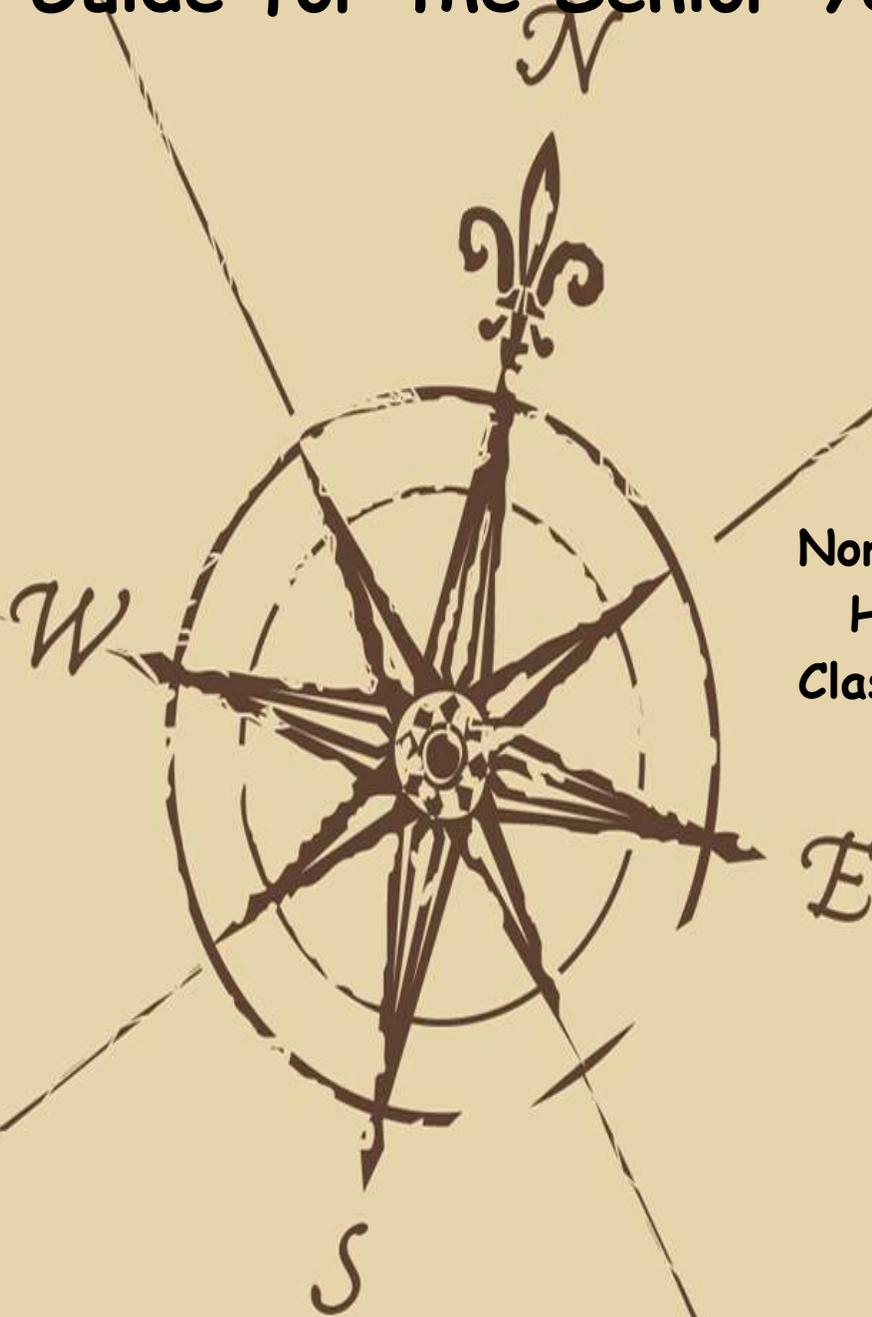


# True North: Charting the Course

## A Guide for the Senior Year



North Murray  
High School  
Class of 2015

*“Do not follow where the path may lead. Go,  
instead, where there is no path and leave a trail.”*

*~Ralph Waldo Emerson*

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# WELCOME TO "TRUE NORTH: CHARTING THE COURSE"

## A GUIDE FOR THE SENIOR YEAR



**Are you counting the days?** Graduation is right around the corner, and with it, many new and exciting opportunities. Are you ready?

**So, what does that mean for you?** As you enter your last year of high school you will definitely have questions that need answered and many decisions to make. This guide will provide the answers you need, so relax...your senior year doesn't have to be stressful.

**What will you find in "True North: Charting the Course"?**

- If you're like most seniors, you're probably wondering what to do next. Look for the College Readiness Timeline on page 4 and map out a month by month plan to ensure you are taking care of business.
- Meet with your counselor and use the Mountaineer's Path to College (Appendix A) to make sure you have all the credits you need for graduation.
- You'll also find information on types of colleges, tips for making successful college visits, and understanding the college application process.
- Don't miss Financial Aid 101 and the information on Georgia's HOPE scholarship (page 10). Changes were made in April of 2011 to eligibility requirements that could affect you and the award you receive.
- Just to make sure we've covered the bases, you'll find some specific information about ACT and SAT tests as well as where to find test dates for the fall of 2012 and the spring of 2013.
- We have included current maps of the colleges and technical schools in Georgia and we've added some specific websites that you will need as you start the process of deciding which college is right for you.

**By the way, "True North: Charting the Course "** is designed for students, but share it with your parents, too, **OK?** They have questions too, and they need to be part of the college decision making process.

**"True North: Charting the Course"**

**It's your book, and as the title suggests, it will be useful as you map out your future.**

*Remember, "True North: Charting the Course" is an important planning tool that answers questions about what you need to be doing during the senior year to ensure a smooth transition to a 2-year college, a 4-year college, a technical college, or the military. Best of luck!*

## College Readiness Timeline for Seniors



### September

- ✓ Finalize post-secondary plans. Finish gathering information on schools you like. Check admission deadlines, as many colleges require completed applications by November.
- ✓ Meet with college admissions representatives visiting the school.
- ✓ Ask teachers, coaches, employers, and counselors early for letter of recommendations.
- ✓ Make a calendar of college application and financial aid deadlines.
- ✓ Attend the PROBE College Fair in the fall. Counselors will have dates.

### October

- ✓ Retake the SAT or ACT in early fall to improve scores.
- ✓ Work on admissions application essays.
- ✓ Visit post-secondary institutions of your choice early in your senior year.

