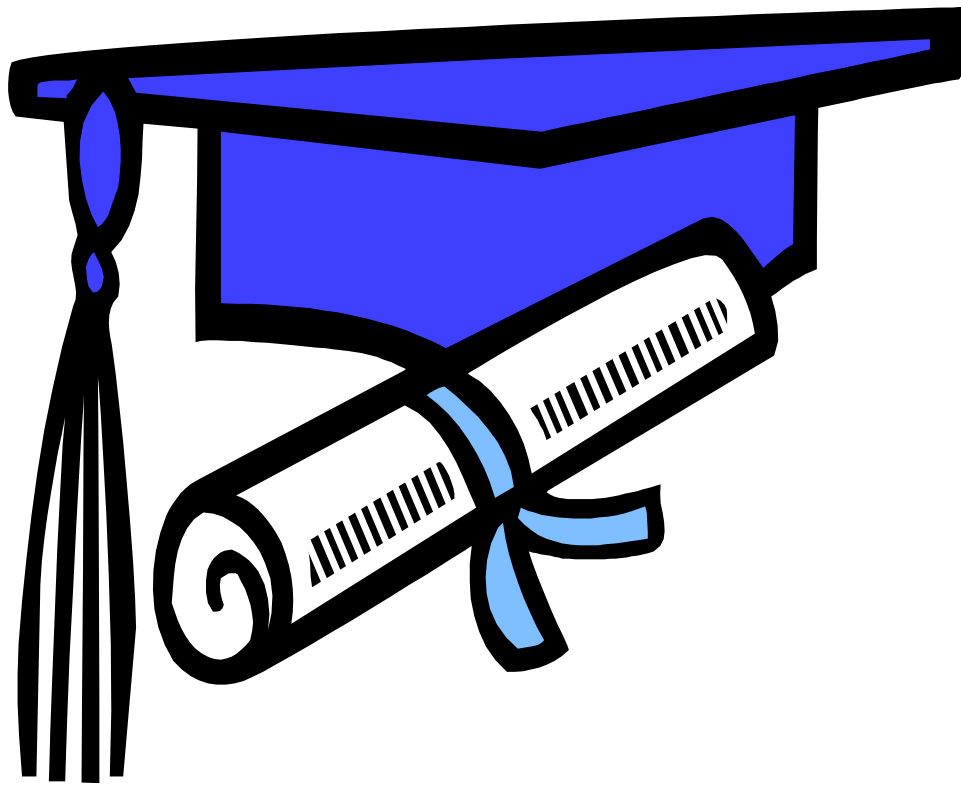


WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL



COLLEGE INFORMATION GUIDE 2011-2012



Sponsored by
the Academic Booster Club and the
WHS Counseling Department

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Writing Your College Essay

The College Application Essay – “Do’s”

Before responding to the first essay option on the common application, be sure to consider the 5 tips below. Option 1 asks: Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.

1. "Evaluate" -- Make Sure Your Response is Analytical

Read the prompt for option #1 carefully -- you need to "evaluate" an experience, achievement, risk or dilemma. Evaluation requires you to think critically and analytically about your topic. The admissions folks are not asking you to "describe" or "summarize" an experience (although you'll need to do this a little). The heart of your essay needs to be a thoughtful discussion of *how* the experience affected you. Examine how the experience made you grow and change as a person.

2. A "Significant" Experience Can Be Small

Many students shy away from personal essay option 1 because of the word "significant." Many students feel that they are just 18 years old and nothing "significant" has ever happened to them. This isn't true. If you're 18 years old, even if your life has been smooth and comfortable, you've had significant experiences. Think about the first time you challenged authority, the first time you disappointed your parents or the first time you pushed yourself to do something outside of your comfort zone. A significant risk can be choosing to study drawing; it doesn't have to be about rappelling into an icy chasm to rescue a baby polar bear.

3. Don't Brag About an "Achievement"

The admissions team gets a lot of essays from students about the winning goal, the record-breaking run, the brilliant job in the school play, the stunning violin solo or the amazing job they did as team captain. These topics are fine for essay option 1, but you want to be very careful to avoid sounding like a braggart or egoist. The tone of such essays is critical. An essay that says "the team never could have won without me" is going to rub your reader the wrong way. A college doesn't want a community of self-consumed egoists. The best essays have a generosity of spirit and an appreciation of community and team effort.

4. An "Ethical Dilemma" Doesn't need to be Newsworthy

Think broadly about what can be defined as an "ethical dilemma." This topic doesn't need to be about whether or not to support war, abortion or capital punishment. In fact, the huge topics that dominate national debate will often miss the point of the essay question -- the "impact on you." The most difficult ethical dilemmas facing high school students are often about high school. Should you turn in a friend who cheated? Is loyalty to your friends more important than honesty? Should you risk your own comfort or reputation to do what you think is right? Tackling these personal dilemmas in your essay will give the admissions folks a good sense of who you are, and you will be addressing issues that are central to being a good campus citizen.

