathematics II: Advanced Algebra/ Geometry/ Statistics	Accelerated Mathematics III: Advanced Algebra/ Geometry/ Statistics	AP Calculus AB or another advanced math course

**Mathematics 1** Prerequisite: Successful completion of 8th Grade Mathematics.

This is the first in a sequence of mathematics courses in high school designed to ensure that students are college and work ready. It requires students to explore the characteristics of basic functions utilizing tables, graphs, and simple algebraic techniques. Also, this course involves students with the following: operate with radical, polynomial, and rational expressions; solve a variety of equations; investigate properties of geometric figures in the coordinate plane; utilize the language of mathematical argument and justification; discover, prove, and apply properties of polygons; utilize counting techniques and determine probability; use summary statistics; and explore the variability of data.

**Accelerated Mathematics 1** Prerequisite: Successful completion of 8th Grade Mathematics.

This is the first in a sequence of mathematics courses designed to ensure that students are prepared to take higher level mathematics courses during their high school career, including Advanced Placement Calculus AB, Advanced placement Calculus BC and/or Advanced Placement Statistics. This course requires students to: represent and operate with complex numbers; explore the characteristics of basic functions; operate with radical, polynomial, and rational expressions; solve equations, including quadratic, radical, and rational equations; investigate properties of geometric figures in the coordinate plane; use the language of mathematical argument and justification; discover, prove and apply properties of polygons, circles, and spheres; utilize counting techniques and determine probability; use summary statistics to compare sample data distributions; and explore variability of data.

## SCIENCE

**(4 units required)**

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Course required for graduation Biology, Honors Biology or AP Biology		Course Required for graduation Physics, Honors Physics or Physical Science	
Biology Honors Biology	Chemistry Honors Chemistry Physical Science Environmental Science	Physics Physical Science Environmental Science Anatomy/Physiology AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Environmental Science	Physics Anatomy/Physiology AP Physical AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Environ. Science Other state approved 4th year science course

### **Biology**

The Biology curriculum is designed to continue student investigations of the life sciences that began in grades K-8 and provide students the necessary skills to be proficient in biology. This curriculum includes more abstract concepts such as the interdependence of organisms, the relationship of matter, energy, and organization in living systems, the behavior of organisms, and biological evolution. Students investigate biological concepts through experience in laboratories and field work using the processes of inquiry.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Although World Geography is not required for a High School diploma, it is strongly suggested and encouraged as (1) a better preparation for World History; (2) a fundamental basis for the study of American History in context of the United States development and its place and role in global issues; and (3) World History is required to meet the state's World Studies requirement for a high school diploma. Also required: one unit in U.S. History; one-half unit in Government; and one-half unit in Economics.

**(3 units required)**

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
	Required for graduation	Required for graduation	Required for graduation
All 4 courses are elective courses: Current Issues World Geography World Geography-Honors AP Human Geography	World History World History-Honors AP World History	U. S. History U.S. History-Honors AP U.S. History	Government (1 semester) Honors Government (1 semester) Economics ( 1 semester) Honors Economics (1 semester) AP Government (1 semester) AP MACRO ECONOMICS (1 semester)

### **World Geography**

This is an academic elective course that serves as an introduction to both physical and cultural geography. After an introduction to geographic themes & concepts, students study each major regions of the world, focusing on the importance of physical geography and its impact on the region's historical, cultural, economic, and political development. For each region, students learn about the importance of the physical geography and Study includes topics such as population, energy sources, urbanization, technology, environment & food supply.

## THINKING ABOUT COLLEGE?

Studies show that nearly 90% of beginning high school students want to go to college. It is not too early to begin preparing for that option. Below are some criteria that most colleges and universities use in their admission standards. Grades, practicing knowledge and skills via homework opportunities, and taking challenging math courses all matter as you prepare for college.

### Criteria for College Admissions

**Academic Rigor.** Colleges look at what courses are taken in relation to what is offered at the high school. Admissions office staff evaluate all four years of high school, especially courses taken during the senior year. The program should be strong in Math, Science, English, Social Studies and Foreign Language. College admissions counselors look for honors and advanced placement courses where appropriate and, of course, prefer high grades in these classes. Students should plan to take what are called "gateway" courses which enable a student more opportunities for post-secondary studies. Some of these gateway courses are: Algebra, Geometry, Chemistry, and Physics.