### November

- ✓ Prepare your college applications.
- ✓ Participate in "Georgia Apply to College Week" in November.
- ✓ Research Scholarships. Check this website: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- ✓ Visit with your counselor and listen for announcements concerning post-secondary representatives' visits, scholarship information, and test registration dates.
- ✓ Military Week is in November. Check out your options.

### December

- ✓ Keep all your college admission, financial aid, and housing applications in one folder.

### January

- ✓ Apply for financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). This form can be obtained online after January 1<sup>st</sup>. This form is a requirement by Georgia Colleges prior to receiving the Hope Scholarship.

### February

- ✓ Check to see if your mid-year transcripts have been sent to the schools to which you have applied.
- ✓ Plan and prepare for AP exams

### March/April

- ✓ Watch the mail for acceptance letters and financial aid reward letters.
- ✓ Contact the financial aid office at your chosen school to make certain your application is complete.

### May

- ✓ Take AP exams.
- ✓ Write thank you notes to the people who write your letters of recommendations.
- ✓ Celebrate your high school graduation!

### Final Notes:

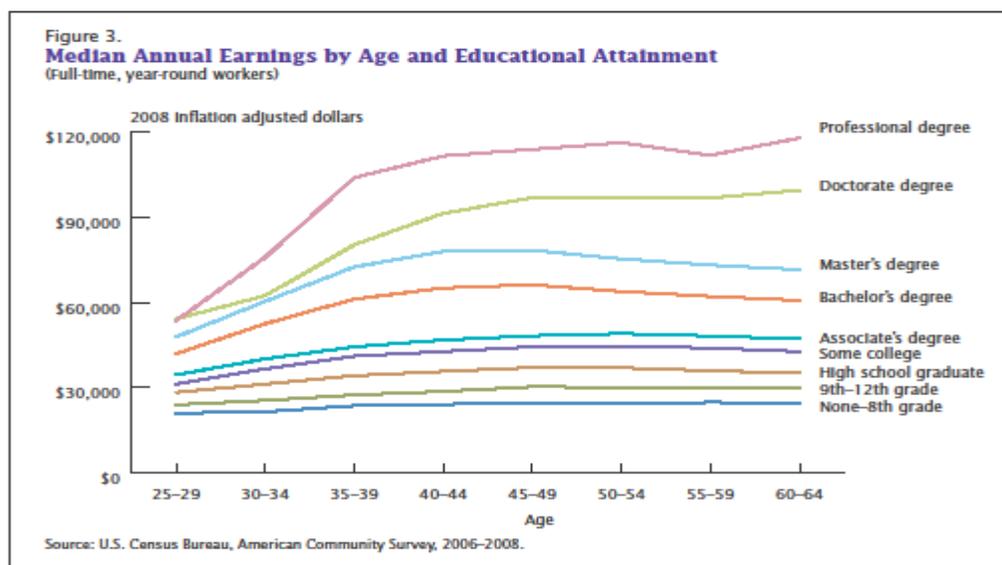
- ✓ Maintain an academically rigorous course of study. This is not the year to relax.
- ✓ Study, work hard, and do your best to earn good grades. Your performance in high school plays an important part in gaining you admission to college.

## Help! I Still Don't Know What I Want To Do

*The timeline is great, but what if I don't have a clue about what I want to do after high school?*

The Georgia Appalachian Center for Higher Education (GACHE) has provided NMHS grant money since 2009 which has enabled us to visit colleges every year, hold career fairs, and participate in a variety of career development and college readiness activities. Think back on some of the colleges you visited and some of the careers that interested you when you participated in "Career Day". You also established a GACollege411 account as a freshman and if you haven't visited that site recently, it would be a great place to start your college and career research. See your counselor and schedule time in the career center. Your senior project in English will also help you make some decisions, as your teachers create opportunities for research. There are other things that you need to know to get you on the road to your post-secondary life. Whether you choose a four-year college, a two-year technical school, the military, or transition straight into the job market after high school, depends on the direction you choose. The choice is all up to you! First of all, let's explore the road to college. Why go to college? Let's look at the earning potential of students who go to college and the types of colleges you can choose to attend.

### Average Annual Earnings of Adults Age 18 and Over



## Types of Colleges

Different types of colleges suit different types of people. Students should consider every type of college, and from there, decide which one best fits his/her needs. See Appendix B and C for maps of Georgia colleges and technical schools.



1. **Research Universities** — Universities are bigger than colleges and offer more majors and research facilities. Class size often reflects the size of the institution and some classes may be taught by graduate students. Examples: Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Georgia, Georgia State University
2. **State Colleges & Universities** - Smaller than research universities, but these make up the vast majority of colleges in Georgia. Examples: North Georgia College and State University, Southern Polytechnic State University, Kennesaw State University, West Georgia State University, Dalton State College, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
3. **2 Year Colleges** — These offer a degree after the completion of two years of full-time study. They often offer technical programs. **Examples:** Bainbridge College, Waycross College
4. **Technical and Specialized Colleges** — Technical and Specialized colleges emphasize preparation for specific careers such as art, cosmetology, music, Bible, business, health science and more. For more information go to [www.tcsq.edu](http://www.tcsq.edu) and check out the vast array of options.
5. **Public vs. Private** — Public colleges are usually less expensive than private ones, and they get most of their money from the state or local government. Private colleges can be more expensive because they rely on tuition, fees, endowments and other sources of income. However, private colleges can be smaller than public schools and can offer more personalized attention.

## What do colleges look for in students?

When colleges evaluate applicants, they look at the following, ranked in order of importance:

- High school academic record (courses taken, grades, and rank in class)
- SAT or ACT scores
- Essays
- Recommendations
- Special abilities (art, music, drama, athletics, leadership)
- Service to school and community
- Extracurricular activities
- Interview (if required)
- Neatness and accuracy of application

## POINTS TO CONSIDER

- The admissions requirements of colleges in Georgia have consistently risen every year and it is anticipated that they will continue to do so. See college web sites and [www.GAcollge411.org](http://www.GAcollge411.org) for current admissions information for all Georgia schools.

- Most colleges only consider academic courses when calculating grade point averages, thus excluding grades from physical education, the fine arts, and other elective classes.

### **PRELIMINARY SCHOOLS LIST**

Form a list of possible school choices. Think in terms of 3 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 to which you have a 50/50 chance of being admitted and could reasonably 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 SCHOOLS \_\_\_\_\_
- RANGE SCHOOLS \_\_\_\_\_
- SAFETY SCHOOLS \_\_\_\_\_

### **How do I take a College Visit?**

Many colleges and universities have specified days on which tours may be taken so be sure to ask for a campus tour when you call. Then, stop by the Counseling office here at the high school and ask for a college visit form. This form must be completed at least 3 days ahead of your visit in order to be approved as an approved college visit day. It must also have a parent/guardian signature before it is returned to the counseling office. On your visit ask for an official letter from the College to bring back with you.