5. Reveal Your Character

Always keep in mind why colleges require admissions essays. Sure, they want to see that you can write, but the essay isn't always the best tool for that (it's obviously easy to get professional help with grammar and mechanics). The main purpose of the essay is so that the school can learn more about you. It's the only place on the application where you can really demonstrate your character, your personality, your sense of humor and your values. The admissions folks want to find evidence that you will be a contributing member of the campus community. They want to see evidence of a team spirit, humility, self-awareness and introspection. Essay option #1 works well for these goals if you thoughtfully explore the "impact on you."

College Application Essays – “Don’ts”

Supplemental essays for college applications can take all kinds of forms, but the majority of them are actually asking a very similar question: "Why do you want to go to our college?"

The question sounds simple, but college admissions officers see the five mistakes below all too frequently. As you write your supplemental essay for your college applications, be sure to steer clear of these common blunders.

1. Vague Language - The Essay Is Generic and Lacking Detail

If a college asks you why you want to attend, be specific. Far too many supplemental essays resemble this sample essay from Duke University-- the essay says nothing specific about the school in question. Whatever school you are applying to, make sure your essay addresses the particular features of that school that appeal to you.

2. Length - The Essay Is Too Long

Many prompts for the supplemental essay ask you to write a single paragraph or two. Don't go beyond the stated limit. Also realize that a tight and engaging single paragraph is better than two mediocre paragraphs. The admissions officers have thousands of applications to read, and they will appreciate brevity.

3. Lack of Focus -- The Essay Doesn't Answer the Question

If the essay prompt asks you to explain why the college is a good match for your professional interests, don't write an essay about how your friends and brother go to the school. If the prompt asks you how you hope to grow while in college, don't write an essay about how much you want to earn a bachelor's degree. Read the prompt multiple times before writing, and read it again carefully after you've written your essay.

4. Faulty Tone -- You Sound like a Privileged Snob

"I want to go to Williams because my father and brother both attended Williams..." A better reason to attend a college is because the curriculum matches your academic and professional goals. Essays that focus on legacy status or connections with influential people often fail to answer the question well, and they are likely to create a negative impression.

5. Faulty Tone -- You Sound Too Materialistic

The admissions counselors see a lot of essays that are honest to a fault. Sure, most of us go to college because we want to get a degree and earn a good salary. Don't over-emphasize this point in your essay. If your essay states you want to go to Penn because their business majors earn more money than those from other colleges, you won't impress anyone. You'll sound self-interested and materialistic.

Source: www.About.com

Sample Essay – “solid”

I visited 18 colleges over the past year, yet Oberlin is the one place that most spoke to my interests. Early in my college search I learned that I prefer a liberal arts college to a larger university. The collaboration between the faculty and undergraduate students, the sense of community, and the flexible, interdisciplinary nature of the curriculum are all important to me. Also, my high school experience was greatly enriched by the diversity of the student body, and I am impressed by Oberlin’s rich history and its current efforts connected to inclusiveness and equality. To say the least, I’d be proud to say I attended the first coeducational college in the country.

I plan to major in Environmental Studies at Oberlin. After my campus tour, I took some extra time to visit the Adam Joseph Lewis Center. It’s an amazing space and the students I chatted with spoke highly of their professors. I became truly interested in issues of sustainability during my volunteer work in the Hudson River Valley, and everything I’ve learned about Oberlin makes it seem the ideal place for me to continue exploring and building upon those interests. I am also impressed by Oberlin’s Creativity and Leadership Project. I’ve been a bit of an entrepreneur ever since second grade when I made a dollar producing and performing *The Runaway Bunny* for my extended family. I’m drawn to a program that supports the move from classroom learning to creative hands-on, real-world applications.

Finally, as the rest of my application clearly demonstrates, music is an important part of my life. I’ve been playing the trumpet since fourth grade, and I hope to continue performing and developing my skills throughout college. What better place than Oberlin to do so? With more performances than days in the year and a large group of talented musicians in the Conservatory of Music, Oberlin is an ideal place for exploring my love of both music and the environment.

Sample Essay – “excellent”

When I sat down to write this essay, I tried, as my high school English teacher always instructed, to imagine the audience for my writing. The more I thought about it, the more I pitied the college admissions screeners who would be reading a thousand essays on diversity. Along with the expected takes on race and ethnicity, how many of those essays would present their authors as outcasts, loners, kids who didn't fit in at his or her school? How could I present myself as someone unique and interesting—strange, even—without falling prey to the cliché of the self-pitying social misfit?

Let me be direct: in some ways, I am the antithesis of what one might picture as a student who contributes to campus diversity. I am white, middle-class, and heterosexual; I have no physical handicaps or mental challenges apart from a tendency towards sarcasm. But when I receive college brochures picturing smiling, clean-cut teens dressed in the latest from Abercrombie & Fitch and lounging on a blanket in the sun, I think, *those people are not like me.*

Simply put, I am a Goth. I wear black, lots of it. I have piercings and ear gauges and tattoos. My hair, naturally the same sandy blonde that the rest of my family shares, is dyed jet, sometimes highlighted in streaks of purple or scarlet. I rarely smile, and I don't do sun. If I were inserted into those brochure photographs of typical college students, I would look like a vampire stalking her wholesome prey.