**Extracurricular/Community Service.** Colleges also consider a student's involvement in extracurricular activities and community service to determine a student's leadership qualities. Any opportunity a student has to be a member of school clubs and organizations and/or to do volunteer work in the community is highly recommended.

**CORE GPA.** Many colleges review and re-calculate grade point averages on CORE courses only, i.e., English, Math, Science, Social Studies and Foreign Language. It is critical that 9th grade students keep this in mind during the 9th grade year and earn high grades! Additionally, it is always wise to contact the admissions office at a college or university and ask how the GPA is calculated for entering Freshmen students.

**Grades.** A student's grades in core courses (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language) are reliable predictors of college academic success. Grades in these courses plus SAT/ACT scores are the two primary predictors used. A high school transcript is generally evaluated twice by most colleges; once to determine that the candidate meets the institution's minimum requirements and a second time to determine the difficulty of the candidate's program of high school studies.

**Letters of Recommendation.** These are the least important in determining college admission, but are considered. The effort a student puts forth in a teacher's class is largely the basis for making a strong recommendation. Students are encouraged to show every teacher their best effort.

**Standardized Test Scores.** SAT/ACT scores are an excellent predictor of academic success. In Georgia, a student's SAT/ACT scores are used in a formula called the "Freshman Index" to determine regular college admission. Typically, students take the SAT/ACT during their junior year for the first Time. High school counselors have information regarding tests and dates. Application and registration packets for these two standardized tests are available in the counseling office at each high school.

## **Calculating Grade Point Average**

To determine a student's GPA at any time, add all final numerical grades from all courses, then divide by the total number of courses attempted. RenWeb calculates two GPAs, one UGPA (Unweighted) and GPA (if a student has taken Honors courses, AP courses, etc.) FPS uses a numeric GPA scale. However, HOPE scholarship eligibility is based on a 4.0 scale GPA, A=4.0, B=3.0, C=2.0, D=1.0 and F=0.0.

An HONORS course will add .5 to the GPA calculation for a C and above. EX: 95=4.5, 83=3.5, and so on.

An AP Course will add 1 full point to the GPA. EX: 95=5, 83=4 and so on.

HOPE Scholarship does not accept HONORS course credit in the calculation of GPA, but colleges do. HONORS is also an integral part of determining who is Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

HOPE Scholarship DOES accept AP course credit because these courses are standardized through an agency. AP courses may only be taken through GA VIRTUAL at this time.

### **SAT**

The SAT will have three sections: Critical Reading (called Verbal, prior to 2006); Math; and Writing (new section). The Critical Reading section adds shorter reading passages to existing long reading passages, but eliminates analogies. The Math content was expanded to include topics from third-year college prep math, and eliminated quantitative comparisons. The Writing components include multiple-choice questions on grammar and usage plus a short student-written essay that requires them to take a position on an issue and use examples to support their position. Colleges and universities require that the writing test be taken, but still use the Critical Reading and Math scores to evaluate incoming students. SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) scores are a good predictor of a student's academic success at least for the first year of college. Colleges look at SAT scores, grade point average in core areas, and the actual high school courses taken in their admissions selections.

### **ACT**

The ACT (American College Test) is designed to assess high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The test covers four skill areas: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. ACT also has a Writing Test which is 30-minutes long. Postsecondary institutions require that students take this writing test. Colleges and universities make their own decisions about using the results of the ACT Writing Test.



## More Information about the HOPE Scholarship

### HOPE Scholarship, Scholarship Award Amounts

- At a public institution, the HOPE Scholarship award amount covers tuition, HOPE-approved mandatory fees, and a book allowance of up to \$300 per academic year.
- At a private college or university, you may receive a HOPE Scholarship award of \$3,000 per academic year if you are a fulltime student (12 hours).
- If you enroll as a half-time student (6-11 hours), you may receive an award of \$1,500 per academic year.
- Full-time students attending eligible private colleges also may be eligible for a Georgia Tuition Equalization Grant; check with the school financial aid office or [GAcollege411.org](http://GAcollege411.org) for additional information.