### **5 Tips for a Successful College Visit**

1. Call the Admissions Office to schedule an appointment.
2. Prepare an agenda so you can stay on track and see everything you want to see.
3. Prepare a list of questions about things you want to know and things you need to know to help make an informed decision.
4. Focus on academic factors at least as much-if not more-than social, environmental, and geographical factors. Remember, you are choosing a school, not a vacation resort.
5. Talk to other students on campus and ask them what they like about their school.

Campus visits contain some of the most important moments in the entire college selection and application process. You need to prepare. As you search, the focus should be on your abilities, your preferences, your needs, and your aspirations. The primary question in your mind should be does the campus fit *me*?

## What do I need to know about the College Application Process?

### Factors to Consider when choosing where to apply

- Public or Private?
- In State or Out of State?
- Large School or Small School?
- Proximity to Home?
- Cost?
- Do they offer the Program(s) I am interested in taking?
- Do I meet the average Profile for admission?
- What Post-secondary placement test do I need to take? (ASSET / ACT / SAT)

### Application Process

- Complete and submit an application. Do not forget the processing fee (you can obtain an application from the school to which you are applying or complete the school's online application).
- After November 1<sup>st</sup>, you can submit your transcript from your gacollege411 account (see page 16 of this guide.) Until then, request your transcripts to be sent from the guidance office (See Mrs. Miles to make this request and complete a records release form (Forms are also on NMHS website). After you graduate, the 1<sup>st</sup> copy is free, but we will charge \$3.00 for each additional copy mailed and \$5.00 for same day processing.
- Have your ACT and/or SAT scores sent to the college if you did not do this at the time you took the test. Scores must be sent from the testing center.

### When to begin applying

- Now. *We recommend that you apply before the Thanksgiving break.* (To ensure that your transcripts are mailed before the holiday, make your request to Mrs. Miles by November 14<sup>th</sup>.)
- You can apply to as many schools as you would like; however, we recommend choosing your top three to five schools as this can get expensive.
- REMEMBER to apply before the application deadline (check with the school(s) to which you apply for deadline information.)

### How can I get information on Scholarships?

- Contact the school(s) to which you are applying and ask for information on campus-based financial aid and scholarships
- Refer to "Scholarship Special" bulletin given to senior English teachers and available for reference in the counselors' office
- Complete a LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
- Visit Scholarship website/search site such as [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- Visit the NMHS College and Career Center.

## Sounds great, but how can I afford it?

### **Financial Aid 101 - [www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov)**

Do you want to go to college, but don't think you can afford it? Does the vast array of options for paying for college seem like a confusing puzzle?

You **CAN** afford to go to college, and by researching your options, you can build success.



#### How do I apply for financial aid?

- You should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after January 1 of your senior year in high school. By completing this application you have applied for funds awarded by most federal and state agencies. (For a tutorial on how to complete the FAFSA, go to [www.gacollege411.org](http://www.gacollege411.org) and click on "7 Easy Steps to the FAFSA" under "What's New" to see video instructions.
- Applications are processed and results are sent to the colleges you listed on the FAFSA.
- Your Student Aid Report (SAR) will be provided to you to confirm data (four to five weeks after submitting your application). If you file your FAFSA electronically, processing can take seven days.
- Your school (college) will then provide you with an award letter outlining types of aid for which you are eligible. Further instructions will be included in the letter.
- If the financial aid office has determined that you will need a loan, contact the financial aid administrator regarding the procedures to apply for federal loans.

NOTE: Some colleges participate only in the Federal Direct Loan Program. In these cases, there is no choice of lender. Follow the college's instructions to get the loan.

You mean that all I need to do for college financial aid is complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)? What if I made good grades in high school, are there any scholarships for me? Yes, if you live in Georgia, you may qualify for the Georgia HOPE scholarship. What is the HOPE scholarship? Read on...

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

Georgia's HOPE Scholarship is available to Georgia residents who have demonstrated academic achievement. The scholarship provides money to assist students with their educational costs of attending college in Georgia. Beginning in the Fall of 2011, changes were made that affect award amounts for students. Read below to understand Regular HOPE and the Zell Miller Scholarship.

## HOPE Information

To receive HOPE, a student must graduate high school with a 3.0 GPA in core courses as calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC). To receive the Zell Miller Scholarship, a student must graduate high school with a 3.7 GPA in core courses as calculated by the GSFC **AND** receive a score of at least 1200 combined critical reading and math score on a single administration of the SAT, or an ACT composite score of 26.

The HOPE Grant is only available for students seeking a certificate or diploma at a branch of the Technical College System of Georgia or a unit of the University System of Georgia.

The Hope Scholarship and the HOPE Grant pay a portion of the standard tuition charges from the previous year. A chart listing previous year's awards are posted on [www.gsfc.org](http://www.gsfc.org). Zell Miller pays full tuition for Georgia public universities, and will pay a portion for private colleges.

**Additional Rigor Requirements to be HOPE or ZELL MILLER HOPE Eligible:** Beginning with students who graduate in 2015, certain courses designated as "rigorous" courses, will have to be on the student's transcript. Students who graduate on or after May 1, 2015 **must pass two** of the courses listed below.

### NMHS Courses That Will Satisfy HOPE Rigor Requirements

| Type of Course   | Course Title   | State Approved Course Number                     | Year Course is Typically Taught            |
|------------------|--|--|--|
| English          | AP Language/Composition or Dual Enrollment Advanced Comp and American Literature | 23.0530000 or 23.0430000                         | 11 <sup>th</sup> or 12 <sup>th</sup> grade |
| Math             | CCGPS Advanced Algebra   | 27.0973000                                       | 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade                     |
| Math             | CCGPS Pre-Calculus (Regular, Honors, or Dual Enrollment)                         | 27.0974000 (Regular) or 27.0977000 (Accelerated) | 11 <sup>th</sup> or 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade |
| Math             | Dual Enrollment Algebra  | 27.0840400                                       | 11 <sup>th</sup> or 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade |
| Science          | AP or Dual Enrollment Biology  | 26.0140000                                       | 11 <sup>th</sup> or 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade |
| Science          | Chemistry (Honors, Regular, or Dual Enrollment)                                  | 40.0510000                                       | 11 <sup>th</sup> or 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade |
| Science          | Physics (Honors or Regular)  | 40.0810000                                       | 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade                     |
| Social Studies   | AP Human Geography   | 45.0770000                                       | 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade                      |
| Social Studies   | AP World History   | 45.0811000                                       | 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade                     |
| Social Studies   | AP or Dual Enrollment U.S. History   | 45.0820000                                       | 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade                     |
| Foreign Language | Spanish II   | 60.0720000                                       | 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade                     |

*Source: Georgia Student Finance Commission; Published September 6, 2013 -Reference: 20-2-157 O.C.G.A*

In addition, transcript credits earned by a high school student in Dual Enrollment (PSO)/College Classes for Science, Math, English, Foreign Language, or Social Studies courses, substantially similar to ones in the list above and taken from the University System of Georgia, will be counted towards the Rigor requirements.