Again, I am imagining my reading audience, and I can almost see my readers' eyes roll. *So you're a little weird, kid. How does that contribute to campus diversity?* Well, I think I contribute plenty. Diversity goes beyond the physical; race or ethnicity might be the first things one thinks of, but really, it is a question of what makes someone the person that he or she is. Diversity might be considered in terms of economic or geographical background, life experiences, religion, sexual orientation, and even personal interests and general outlook. In this respect, my Goth identity contributes a perspective that is far different from the mainstream. Being Goth isn't just about physical appearance; it's a way of life that, like any other, includes not only individual tastes in music, literature, and popular culture, but also particular beliefs about philosophy, spirituality, and a range of other human issues.

To give just one specific example, I am planning to major in Environmental Studies, and while it might seem odd to picture a ghoulishly-dressed girl who adores the natural world, it was my Goth outlook that led me to this academic interest. I read voraciously, and am drawn to subject matter that is somewhat dark; the more I read about humanity's impact on the planet and the near-apocalyptic dangers posed by global climate change, pollution, overpopulation, the manipulation of the food supply and other environmental threats, the more interested I became, and the more determined that I should become involved. I, along with other members of my school's Environmental Club, started a campus recycling program, and lobbied our superintendent to install in all classrooms power strips that are used to easily shut down equipment such as printers and computers at the end of the day, thereby conserving energy and generating significant savings for our school. I was drawn to this dark subject matter of environmental crisis, not to wallow in it or savor the Schadenfreude, but to change it and make the world a better place.

I know Goths look a little funny, as we wear our ebony trenchcoats in seventy-degree weather. I know we seem a little odd as we gather in shady nooks to discuss the latest episode of *True Blood*. I know professors may sigh as we swell the enrollments of poetry and art classes. Yes, we're different. And we—I—have a lot to contribute.

Sample essay – “weak”

I believe the Trinity College of Arts and Sciences at Duke is an excellent match for me. I believe college should not be merely a gateway to the work force; it should educate the student in a variety of subjects and prepare him or her for the range of challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in life. I have always been a curious person and enjoy reading all kinds of literature and nonfiction. In high school I excelled in history, English, AP psychology, and other liberal arts subjects. I have not yet decided on a major, but when I do, it will almost certainly be in the liberal arts, such as history or political science. I know that Trinity College is very strong in these areas. But regardless of my major, I want to receive a broad education that spans a variety of areas in the liberal arts, so that I will graduate as not only a viable job prospect, but also as a well-rounded and learned adult who can make diverse and valuable contributions to my community. I believe Duke's Trinity College will help me grow and become that kind of person.

Additional Sample from the UGA Admissions Blog - "excellent"

Hot, sticky air clung to my skin. Two little pairs of dirt-caked hands mercilessly pulled at my hair, fashioning sloppy braids. After trying unsuccessfully to communicate the pain my young stylists were inflicting, I decided to relish the remaining hours I had with these precious girls instead. During the nine days of my Dominican Republic mission trip, the three of us had bonded and become fast friends. The most effective Spanish teachers I have ever had, these tiny professors ushered me into a new realm of understanding, stretching me beyond my comfort zone. Immersed in a world without English, I was forced to take my 8+ years of classroom Spanish into the real world; my faithful little tutors never left my side.

On our final day, as the bus rolled in to sweep us back to homework and fast food, I promised myself that I would not forget what I had learned there. With one last goodbye hug, I tearfully climbed on board. A couple of days later I found myself walking into my all too familiar Spanish classroom, but this time-for the first time-truly eager to become fluent in the beautiful language of my new friends.

Additional Sample from the UGA Admissions Blog - "excellent"

I once caught an orange slice in my mouth. He was twenty feet away. I was on a bike. A perfect throw, a perfect catch.

There's a certain kind of adrenaline I get. An orange slice has an irregular shape, and thus an irregular trajectory. The wind never affects it in the same way. If you don't keep your eyes locked and your feet light you'll get popped straight in the nose.

The rush was unexpected the first time. The excitement first comes from the success, the achievement. Then the taste of the orange factors in. Citrus invigorates you, refreshes you; food always tastes better when you have to work for it. I understand how a seal feels.

Although nothing more than a particularly lucky catch, a memory revived from the multitude which deserve afterlife, this catch was representative of a much greater achievement. Through my studies and expectations I've held onto my quirks and hobbies. Catching an orange in my mouth will never land me a job, but it may keep me sane. Life would be too boring otherwise.

Counselor Breakdown

Based on each child's last name:

A to G, Jacquelyn Edwards, Jacquelyn.Edwards@cobbk12.org;

H to N, ESOL Kristin Schloemer Bryant, Kristin.Schloemer@cobbk12.org;

O to Z, Dr. Jeanette Higgins (Dept. Chair), Jeanette.Higgins@cobbk12.org.

Magnet students:

A-M Elizabeth Blank, Elizabeth.Blank@cobbk12.org

N-Z, Sumana Mougald, Sumana.Mougald@cobbk12.org

For new enrollment, transcripts, testing, OMB and summer school, contact the registrar, Karyn Corell (Karyn.Corell@cobbk12.org).