### Eligibility

To be eligible as an entering freshman, you must have or meet the following qualifications:

- Be a U.S. citizen or meet the eligible non-citizen requirements.
- Meet HOPE's Georgia residency requirements.
- Meet the Selective Service registration requirements.
- Be a 1993 or later graduate of an eligible high school if you plan to attend a public college, university, or technical college.
- Be a 1996 or later graduate of an eligible high school if you plan to attend a private college or university.
- All students entering college must earn a 3.0 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale for all core curriculum coursework for the high school diploma. All core curriculum coursework attempted in the student's high school career (grades 9-12) will be counted toward the HOPE Scholarship cumulative grade point average, and numeric grades will be converted to the 4.0 scale.
  - If you meet eligibility requirements, you may receive first-year HOPE Scholarship assistance for the first 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours attempted or until the 1st Spring checkpoint at any eligible Georgia public or private college, university or public technical college.
  - Graduates of Georgia high schools that are not certified by statute may retroactively receive the HOPE Scholarship for the first 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours attempted at any eligible Georgia public or private college, university or public technical college, if they have earned a 3.0 grade point average.

### HOPE Scholarship Award Limits

A college degree-seeking student becomes ineligible for the HOPE Scholarship once the student has: • Received payment from any combination of HOPE Scholarship, HOPE Grant, and Accel Program funds totaling 127 semester hours (190 quarter hours) of credit; or • Attempted 127 semester hours (190 quarter hours) of college degree credit, regardless of whether HOPE funds were received while attempting the hours; or • Earned a baccalaureate (four-year) college degree, regardless of whether HOPE funds were received while earning the degree.

Apply for the HOPE Scholarship--Spring of Senior Year, complete Free Application for Federal Student Aid

## HOPE Grant

### Grant Award Amounts

The HOPE Grant covers tuition, HOPE-approved mandatory fees, and a book allowance of up to \$300 per academic year.

### Eligibility

Georgia residents meeting HOPE's citizenship requirements and who are attending a Georgia public technical college or public college or university and enrolled in a certificate or diploma program are eligible for HOPE

assistance regardless of high school graduation dates or grade point averages. Full-time enrollment is not required. You must be making Satisfactory Academic Progress according to the college's policy to maintain eligibility, but a 3.0 cumulative grade point average is not required.

**Grant Award Limits**

A student may receive the HOPE Grant for up to 63 semester hours (95 quarter hours) of study. However, any previous coursework for which you have received HOPE Scholarship and/or Accel payments will count toward the lifetime award limit of 127 semester hours (190 quarter hours) and will reduce the number of HOPE Grant hours for which you can receive assistance.

NOTE: Certificate programs offered through Continuing Education Departments do not qualify for HOPE assistance. Apply for the HOPE Grant—Spring of senior year, please complete Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

## **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS BY INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL**

Thanks to a decision made by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, students now enjoy greater flexibility in planning a high school course of study that prepares them for admission to Georgia's public colleges and universities. The new graduation rule requires 23 credits earned to receive a high school diploma. Colleges and universities in the state of Georgia, also require that entering freshmen have successfully completed a minimum of two World Language credits in the same language for admission. The new graduation rule provides for students to select courses that meet the needs of their individual advisement and career plans, without limiting their options for continuing their education after they graduate from high school.

### **Research Universities**

Georgia State University, University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, Medical College of Georgia

- 16 Core Units are required. 4 additional academic units are recommended.
- Honors and Advanced Placement coursework highly recommended.

### **Regional Universities**

Georgia Southern, Valdosta State

- 16 Core Units are required. 2 additional academic units are recommended.
- Honors and Advanced Placement coursework recommended.

### **State Universities and Senior Colleges**

Kennesaw State, University of West Georgia, Southern Tech, Clayton State College, North Georgia, Albany State, Armstrong Atlantic State, Fort Valley State, Georgia College and State University, Savannah State, Dalton College

- 16 College Core Units are required. 2 additional academic units are recommended.
- Honors and Advanced Placement coursework recommended

### **Two-Year Colleges**

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Georgia Highlands College, Middle Georgia College, DeKalb College, South Georgia College, Gordon College, Gainesville College, Atlanta Metropolitan

- 16 Core Units are required.

### **Technical Colleges**

Chattahoochee Tech, North Metro Tech, Coosa Valley Tech, Carroll Tech, and others

- 14 Core Units

Technical schools want students to enroll in the most rigorous math and science classes possible. Higher level math and science are recommended if the student is seeking an Associate Degree. All students must take the ASSET Test. Certain scores must be obtained before admission into certain programs. Technical degrees lead to 4-year degrees in the Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) Program. The BAS is established through an articulation agreement between the technical schools in the state of Georgia and three (3) 4-year institutions (Clayton State, Dalton College, and Valdosta State).