**Other Eligibility requirements for all HOPE programs:** An eligible student must meet HOPE's U.S. citizenship or eligible non-citizen requirements; be a legal resident of Georgia; meet enrollment requirements; be in compliance with Selective Service registration requirements; meet academic achievement standards required by the program or the college; be in good standing on all student loans or other financial aid programs; be in compliance with the Georgia Drug-Free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990; not have exceeded the maximum award limits for any HOPE program.

## How do I apply for HOPE?

Applying for the HOPE Scholarship is easy, but the steps you must follow depend upon the type of institution you plan to attend. You should always check with the college you are going to attend to make sure you are completing the applications they require.

### For Public Colleges, Universities, and Technical Colleges

Students planning to attend a public college, university, or technical college must apply for the HOPE Scholarship by: **Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. If you plan to attend a private college you must apply for the FAFSA and the GSFAPPS which can also be found on [gacollege411.org](http://gacollege411.org).

- By using your *G*Academy411 account and accessing the FAFSA application from *G*Academy411, you can reduce the amount of time it takes to complete this form. (For a tutorial on how to complete the FAFSA, go to [www.gacollege411.org](http://www.gacollege411.org) and click on "7 Easy Steps to the FAFSA" under "What's New" to see video instructions.

### **Application Deadline**

While you have until the last day of classes or exams to submit your application in order to receive HOPE funds for that semester or quarter, we highly recommend submitting your HOPE application as early as possible. The earlier you apply, the earlier the funds are disbursed to your school and credited to your account.

### **Where to Go for Help**

If you need help filling out an application or have other questions relating to the HOPE Scholarship, we suggest contacting the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend or contacting the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) at their website: [www.gsfc.org](http://www.gsfc.org) or by phone at 1-800-505-GSFC (4732).

### **Other Key Points**

**Need Based Loan** - Eligible students can seek a 1% loan to cover any of the costs associated with attending college. These student loans can also be forgiven altogether if loan recipients become certified and teach in a public K-12 school in the STEM field. Each year of service in the classroom will forgive one year of the student loan.

Visit the Georgia Student Finance Commission website at [www.gacollege411.org](http://www.gacollege411.org) for more details regarding changes to the HOPE Scholarship program.

## Scholarships

One of the most popular questions asked of any high school counselor is, "Where can I find a scholarship?" There are several answers to this question. The most popular and by far the best website available to students and parents is [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com). FastWeb is 34 million students strong and growing. They are recommended by more than 16,000 high schools—and for good reason. Last year, one out of three college-bound high school seniors used FastWeb to find money for school and get advice on everything from what major to choose to what to pack for your dorm room. They are the leading Internet scholarship search—they'll help you find a scholarship to pay for school and let you know what to expect when you get there. They can help with college visits, the application process, and understanding financial aid.

College Scholarships - Typically, the college of your choice will have scholarship opportunities. Contact them directly to see what scholarships are offered, the criteria and the deadlines. You never know...you may qualify for a scholarship from your college! There are usually work study, and work scholarship programs available as well.

Appalachian At-Promise Scholarships - Only for GACHE funded schools. See back cover of this guide for more information.

Local Scholarships - In the spring of 2014, Chatsworth, Murray County, and North Georgia local scholarship applications will be available. This is typically a one page scholarship application that is completed and returned to the NMHS counseling office. These applications are then returned to the local chapter sponsoring the scholarship. Each scholarship is based on different criteria. NMHS does not get to choose the recipient for the scholarships.

### Avoid Scams

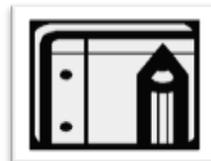
Never pay for a scholarship search! There are companies out there who will charge to do a scholarship search for you. They do not guarantee any awards so avoid these. Never pay for anything that you can do yourself for free!

### GCollege411

Start by researching colleges on [www.GCollege411.org](http://www.GCollege411.org) to explore the colleges which offer majors to suit your interest. Can I find these at GCollege411? Of course! This is the first place to start when doing a college search. You can do virtual tours of college campuses in Georgia and get all the insight into the different types of colleges and technical schools out there. Find Career Planning, College Planning, Financial Aid Planning and a lot more!

### College Representatives Visit North Murray

During the school year, college representatives will visit NMHS. Listen for announcements to sign up in the Counseling Office for these informational meetings.



## ACT and SAT – Which Should I Take?

Both the ACT and the SAT are nationally administered standardized tests that help colleges evaluate candidates. All schools accept either test interchangeably. So as you begin to think about college and creating the best application package possible, your admissions plan should begin with the question; Which test should I take?; What's the Difference Between the ACT and SAT? As a general rule, I recommend that a student take both the SAT and the ACT at least once each to see which one can give you the highest score! See the Comparison below:

|                            | <b>SAT (Reasoning Test)</b>  | <b>ACT (Content-based Test)</b>   |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Test Format                | Critical Reading: 2, 25 min. sections and 1, 20 min. section; Math: 2, 25 min. sections and 1, 20 min. section; Writing: 1 – 25 minute essay, 1, 25 min. section, and 1, 10 min. section | 1 section each<br>English – 45 minutes<br>Math – 60 minutes<br>Reading – 35 minutes<br>Science – 35 minutes<br>Writing (Optional) – 30 minute essay |
| Content Covered            | Reading, Vocabulary, Grammar & Usage, Writing, and Math  | English (grammar & usage), Math, Reading, Science, plus Writing (optional Writing Test)   |
| Difficulty Levels          | Question increase in difficulty level as you move through that question type in a section (except reading passage questions which progress chronologically through the passage.          | Difficulty level of the questions is random   |
| Reading                    | Reading passages with questions pertaining to comprehension and sentence completion  | 4 passages, 10 questions per section  |
| Science                    | N/A  | Science (analysis, knowledge, problem solving)  |
| Math                       | Arithmetic, geometry, algebra I, algebra II, functions, data analysis (formulas provided in test booklet)  | Arithmetic, algebra I and II, geometry, trigonometry; no formulas provided  |
| Essay                      | Required   | Optional (final section)  |
| Score Composition          | 1/3 Math, 1/3 Reading, 1/3 Writing   | ¼ English, ¼ Math, ¼ Reading, ¼ Science<br>Writing not included in composite score  |
| Scoring                    | Aggregate score 600 – 2400 based on total of 3 scores 200-800 (Reading, Math, Writing)   | Composite score 1 – 36 based on average of 4 sections (English, Math, Reading, Science) Score 0 – 12 for Optional Essay                             |
| Penalties                  | ¼ point deducted for incorrect answers   | No penalties for incorrect answers  |
| Sending Scores to Colleges | Student decides which scores are sent to colleges.   | Student decides which scores are sent to colleges.  |
| Additional Information     | <a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a>   | <a href="http://www.actstudent.org">www.actstudent.org</a>  |

Check each site for registration and test dates or check with the NMHS Counseling office.

## Useful Websites

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) provides information on the SAT and will allow you to register online.

[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) Register for the ACT

<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.fastweb.com> is the largest free on-line scholarship search service.

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) Free Application for Federal Student Aid

\*<http://www.gacollege411.org> is an online, interactive tool that helps students make choices about careers, colleges, technical schools, and financial aid.

<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.

<http://nextstepu.com> is an online resource that helps students plan for college, career, and life. Be sure to visit and use the site to explore scholarship possibilities.

[www.usg.edu/inst](http://www.usg.edu/inst) College/University Information

[www.tcsg.edu](http://www.tcsg.edu) Technical Colleges of Georgia

[www.careerbuilder.com](http://www.careerbuilder.com) Workplace Information

## Graduation Ceremony Information

In September, we will provide a contact person and contact information regarding the NMHS staff person who will assist you with graduation activities and ordering caps & gowns, honor graduate accessories, diplomas and diploma covers, invitations, etc. This staff person will be working with Jostens to ensure you get everything you need for your big day. He/She will also coordinate the graduation ceremony procedures and protocol.



## Appendix A - Mountaineer's Path to College – NMHS Graduation and Six-Year Plan

### Graduation Year 2015

Progress Check Sheet – Minimum Georgia Requirements – 23 Units of Credit  
Requirements for Students Enrolling in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade for the First Time in 2008 and Later

|   |   |                                     |   |  |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>English</b><br>4 Units Required        | *9 Lit./Comp or Honors (1)                      | 10 Lit./Comp or Honors (1)          | *11 Lit./Comp or Honors (1)                 | 12 Lit./Comp or AP (1)   |
| <b>Math</b><br>4 Units Required           | *Math I or Accelerated Math I (1)               | *Math II or Accelerated Math II (1) | Math III or Accelerated Math III (1)        | Math IV or AP Calculus and/or Statistical Reasoning H or other Advanced Math |
| <b>Science</b><br>4 Units Required        | Environmental or *Biology Honors (1)            | *Biology or Chemistry Honors(1)     | *Physical Science or Physics Honors (1)     | Chemistry or AP Biology or Other 4th Science (1)                             |
| <b>Social Science</b><br>3 Units Required | World History (1) or American Govt. Honors (.5) | *U.S. History or AP (1)             | American Govt. (.5) or World History AP (1) | *Economics or Honors (.5)  |

\*Indicates End of Course Test (EOCT) class

3 Units are required from CTAE, Fine Arts, and/or Foreign Language. (All 3 can be in one area.)

|   |              |                               |                               |
|---|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>CTAE, Fine Arts, and/or Foreign Language</b> | Elective (1) | Elective/Foreign Language (1) | Elective/Foreign Language (1) |
|---|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|

**Foreign Language** (not required for graduation from high school, but you will need 2 years of the same foreign language if you plan to attend a 4-year college/university.)

\_\_\_ Student is taking two years of the same foreign language for Georgia college/university requirement.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Health/Personal Fitness</b><br>1 Unit Required | Health/Personal Fitness (1) (Classes such as weight training, recreational basketball, general PE, and team sports do not count as Personal Fitness.) |
|---|---|

|   |               |               |               |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Additional Electives</b><br>No Minimum Requirement | Electives (1) | Electives (1) | Electives (1) | Electives (1) |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|

Additional electives can be from the areas of PE, CTAE, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Math Support, Reading, Fast Forward, SAT Prep, other Test Review Classes. PE electives include Driver's Ed, Weight Training, General PE, Rec. Basketball, etc.

| Credits Earned  | 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade | 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade | 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade | 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade |            |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| <b>PSAT/SAT</b> | PSAT                  | PSAT                   | SAT/ACT                | SAT/ACT                | SAT/ACT    |
| <b>GHSGT</b>    | Writing               | English                | Math                   | Science                | Social Sc. |