IMPORTANT DATES!!!

SAT

Oct 1

Nov 5

Dec 3

Jan 28

Mar 10

May 5

June 2

ACT

Sept 10

Oct 22

Dec 10

Feb 11

Apr 14

June 9

EOCT's

Dec 12-16

May 8-15

Finals

Dec 20-22; May 22-24

Seniors May 16-18

AP Exams

May 7-18

Junior Advisement

October-December

Individual appts. set by counselor; parents are invited

GHS GT

-Writing-Sept 27 (for Juniors, new to state and repeaters)

- Re-do/Make-ups for writing test: Feb 29; July 18

-ELA, Math, Sci, & SS-March 19-23 (for Juniors, new to state and repeaters)

-Re-do/Make-ups for ELA, Math, Sci & SS: Sept 12-15; Oct 31-Nov 3; July 16-20

Important Senior Year Reminders

Senior year is the time for you to finalize your plans for life after WHS. Although many of you will apply to two and four year colleges, some of you may be interested in pursuing other post-secondary plans. Whatever your plans or ideas may be for after graduation, **ALL SENIORS** should meet with their counselor to discuss the following:

1. Are you in good standing to graduate this year?
2. Does your current schedule complete your graduation requirements?
3. Do you need to attend Night School, Performance Learning Center "PLC", or take online courses at GVHS or Cobb Virtual School (CVS)?
4. Have you developed a final plan for your post-secondary years?
5. If you are a student athlete, have you taken enough NCAA required courses?
6. If you hope to play sports on the college level on a Division I or II team, have you registered with the NCAA Clearinghouse online or picked up an application from the athletic director?



Your **HOW-TO-GUIDE** to get started on Wheeler's coolest and newest system to get you **EVERYTHING** you need for college!

1. www.connection.naviance.com/wheelerhigh
2. Click "I need to register" to the right.
3. Enter in code given to you by your counselor. (See your counselor if you don't have your code or need a new one) and click "register".
4. Enter a WORKING email address that you check regularly, choose a password, agree to the terms of service and click "Complete Registration"
5. Go to "About Me" tab
6. Scroll down to "Official Things" box and click on profile
7. Click "edit" at the top and fill in your information and click update. IT IS CRUCIAL THAT THIS INFORMATION IS ACCURATE!
8. Click on "My Planner" tab. Then click on "Tasks assigned to me". Complete tasks by deadlines.
9. Click on "Graduation Survey" and complete the ONE QUESTION survey.
10. Add college(s) using "College Picker" that you are interested in or going to apply to.
11. Research information on those colleges.
12. Over to left, click "personality type" and click on "start assessment".
13. Continue with Career Assessment and view your results of related careers that you may be interested in.
14. If you need a recommendation for a college or scholarship, click **NON-MAGNET Senior Info Survey or Info for MAGNET teacher/counselor rec** if you are a Magnet student. Fill out surveys fully and thoughtfully.
15. Click on the Colleges Tab. Visit the "College Visit" link to see when colleges are coming to WHS or the surrounding area.
16. Also on the Colleges Tab, visit the "Scholarship List" link to see all of the scholarships that Wheeler has been given. All applications can be downloaded from this link. Counselors will not have paper copies anymore.
17. Transcripts- Send a transcript by clicking the "transcript" link over to left under resources. Click which link applies to you regarding why you need the transcript. For colleges, look up college under "lookup" and click request transcript at the bottom. Enter as many schools as you need.
18. If you are NCAA, you can request a transcript for NCAA through Naviance.
19. If you are applying to a college through CommonApp, you can do it directly through Naviance as they are linked.

Log in to your Naviance account BI-WEEKLY! Always check updates to the right on the homepage, messages sent from your counselor or common messages posted on the front of the homepage. Go to the "My planner" tab to complete all tasks. If you have any questions regarding Naviance, email your counselor **DIRECTLY** through Naviance!

Checklist for Seniors

1. Schedule an appointment to meet with your counselor.
2. CONTINUOUSLY check out the WHS Naviance Connections site for scholarships, college visits, etc.
3. Check the message boards inside and outside the counseling office.
4. Save everything— Create a folder for each college to which you apply.
5. Make copies of everything: applications, essays, financial aid forms, tax forms.
6. Put our school code (**112-010**) on every SAT Reasoning Test/SAT Subject Tests application.
7. If you have a special talent—music, drama, athletic, physics, creative writing—pursue that interest with each college. This is not the time to be modest. If the admissions committee doesn't know about your talent, they can't take this into consideration.
8. Read the application requirements for each college thoroughly. Some have very specific requirements such as a required language or science, SAT Subject Tests or a recommendation from a science or math teacher. Knowing about and adhering to these specific requirements is your responsibility.
9. Treat each application as if that were your first choice. Schools want to admit students who want them.
10. File the FAFSA (financial aid form) as soon as possible **after January 1st**. If necessary, have your parents/guardians estimate their taxes.
11. **Meet all deadlines.** Deadlines are a serious matter and in some cases, financial aid, admission to some colleges and assignments for SAT testing are done on a first come, first served basis. Submitting materials after the deadlines can be costly.
12. **If** recommendation(s) are required as part of the application process and/or scholarship, identify faculty members who can write a winning letter on your behalf. Do not ask a random faculty member! The person writing the letter should know about you as a person and as a student. Most importantly, this should be done early. Give faculty members a two week notice and fill out the Senior Info Survey on Naviance and don't forget to send a thank you note to all who have written a letter of recommendation for you.
13. Attend different college fairs and/or college visitation weekends.
14. If you are a student athlete and hope to play a sport at the college level in a Division I or II school, you must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse during the fall of your senior year. You can register online at www.ncaa.org

