

College Prep Checklist

9th Grade

Student's 9th Grade Checklist

- Create a GAfutures account at **GAfutures.org**. GAfutures is a great resource to help you explore and plan for college and your career.
- Review your **Plan&Pay4CollegeGA 9th grade** letter found on your GAfutures Dashboard.
- Start thinking about what careers you may be interested in and choose your classes accordingly. Check out the Career Exploration section of GAfutures to help you determine your interests and career paths here in Georgia.
- Be sure to introduce yourself to your school counselor. Make an appointment to discuss your classes and ask questions about education options after high school.
- Ask your counselor or teachers what Advanced Placement courses are available, whether you are eligible and how to enroll.
- Keep track of your extracurricular activities (volunteering, sports, band, etc.), awards and recognition.
- Create a schedule that includes good study habits and commit to it. Your HOPE GPA* begins calculating as soon as you set foot into high school.
- Discuss financial aid and college saving options with your family.
- Participate in school- or community-based activities that interest you.
- Talk to your counselor about dual enrollment (you may be eligible in the 10th grade) and your education opportunities after high school – college, military, career.
- Check your HOPE GPA through your GAfutures account beginning in 10th grade to see if you are on track to be eligible for the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship.*

*High schools must provide transcript data to GSFC in order for a student's HOPE GPA to be available through their GAfutures account.

College Prep Checklist

10th Grade

10th Grade Checklist

- Have you created a GAfutures account yet? Review your account each semester for new information.
- Review your **Plan&Pay4CollegeGA 10th grade** letter found on your GAfutures Dashboard.
- Research careers that fit your interests and match them up with college majors.
- Use the **GAfutures College Search tool** to start researching colleges and create a list of top choices.
- Attend PROBE College Fairs or other college prep events at your school or in your area.
- Discuss your classes, dual enrollment, graduation, college entrance and academic rigor requirements with your school counselor and parents.
- Check your HOPE GPA to see if you're on track to be eligible for the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship.
- Take time to learn about the different options for standardized tests that many colleges require for admission. Consider taking the PSAT/NMSQT to help you prepare for the real thing.
- Look into skilled trade careers and the HOPE Career Grant.
- Think about how to spend your summer: work, volunteer or take a college-level course through dual enrollment.
- Ask you counselor about the GEORGIA MATCH letter you will receive when you are a senior and how your grades are an important part of how many colleges will be on that letter.

Visit the College Planning section of GAfutures for additional information on preparing for college.