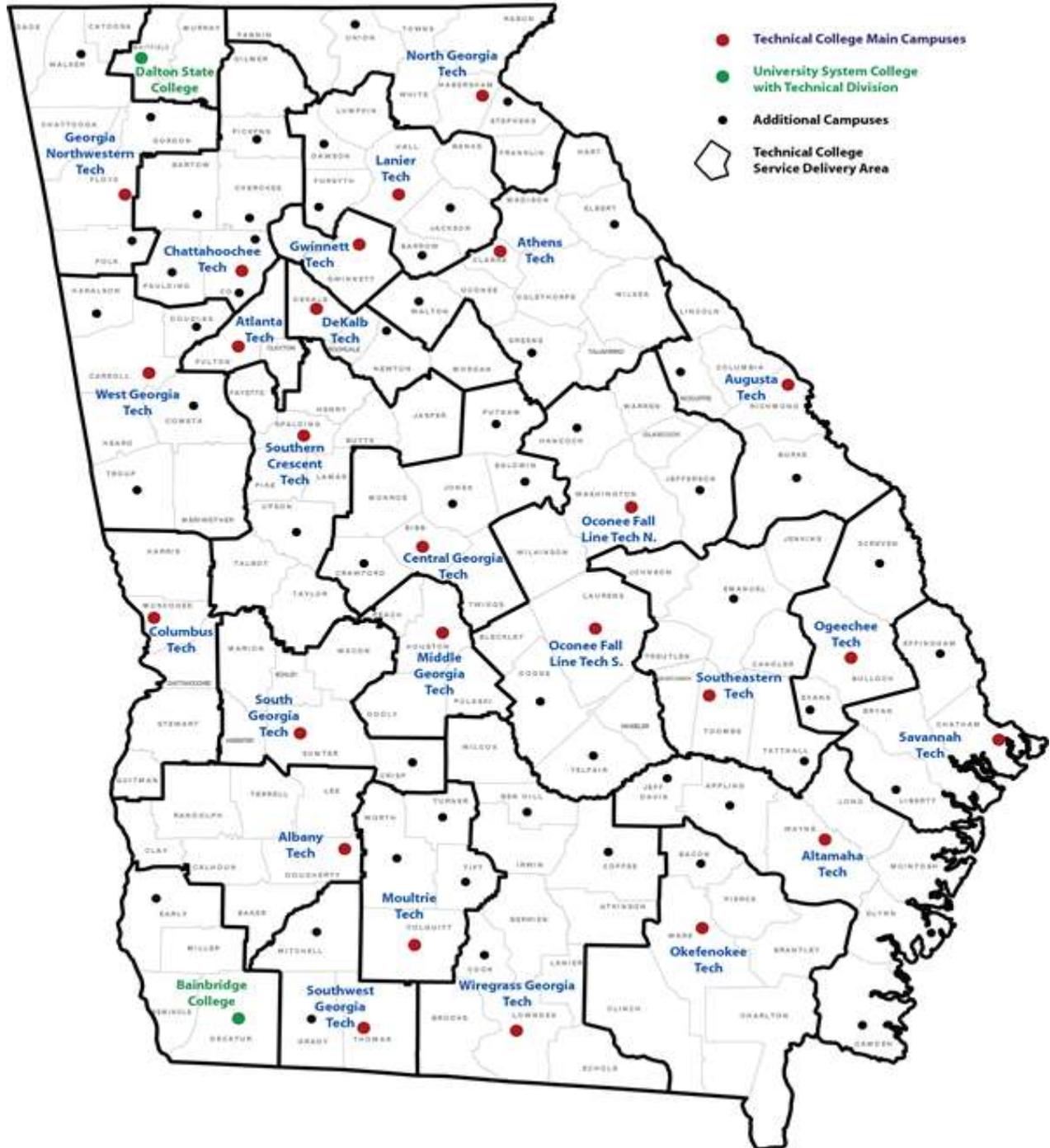
List your career interest/college major: \_\_\_\_\_

List 3 colleges/technical colleges in which you can study your career interest/college major.

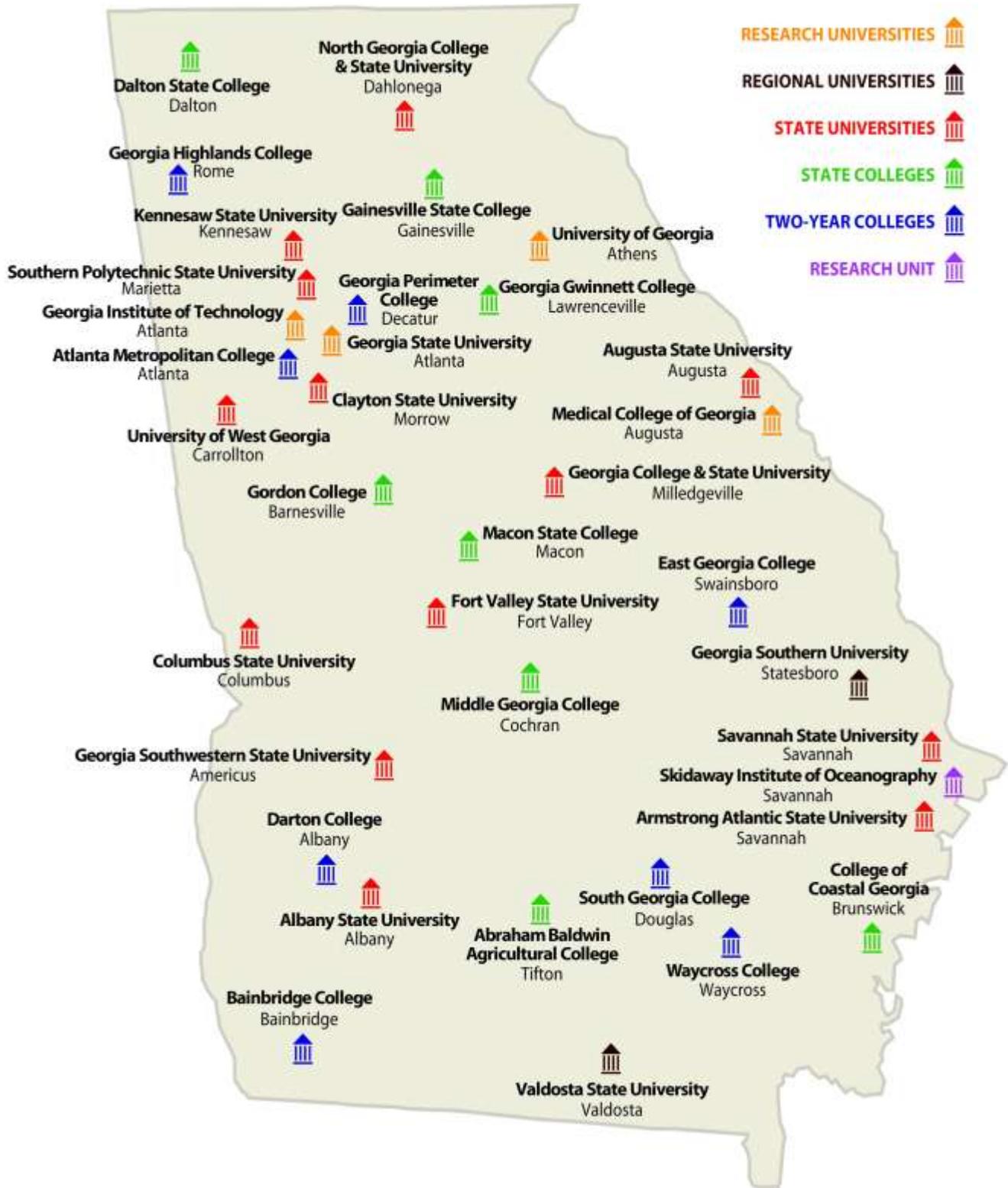
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|  |  |  |
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## Appendix B - Map of Technical Colleges of Georgia

For more information visit [www.tcsq.edu](http://www.tcsq.edu)



# Appendix C - Map of University System of Georgia



## Appendix D – Words To Know

**ACT Exam:** A 3 ½ hour national college admissions exam that tests your knowledge in English, Math, Reading, and Science. Most colleges require that students take this or the SAT as a college entrance requirement. See page 13.