Your counselor can help you with preparing to enter the work force or college. Please share this booklet with your parents and ask them to contact your counselor with any questions or concerns.

Checklist for Juniors

- ✓ **Maintaining your grades during your junior year is important!** Colleges put a lot of weight on your marks for this year. Think about it...if you are applying in the fall of your Senior year to college, the last grades they see are your Junior year grades!
- ✓ Begin doing research on careers and colleges using Naviance, www.gacollege411.org or other websites.
- ✓ Visit as many campuses and/or talk to representatives as you can.
- ✓ Attend a PROBE College Fair.
- ✓ PSAT is offered to Juniors in Oct. They have to pay to take the exam during their Junior year. If the scores are high enough, they can be eligible for National Merit Scholarships.
- ✓ Attend Junior Advisement Conference with Counselor as it will map out which classes you need for graduation and give you insight on the college going process.
- ✓ In the Spring, it is essential that you register for the correct classes you need during your Senior year to graduate.
- ✓ Consider taking AP classes or joint enrollment classes (where you take your Senior year classes at a college). These types of classes are or are similar to college level classes that can give you a firsthand experience of what your freshman year at college will be like. Too often, students graduate from HS with good enough grades to get into college but lack the experience of a rigorous curriculum which can result in failing grades.
- ✓ Prepare for Georgia High School Graduation Tests on www.usatestprep.com. See your counselor for the username and password. You **MUST** pass these or course EOCT's to receive your diploma AND participate in graduation.
- ✓ Start preparing for SAT or ACT with online tutorials, SAT Prep classes, Project 2400 or Mock SAT's
- ✓ Register for March SAT or April ACT. **WHS CEEB Code: 112-010**
- ✓ Take the ASVAB. This test is typically given to those who want to enter the military but it is a great career assessment and might steer you in the right direction when choosing a major and college.
- ✓ Be involved in extra curricular activities at WHS or outside school. Colleges want students to be well-rounded citizens.
- ✓ Review scholarship lists to see what you can apply for in your senior year. There are limited scholarships out there for Juniors and younger.
- ✓ Find a summer internship or a summer program to participate in so that you have the opportunity to learn and experience things you wouldn't necessarily do during school year.

WHS Counseling Department Policies

EVERY STUDENT MUST ACTIVATE AN ACCOUNT ON NAVIANCE.

www.connection.naviance.com/wheelerhigh

If you do not have your login information, please see your counselor!

Parents-Please get your login information from your child's counselor.

Transcript Requests

ALL TRANSCRIPTS ARE \$2 and can be paid to the counseling office clerk with cash only! You can pay an upfront amount and your usage will be tracked on Naviance so you always know how much you have available. You are not able to pay on-line at this time ☹ If you put money into your account and it is not used, you will not be able to receive a refund.

- **Submit through Naviance**
 - Submit your transcript through Naviance or www.gacollege411.org for FREE.
- **Your school not on Naviance?**
 - Go to www.gacollege411.org IF it is a Georgia college/University
- **Your school not on Naviance OR GaCollege411?**
 - See counseling office clerk and we will "snail mail" one.

Students should request transcripts **well in advance of deadlines**.

- At the end of your Senior year, students must send their FINAL transcript to the college they are attending. Please include name of institution, address and contact person/department.
- **Your SAT/ACT scores MUST be sent through their respective offices.**

Letters of Recommendation

- Students should allow **at least 2 weeks** for this process to be completed. *PLEASE* plan well in advance! If your deadline is Jan 15th, please submit your request prior to Dec 15th because of the holiday break.
- Students must complete the Senior Info Survey on Naviance before a teacher or counselor can write the recommendation. It is very important that the survey is filled out fully and thoughtfully. Please use complete sentences...remember, the person reading this is about to tell a college/person why you are awesome!
- Colleges expect that letters of recommendation remain confidential and not be shared with students or parents. They will be submitted through Naviance or mailed directly from Wheeler High School to the College or University.

Appointments with Counselors

- Counselors will meet individually with each senior regarding graduation requirements (required courses, units of credits required and graduation tests).
- It is the student's responsibility to request additional appointments with his/her counselor before/after school or between classes with clerk in counseling office. Late passes will not be given so please plan accordingly.