## **APPENDIX**

### **Websites for the 21st Century Graduate**

#### **College Information**

<http://www.act.org> provides information on the ACT and will allow you to register online.

<http://www.collegeboard.com> provides information on the SAT and will allow you to register online.

<http://www.GAcollege411.org> is an online, interactive tool that helps students make choices about careers, colleges, technical schools, and financial aid.

<http://www.petersons.com> is Peterson's Guide to Colleges and Universities.

<http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/ncaa/NCAA/common> provides the NCAA Eligibility Guide Career Information

<http://careerpathsonline.com> is the site for Career Paths.

<http://collegeboard.com> offers Career Browser.

<http://www.GAcollege411.org> is an online, interactive tool that helps students make choices about careers, colleges, technical schools, and financial aid..

<http://www.umsl.edu/services/govdocs/ooh20002002/1/htm> is the Occupational Outlook Handbook.

<http://www.todaysmilitary.com/app/tu/careers> is the Military Career Center.

#### **Scholarship/Financial Aid Information**

<http://www.college-scholarships.com> is an all purpose college and scholarship information site which includes links to nine free internet scholarship search data bases, links to college websites and online applications, college admissions office email addresses and (mostly toll free) phone numbers, ACT and SAT prep information, and much, much more. The site has been the recipient of more than 25 internet awards and receives more than 150,000 visits each month.

<http://www.ed.gov/studentaid.com> is a federal government site for student financial assistance. There is a link to the U.S. Department of Education FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). **Remember no completed FAFSA application during the spring semester of your senior year means NO HOPE.**

<http://www.fastweb.com> is the largest on-line scholarship search service.

<http://www.get-recruited.com> offers students a chance to be recruited by, and perhaps be offered scholarships to attend, colleges, universities and graduate schools throughout the United States. This service is absolutely free.

<http://www.guaranteed-scholarships.com> lists and describes scholarships offered by individual colleges and universities to all enrolled students meeting the specific criteria.

<http://www.gsfc.org> provides complete HOPE program eligibility requirements and provides answers to questions about this program.

## Freshman Timeline

Success in postsecondary decision-making requires that certain tasks be performed at specific times during the high school years. You can reduce the anxiety associated with these responsibilities and exercise personal control over the entire process by working according to the following timeline.

**Freshman courses, grades, and credits all become part of the student's transcript.** In addition, freshman activities, honors, and awards can all be listed on postsecondary and scholarship applications.

Your freshman checklist:

[https://www.gacollege411.org/High\\_School\\_Planning/High\\_School\\_Planning\\_Timeline/9th\\_Grade.aspx](https://www.gacollege411.org/High_School_Planning/High_School_Planning_Timeline/9th_Grade.aspx)

## Sophomore Timeline

The tenth grade year should be a year of academic growth. In addition to working hard in school and being involved in activities, sophomore students should be identifying personal abilities, aptitudes, and interests as well as developing their skills and talents.

Your sophomore checklist:

[https://www.gacollege411.org/High\\_School\\_Planning/High\\_School\\_Planning\\_Timeline/10th\\_Grade.aspx](https://www.gacollege411.org/High_School_Planning/High_School_Planning_Timeline/10th_Grade.aspx)

## Junior Timeline

The eleventh grade year is one in which the post secondary process begins. It is a very important year! If you follow the timeline below, you will experience a smooth transition into your senior year.

For a detailed list of activities to ensure you are on track every month, go here:

[https://www.gacollege411.org/High\\_School\\_Planning/High\\_School\\_Planning\\_Timeline/11th\\_Grade.aspx](https://www.gacollege411.org/High_School_Planning/High_School_Planning_Timeline/11th_Grade.aspx)

## Senior Timeline

The twelfth grade year begins with thinking of the final steps to be made to make a choice from the post-secondary plans you have made. You must start final selection and financial aid early.

For a detailed list of activities to ensure you are on track every month, go here:

[https://www.gacollege411.org/High\\_School\\_Planning/High\\_School\\_Planning\\_Timeline/12th\\_Grade.aspx](https://www.gacollege411.org/High_School_Planning/High_School_Planning_Timeline/12th_Grade.aspx)