**Advisement Program:** A structured, non-graded portion of the day in which students receive school information and discuss grade-level appropriate topics with their adviser. The NMHS Advisement Program title is *True North* and you will receive valuable information regarding your senior year and graduation plans.

**AP (Advanced Placement):** Rigorous, college-level coursework taken in high school. Students who make a 3 or better (1-5 scale) on the AP exams at the end of the year may earn college credit or skip entry-level college classes. There is a fee at the end of the course to take the AP test. Students on free/reduced meal programs may be eligible for one fee waiver each year.

**Benchmark Assessments:** Tests that are administered to students in academic core courses to ensure students are learning curriculum standards.

**C2G – Commitment to Graduate:** NMHS has partnered with Jostens to incorporate the C2G initiative throughout the school. The initiative encourages students to strive for their high school diploma and to set goals for post-secondary education, which could be a 2 or 4 year college or technical college, in order to prepare for a successful career.

**Career Development:** A lifelong process that includes self-assessment, career skills assessment, setting career goals, developing a plan to achieve goals, and then implementing the plan.

**Carnegie Unit or Credit:** Most high school classes are set up on a yearly basis and carry one unit of credit per class if the student has a passing grade (70 or above) at the end of the year for a class that meets one period each day. (Exception would be some PE/Health classes which are scheduled for one semester and a student earns ½ or .5 credits for the class.) Students are scheduled with the possibility of earning a minimum of 7 Carnegie units of credit per school year.

**College Credit Now:** A program that focuses on earning college credit while in high school. This can be accomplished by taking AP classes (see above), or by Dual Enrollment (see below).

**College Knowledge:** NMHS encourages all students to research colleges and financial aid by reading everything you can on line, in catalogs, in the counseling office. We also encourage college campus visits which can be made individually or by participating in school sponsored field trips.

**Core Courses:** Refers to English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies coursework. (For college admission standards, Foreign or Modern/Classical language credits are also considered in the Core Course category).

**Career Pathway:** A grouping of courses in Career, Technical, Agricultural Education (CTAE) that provide knowledge and skills to use in postsecondary studies and in the workplace. Careful planning is required if a

student wants to include CTAE classes in his/her high school schedule. See your counselor for more information.

**Dual Enrollment:** Students in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade can be enrolled in high school and in college simultaneously, earning high school credit toward graduation while earning college credit toward a college degree. See your school counselor for eligibility requirements and more information.

**End of Course Tests (EOCT):** Tests that measure learning of the statewide curriculum in selected courses to ensure that high academic standards are being met in all Georgia high schools.

**Elective Courses:** Classes that may be selected by the student and are included in the 23 credits required for high school graduation.

**Eligibility:** Mandatory guidelines for student participation in sports and extracurricular activities. Check with your school's athletic director for details.

**Extra-Curricular Activities:** Activities that happen outside of the school day, including jobs (whether paid or unpaid), school-based activities (such as student government, service clubs, yearbook, etc. or activities affiliated with a community organization or a faith-based community.

**GACollege411:** An online, interactive tool that helps students make choices about careers, colleges, technical school, and financial aid. It is a resource to help students and their families select a college, apply for admission, and plan to finance higher education. This website is the vehicle for transcript data to be transmitted for HOPE Scholarship eligibility. A student can also view his/her transcript and HOPE GPA at the end of each year. The web address is [www.gacollege411.org](http://www.gacollege411.org)

**GACHE (Georgia Appalachian Center for Higher Education):** GACHE is a program made available to eligible schools to fund activities that help increase the college going rate for high school students. Funded activities include college field trips, career fairs, transition activities, other career/college awareness activities, etc.

**Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT):** An exit exam consisting of 5 subtests that all high school students (whose cohort is between 2008 and 2011) in Georgia must pass to graduate. The GHSGT is taken in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Grade Point Average (GPA):** GPA can range from 0.0 to 4.0 (4.5 for Honors and 5.0 for AP Courses), and is calculated by dividing the total number of grade points earned by a total number of credits attempted. Grade points are assigned as follows: A (4), B (3), C (2), D (1), and F (0). Most year-long high school courses are 1 credit courses. Colleges will look at a student's GPA in academic core courses as part of the application process. The Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) governs the HOPE Scholarship, and they look at a student's GPA in academic core courses only to determine eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship.

**Honors Courses:** Coursework that is designed at an advanced level or pace for students who excel in that content area.

**HOPE Grant: (Helping Outstanding Students Educationally)** An educational program funded through the Georgia Lottery. HOPE Grant pays a portion of the tuition for qualified students enrolled in eligible diploma or certificate programs at public or private *technical colleges and institutes* in Georgia. See page 10.

**HOPE Scholarship: (Helping Outstanding Students Educationally)** An educational program funded through the Georgia Lottery. HOPE Scholarship pays a portion of the tuition for eligible students enrolled in *public colleges and universities* in the state of Georgia. Eligible students enrolled in one of Georgia's *private colleges or universities* may qualify for a \$3,000 HOPE Scholarship. See Summary of HOPE Changes and information on the Zell Miller Scholar Program on page 10.

**Infinite Campus Parent/Student Portals:**

Online access to students' grades and attendance. To gain access, parents must call the school counseling office for an access code. Students can also request classes each spring and keep up with their grades and assignments through the student portal.

**Mountaineers' Path to College or Six-Year Plan of Study:** This plan is an outline of the courses a student plans to take while in high school. It also outlines career goals, interests, and plans for at least an additional two years of education beyond high school.

**PBIS-Positive Behavior Intervention and Support:** North Murray's PBIS plan is designed to foster a climate of cooperation, academic excellence, respect, and safety. The plan makes use of effective instructional strategies, consistent correction procedures, logical consequences, and positive reinforcement to teach students the skills and behaviors necessary to succeed now and in the future. The Mountaineer way is to **N**avigate your future, **M**odel respect, be **H**ighly responsible, and to **S**trive for excellence.

**Postsecondary:** Referring to college or technical college/institute coursework.

**Prerequisites:** Courses, test scores, and/or grade level that must be completed before taking the next sequential course, grade, etc.

**SAT Reasoning Exam:** The SAT is a 3  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour test that measures critical thinking, mathematical reasoning, and writing skills. Most colleges require that students take this or the ACT as a college entrance requirement. See page 13.