College Interviews

- You will need to inquire about the interviewing policy of each school. The policy will probably be one of the following:
 1. No interviews—group information sessions only
 2. Alumni interviews only – off campus
 3. Interviews are optional and informational only
 4. Interviews are encouraged and do become a part of the student’s application folder.

College Applications

- Students are responsible for
 - Submitting college applications by the deadline. Colleges and Universities prefer you do the process online; however, if you need to mail an application, please obtain it from the admissions office or online.
 - Sending the transcript either through Naviance, GaCollege411 or through the clerk in the counseling office
 - The application fees.
 - If letters of recommendation are required as part of the application package, students should notify their counselor and complete the Senior Info Survey on Naviance *well in advance (at least two weeks)* of deadlines.
- Definitions:
 - Regular admission-Students are required to apply by a fixed date. They are notified in the Spring of admission
 - Rolling Admission-The college considers each student’s application as all the required credentials (app, test scores, etc.) have been received. Notification in 4-6 weeks
 - Early Decision-Students who have DEFINITE first choice of schools and a strong academic profile might consider applying for early decision. Applications are submitted in the fall, usually by Oct 15. Notification in early December. At this time, they must agree (by contract) to enter this college and withdraw all other applications. If not accepted in early decision, students are either denied or reconsidered for admission during regular admission
 - Early Action-If accepted, are not required to accept admission or withdraw other applications. Student must notify college by May 1 if they will attend the college.
- Common Application is an application used by over 300 colleges/universities all over the US. For more information, visit www.commonapp.org.
- Give yourself time to complete the application procedure by starting as early as possible in the school year (the online applications allow you to come back and work on them at different times with a username and password).
- Be aware that some schools require you to write an essay.

- If the application deadline is after the Dec/Jan Holiday break and the application requires recommendation letters, students should notify their counselor and complete the Senior Info Survey on Naviance and provide paperwork for teachers **by December 15 (or earlier!).** *If requests for recommendations are made after this date, there will be no guarantee that the recommendation letter will reflect how awesome you really are.*
- If you qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch, you may stop by the Counseling Office to pick up college application fee waivers (you are allowed to waive up to 4 application fees after you take the SAT or ACT on a waiver).
- The Counseling Department is responsible for mailing/submitting the following documents at the student's request. These can be submitted through Naviance if the college is available. If it is not available through Naviance, the counselor will submit or mail the forms AFTER it is given to the counselor:

*Counselor's Recommendation/Evaluation
Secondary School Report
Mid-Year Report*

\$\$Financial Aid \$\$

- Scholarships are continuously updated on the scholarship page on Naviance. If a student finds a scholarship they want to apply for, they can either apply online, if applicable, or download application from Naviance. Like applications, deadlines for scholarships are VERY important.
- Set up a profile on www.fastweb.org for an extensive listing of all types of scholarships.
- The 2012 FAFSA will not be available until December and may not be filed until January 1st. You are to submit it online at www.fasfa.ed.gov. (Information from your 2011 taxes will be required in order to complete the form.)
- CSS PROFILE is a service of the College Board. Colleges, universities, graduate and professional schools, and scholarship programs use the information collected on the PROFILE to help them award private grant and scholarship funds. Complete the profile, if required, at <http://profileonline.collegeboard.com>
- DO NOT PAY FOR A "COMPANY" TO FIND YOU SCHOLARSHIPS! THIS IS A SCAM! You should NEVER have to pay for a scholarship!

Campus Visits/College Rep Visits to WHS

- Seniors are allowed to visit colleges; HOWEVER, it will be marked as an unexcused absence but they will be allowed to make up the work if their teachers and the attendance office are notified before the visit. Please note: after 10 absences, students will lose their license. It is best to plan college visits on weekends during their open houses or visitation days.
- A list of college rep visits are continuously posted on College Visit page on Naviance. Please sign up with Clerk to attend these sessions. Students are encouraged to attend these meetings as it is a great way to meet a college admissions officer and learn exactly what the college has to offer them. Students are responsible for all missed work while attending these meetings.

NCAA Clearinghouse

- The NCAA has established a clearinghouse for both recruiting and eligibility purposes for student-athletes in Division I and II.
- All students with an interest in either Division I or II programs should register at www.ncaa.org **BEFORE you have any official visits to schools.** If you have ever attended another school, you must submit a copy of the form to that school as well.
- The Clearinghouse certifies that you have completed a core of courses that may be different from WHS graduation requirements. Also, be aware that not all WHS courses have been approved by the NCAA. You will need to check with the athletic director and counselor to determine that you are taking approved courses.

Issues Facing College Freshman

- Independence-making own decisions and possibly mistakes; no one to do it for you or remind you about it
- Social Issues-making friends, dating
- Managing time-no one to tell you where to go and be, when do I study, eat, sleep, exercise, etc.?
- Dealing with Stress-find ways to help reduce stress: work out, talking with friends, etc.
- Finances-budgeting monthly allowance to last until the last day
- Academics-most professors don't take attendance, there is no "homework", one or two grades for whole class
- Living with roommate-liking each other is not as important as being considerate of one another
- Drinking and drugs-be prepared because peer pressure can be tremendous
- Tolerance-you meet lots of different people with different styles, thoughts, etc. than yours and you might be challenged by them
- Campus activities-how to get involved, being too involved, which ones will be beneficial for future
- The home ties-How often will you go/call home? How do you share time with friends/mate when you are at home (which is not often)
- Your values system-It WILL be challenged!
- Work/Job-Do you have time? Do you need the money and how much?
- Athletics-Are you playing on a college team? How will you juggle practice and school work?
- Homesickness-Like the tides, it comes and goes!
- Keeping in touch-Keep in touch with friends from high school. Caution-Everyone else's college experiences will sound better than yours....take them with a grain of salt! ☺

College Admission Testing 101

Remember:

- ✓ Plan ahead and register by regular registration date. Late registration is costly!
- ✓ Take practice timed tests and/or a test prep class
- ✓ Begin testing in Junior year (Spring is recommended)....Senior year is for damage control.
- ✓ Be rested and positive on test day. Don't forget to feed your brain with food!
- ✓ Arrive early to the test site and have a photo ID.
- ✓ If you qualify for free/reduced lunch, you have the opportunity to take the SAT and ACT twice for free. See your counselor for more details.
- ✓ Don't forget to elect colleges or universities to receive your scores when you register. With this being said, do your college research before signing up so that you don't have to pay for your scores to be sent to another college.

SAT Reasoning Test (formerly known as SAT I)

- Register online at www.collegeboard.com
- Fee waivers are available for low-income students
- Students with disabilities can apply online to file accommodations at www.collegeboard.com/ssd Plan ahead!
- Curricular test with three sections: critical reading, math, and writing
- Writing is done first and is not optional; test takes up to five hours
- Each section scored 200-800 to equal a perfect score of 2400
- Critical Reading: short and long passages from natural sciences, humanities, social sciences, and literary fiction
- Math; up to Algebra II; calculator is allowed
- $\frac{1}{4}$ point for every wrong answer (except for Math Grid questions)
- Writing: 25-minute persuasive essay; readers look for length, neatness, organization, opinion stated early, and conclusion
- PSAT in grades 10 and 11 is good practice

ACT

- Register online at www.actstudent.org
- Fee waivers are available for low-income students
- Students with disabilities must apply early and with paper folio only
- Curricular test with four parts and an optional writing that is taken last; test takes up to four hours with writing option.
- No penalty for guessing
- Four-part test: reading, math, English, scientific reasoning
- Reading: comprehension and reasoning
- Math: up to trigonometry; calculator is allowed
- English: grammar and usage
- Scientific reasoning: interpretation and problem-solving skills
- Score: 1-36 on each subtest and a composite (average score)
- Writing: persuasive essay with possible solutions given. Sub-score 2-12 with comments from raters on strengths or weaknesses
- In-depth interest inventory

SAT Subject Tests (Formerly known as SAT II)

- Additional tests required by some selective universities
- Choices: history, English literature, math, lab science, foreign language
- Student can take one, two, or three tests at any sitting
- Strategy: take test when you complete an advanced course

Adapted from Louise McClain, Counselor at Granite Hills HS in California

Advice to Seniors (and their Parents) on Picking a College

Consider the following factors when choosing a college:

- Location—states that you are willing to consider
 - Will you stay all four years at this college?
 - Don't choose a college away from home just to get away from home
 - Can you handle the rural or urban environment?
 - Can you handle the weather (extreme cold or heat)?
 - Size—small (up to 3,000) medium (3,000-10,000) large (10,000-40,000 +)
 - Smaller colleges/universities have smaller class sizes and professor to student ratios
 - Larger university core classes can be auditorium style with up to 500 students
 - Type –public, private, religious affiliations, historically black, career, vocational
 - Remember that private institutions are more expensive but are more generous when it comes to financial aid packages because they don't have as many restraints from federal funding
 - Do you want to be on a campus where everyone else looks like you and/or has similar experiences?
 - Majors offered—liberal arts, business, technical, science, math, etc.
 - If the college does not offer your major, KEEP LOOKING!!!
 - Student Body—male, female, coed, racial diversity, etc.
 - Room and board
 - Do you have to live on campus?
 - Are the types of living arrangements going to suit your needs?
 - Can you function with 1-3 roommates?
 - Special Programs—programs for learning disabled students, tutorial labs, etc.
 - Extracurricular Activities—clubs, teams, sports, fraternities/sororities, etc.
 - Financial Considerations—
 - All students should have at least one school that would be affordable should they not receive enough financial aid.
 - Take a close look at what the actual costs are going to be and compare prices
 - Tuition and fees
 - Room and board (including parking pass)
 - Basic furnishings (refrigerator, microwave, TV, stereo, bedding, etc.)
 - Books, labs fees, participation fees
 - Travel between school and home for breaks/holidays
 - Money for fun (fraternity/sorority, club/organization dues, a meal away from dining hall, entertainment, etc.)
 - Other living expenses (cell phone, insurance, groceries, gym fees, etc.)
 - Computer, printer, programs and upkeep of the technology
- Can you and your parents afford these costs????? Are you going to have to work????