**Semester:** 16-week instructional period (based on 160 day calendar) .The school is comprised of two semesters.

**STAR Student and STAR Teacher Program:** The Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) Foundation recognizes a STAR student from the senior class and a STAR Teacher from each high school every year. The student must be a senior in high school with the highest SAT score at one test administration. The student must also be in the top 10% or among the top 10 students numerically. (November is usually the last acceptable test date for student eligibility.) STAR students, when nominated; choose a STAR teacher who has made a positive impact on the student.

**TAADRA (Teenage and Adult Driving Responsibilities Act):** This law was passed in an effort to encourage good attendance and behavior. Students who accumulate 10 unexcused absences in one school year, and/or have severe disciplinary problems, could lose or be denied a learner's permit or driver's license.

**Transcript:** The complete record of all high school courses taken and grades earned.

**Valedictorian and Salutatorian:** The Valedictorian will be the student with the highest weighted cumulative *GPA* at the end of the first term of the student's senior year. The Salutatorian will be the student with the second highest weighted cumulative *GPA* at the end of the first term of the student's senior year. These students must have completed their entire senior year at NMHS. In the event that 2 or more students share the same *GPA*, the student with the highest numeric average will be named Valedictorian and the next highest numeric average will be named Salutatorian. See 2013/2014 Student Handbook for more details.

**Zell Miller Scholarship:** Students must meet all requirements for the HOPE Scholarship, **PLUS**. . . Have a 3.7 or greater *GPA* in core subjects as calculated by GSFC AND receive a score of at least 1200 combined critical reading and math score on a single administration of the SAT, or an ACT composite score of 26. For full information see page 10 for Summary of HOPE changes.

## Appendix E - Student Accomplishments/Activities Template

As you apply to colleges and apply for scholarships, you will need letters of recommendations from teachers and counselors. The following template should be completed and provided to the person you are asking to write your letter of recommendation. Ask for a copy in the counseling office.

### Recommendation Request Form

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Counselor \_\_\_\_\_

#### Extracurricular Activities/Clubs

9<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

10<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

11<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

12<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

#### Special Honors and Accomplishments

9<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

10<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

11<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

12<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

#### Work /Leadership Experience

9<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

10<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

11<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

12<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

#### Community Service/Volunteer Time (List Organization)

9<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

10<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

11<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

12<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Career Goal/Aspirations \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix F - HOPE Eligible Institutions



### Eligible Institutions

| PUBLIC                                   | PRIVATE                              | TECHNICAL                            |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College     | Agnes Scott College                  | Albany Technical College             |
| Albany State University                  | American InterContinental University | Altamaha Technical College           |
| Armstrong Atlantic State University      | Andrew College                       | Appalachian Technical College        |
| Atlanta Metropolitan College             | Argosy University                    | Athens Technical College             |
| Augusta State University                 | Art Institute of Atlanta             | Atlanta Technical College            |
| Bainbridge College                       | Atlanta Christian College            | Augusta Technical College            |
| Clayton State University                 | Bauder College                       | Central Georgia Technical College    |
| Coastal Georgia Community College        | Berry College                        | Chattahoochee Technical College      |
| Columbus State University                | Brenau University                    | Columbus Technical College           |
| Dalton State College                     | Brewton-Parker College               | Coosa Valley Technical College       |
| Darton College                           | Clark Atlanta University             | DeKalb Technical College             |
| East Georgia College                     | Covenant College                     | East Central Technical College       |
| Georgia Highlands College                | DeVry University of Technology       | Georgia Aviation & Technical College |
| Fort Valley State University             | Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University | Gwinnett Technical College           |
| Gainesville College                      | Emmanuel College                     | Heart of Georgia Technical College   |
| Georgia College & State University       | Emory University                     | Lanier Technical College             |
| Georgia Gwinnett College                 | Georgia Military College             | Middle Georgia Technical College     |
| Georgia Institute of Technology          | Herzing College                      | Moultrie Technical College           |
| Georgia Perimeter College                | LaGrange College                     | North Georgia Technical College      |
| Georgia Southern University              | Life University                      | North Metro Technical College        |
| Georgia Southwestern State University    | Mercer University                    | Northwestern Technical College       |
| Georgia State University                 | Morehouse College                    | Ogeechee Technical College           |
| Gordon College                           | Oglethorpe University                | Okefenokee Technical College         |
| Kennesaw State University                | Oxford College of Emory University   | Sandersville Technical College       |
| Macon State College                      | Paine College                        | Savannah Technical College           |
| Medical College of Georgia               | Piedmont College                     | South Georgia Technical College      |
| Middle Georgia College                   | Reinhardt College                    | Southeastern Technical College       |
| North Georgia College & State University | Saint Leo University                 | Southern Crescent Technical College  |
| Savannah State University                | Savannah College of Art & Design     | Southwest Georgia Technical College  |
| South Georgia College                    | Shorter College                      | Swainsboro Technical College         |
| Southern Polytechnic State University    | South University                     | Valdosta Technical College           |
| University of Georgia                    | Spelman College                      | West Central Technical College       |
| University of West Georgia               | Thomas University                    | West Georgia Technical College       |
| Valdosta State University                | Toccoa Falls College                 | Wiregrass Technical College          |
| Waycross College                         | Truett-McConnell College             |                                      |
|  | Wesleyan College                     |                                      |
|  | Young Harris College                 |                                      |

Updated 02/11

## Note from the Office of Counseling and Post Graduate Planning

This is a very important and special year. You have worked hard to get to your senior year, and we want to help you every step of the way. Our desire is to see everyone graduate with a solid plan in place for the future. We don't want any empty seats on graduation day. So, continue to be diligent in your studies and attend school regularly. Don't get too relaxed on the final stretch. We are here to help and support you as you near the end of this journey and get ready for the next chapter of your life.

If you need to contact us, our phone numbers and emails are listed below:

Karen Harkleroad-Counselor *A - F* 706-695-7760 ext. 6411 [karen.harkleroad@murray.k12.ga.us](mailto:karen.harkleroad@murray.k12.ga.us)

Marelle Bowers-Counselor *G - O* 706-695-7760 ext. 6415 [marelle.bowers@murray.k12.ga.us](mailto:marelle.bowers@murray.k12.ga.us)

Kevin Young-Counselor *P - Z* 706-695-7760 ext 6412 [kevin.young@murray.k12.ga.us](mailto:kevin.young@murray.k12.ga.us)

# Go Mountaineers!