Preliminary List of Colleges

Form a list of possible schools. Think in terms of three categories: reach schools, range schools and safety schools. A “reach” school might be one that is a dream school, but to which you have a slim chance of being admitted or being able to afford. A “range” school is one that you have a 50/50 chance of being admitted and could reasonable handle financially. A “safety” school would be a school where you should definitely expect to be accepted and that you could afford with little or no financial assistance.

Reach School(s) (I might be accepted)_____

Range School(s) (I should be accepted)_____

Safety School(s) (I will be accepted)_____

Helpful Websites

www.connection.naviance.com/wheelerhigh -Research colleges, create list of colleges of interest or that you want to apply, career surveys and information, scholarships, college visits, important upcoming dates and info about school.

www.GAcollege411.org --unique opportunities for Georgia students to pursue a college education and a better life. By setting up an account at this site, you can make your application process to Georgia colleges and universities easier and quicker. You can send transcripts to Ga schools and calculate your HOPE GPA.

www.fafsa.ed.gov or 1-800-4FED-AID explains FAFSA and application information

www.commonapp.org

<https://profileonline.collegeboard.com> -CSS Profile (not all colleges require this)

www.fastweb.com -Scholarship search engine

www.collegeboard.com- Sign up for SAT, prepare for college, SAT Prep

www.actstudent.org -Sign up for ACT

www.usatestprep.com- GHSGT and EOCT review

www.ncaa.org -application for NCAA eligibility

www.wiredscholar.com helps students and parents understand the financial aid process

www.co-op.edu -Info on cooperative education, a work-learn program

www.finaid.org- information on scholarships and loan processes

www.admissionessays.com -help on writing your essay for college

www.usg.edu --Board of Regents link for the 34 schools in the University System of Georgia

www.number2.com -- Great site for help with the SAT test! Recommend to use it daily to improve your scores.

www.afrotc.com --Air Force ROTC scholarship information

www.nrotc.navy.mil - Navy ROTC scholarship information

www.armyrotc.com - Army ROTC scholarship information

www.hsf.net - Explores scholarships offered by the Hispanic Scholarship Fund

www.salliemae.com -Guidance on financial aid includes interactive calculators to help forecast college costs, estimated eligibility, education loan payments, and more

www.guaranteed-scholarships.com - The website lists many, many scholarships offered by specific colleges to students with a good combination of SAT/ACT scores and GPA's. The amount of the scholarships and level of scores and grades needed to qualify vary widely.

www.gmsp.org - These scholarships, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and administered by the United Negro College Fund, are for outstanding Pell Grant-eligible students who are African American, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanic Americans, or Asian-Pacific Islanders.

Information about the HOPE Scholarship

In order to receive the HOPE Scholarship/Zell Miller Scholarship, student MUST meet the following requirements:

1. HOPE Scholarship- Graduate from a Georgia HS with a 3.0 core GPA (All English, Math, Sci, SS and FL classes) and this will cover 90% of tuition.
2. Zell Miller Scholarship- Graduate from a Georgia HS with a 3.7 core GPA (All English, Math, Sci, SS and FL classes) and 1200 SAT/20 ACT and this will cover 100% of tuition.
3. Be enrolled as a degree-seeking student at an eligible public or private college or university or technical college in Georgia.
4. Meet HOPE's Georgia residency requirements.
5. Meet HOPE's U.S. citizenship or eligible non-citizen requirements.
6. Be in compliance with Selective Service registration requirements.
7. Be in compliance with the Georgia Drug-Free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990. A student may be ineligible for HOPE payment if he or she has been convicted of committing certain felony offenses involving marijuana, controlled substances, or dangerous drugs.
8. Not be in default or owe a refund on a student financial aid program.
9. Maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by the college.

How do I calculate my HOPE GPA?

- www.gacollege411.org will help you calculate your HOPE GPA
- ACADEMIC CLASSES (Eng, Math, Sci, SS, and For Lang) are the ONLY classes that are counted towards HOPE GPA. The only classes that are weighted are AP classes with .5 extra quality points

How do I apply for HOPE?

- Fill out FASFA form, fill out HOPE application. Please see www.gacollege411.org and go to the financial planning tab.

Your Responsibilities

Your Responsibilities	College A	College B	College C	College D
College Name:				
Phone Number:				
Website:				
Visit Planned On:				
Info Session Scheduled on:				
Deadlines				
Application:				
Transcript & Secondary School Report:				
Financial Aid - Federal:				
Financial Aid - College:				
Tests				
Achievement Tests Requested:				
Test Scores Sent to College:				
Date Scores Sent:				
Interview				
Required?				
Campus Appointment on:				
Campus Appointment at:				
Application Forms				
Essays Written on:				
Application Submitted on:				
Fee Mailed on:				
Financial Aid Forms Submitted on:				
Completed Application or School Report Given to Counselor on:				
Your Profile on GaCollege411				
Transcript Requested on:				
Teacher Recommendations				
#1 Given to:				
On:				
#2 Given to:				
On:				
#3 Given to:				
On:				
Final Transcript				
Requested on:				