Graduate High School or complete a GED program—Congrats!!

Now What?!

Maybe...

Go to Work

Enter the Military

and/or

Go to School

Let’s Talk More about School

Why Attend a College or Technical School?

- Decrease likelihood of unemployment
- Increase lifetime earnings
- Greater access to healthcare
- Achieve independence
- Identity exploration

The goal of ETV is to increase the number of foster youth who attend college and graduate with a degree or certificate

Foster Care Youth
84% of foster care youth who graduate high school say they want to attend college -only 20% actually attend college

About 4% of foster care youth graduate with a degree or certificate

Georgia Youth
51% of high school graduates in the state of Georgia attend a post-secondary institution

About 44% of young adults in Georgia graduate with a degree or certificate
Universities
Offer Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctoral degrees, and sometimes have professional schools such as a law school or medical school. Tend to be larger than colleges.

Colleges
Offer four-year Bachelor’s degree in the arts (such as English, history, drama) or sciences (such as biology, computer science, and engineering) along with other programs.

Community/Junior College
Community colleges and junior colleges award Associate’s degrees. Usually less expensive than a college or university. Many people transfer to a larger college after receiving their Associate’s degree.

Trade/Career/Technical Schools
Technical schools teach the science behind the occupation, while Vocational/Trade schools focus on hands-on application of skills needed to do a specific job. Usually programs last two years. Students receive either an Associate’s degree or a certificate.
The state of Georgia is a great place to achieve the goal of higher education. Here are just a few great post-secondary education institutions:

**Universities**

- University of West Georgia
- Georgia Tech
- Georgia Southern University
- Savannah State University
- Kennesaw State University
- Clayton State University
- Georgia State University

**Colleges and Junior Colleges**

- South Georgia State College
- Georgia Gwinnett College
- Georgia Military College
- College of Coastal Georgia
- Dalton State
- East Georgia State College

**Trade/Career/Technical Schools**

- Athens Technical College
- Southern Crescent Technical College
- West Georgia Technical College
- Coastal Pines Technical College
- Georgia Northwestern Technical College
- Central Georgia Technical College
- Atlanta Technical College

**University System of Georgia**

- Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG)
Public vs. Private Institutions

Public schools are operated or funded with state and local government funding.

Private schools are not affiliated with a government organization. Since private schools receive less (or no) money from state and local governments, tuition rates are typically higher.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUn3yJsc4Cs

Non-Profit vs. For Profit (Proprietary) Institutions

Non-Profit schools are owned and run by a private organization or corporation and have the purpose of producing goods and services that are not a source of income for the organization.

For-Profit (also called Proprietary) schools refers to educational institutions operated by a private profit seeking business.

Students should be aware—while For-Profit schools can provide another higher education option, they can also require much more financial planning, depending on the program. For more details, check out the following Vox report here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBEZnvU2mz8&t=133s

Or the PBS report here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytIVj-KuhEc
Comparing Schools

If you are trying to choose between a couple of schools, **College Navigator** provides a great resource for comparing

[College Navigator](https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/)

Reasons students choose a School

- **Costs**: tuition, books, housing, meals
- Location: local, far away, **in-state** vs. **out-of-state**
- Degree/Programs Offered
- Size: Campus size, class size and community size

Search a school and click “Add to Favorites”

Select schools you want to compare

Compare costs, admissions, graduation rates and more
Questions to Consider

What should a student be looking for in a college they plan to apply to?
- Available majors
- Location
- Size
- Cost
- Culture
- Housing options
- Academic reputation

What does a college application usually include?
- Grades/transcripts
- Standardized test scores
- Personal statement
- Letters of recommendation
- Extracurricular activities

How should a student address major academic faults in an otherwise strong application?
- Explain them in the personal statement
- Talk about circumstances that caused a bad semester or class
- Emphasis lessons learned and any later improvements
- Include strong letters of recommendation that speak to their resolve or improvement

Don’t forget to Explore GAfutures for excellent resources in college planning:

https://www.gafutures.org/

Founded in 1965, the Georgia Student Finance Commission has become one of the most successful state student aid operations in the nation. First created to provide loans, the agency progressed to state- and lottery-funded scholarships, grants, service cancelable loan programs and providing free financial aid consultation. GSFC’s mission is to ensure Georgians have an opportunity to access education beyond high school.
Why should a student try and take honors and AP classes when possible?

- Can give a student additional GPA points
- Provide preparation for college
- Illustrates commitment to academics
- They may distinguish a transcript in applications to competitive schools

What are some good ways to raise SAT scores?

- Practice tests
- Reviewing vocabulary and math concepts
- Prep books
- Enrolling in a study course
- Taking the test more than once

“A Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”

- Arthur Ashe  Hall of Fame Tennis Player
GAfutures provides clear and detailed guides for students beginning in middle school and progressing through a student’s summer after senior year.

https://www.gafutures.org/college-planning/college-decision-guide/college-planning-timeline/12th-grade-fall-semester/

9th Grade Checklist
https://www.gafutures.org/media/187673/9th-grade-checklist_digital.pdf

10th Grade Checklist
https://www.gafutures.org/media/187678/10th-grade-checklist_digital.pdf

11th Grade Checklist
https://www.gafutures.org/media/187680/11th-grade-checklist_digital.pdf

12th Grade Checklist
https://www.gafutures.org/media/187679/12th-grade-checklist_digital.pdf
Here are a few highlights from those checklists:

**9th Grade Highlights**

- Create a GAfutures account at GAfutures.org. GAfutures is a great resource to help explore and plan for college and career.
- Students, introduce yourself to the school counselor. Make an appointment to discuss classes and ask questions about education options after high school.
- HOPE GPA begins calculating as soon as a student set foot into high school. Be sure to develop good study habits. Create a schedule and stick to it.

**10th Grade Highlights**

- Discuss classes and review graduation, college entrance and academic rigor requirements with a guidance counselor.
- Check HOPE GPA to stay on track to be eligible for the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship.
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT to help prepare for the real thing.
- Think about how to spend the summer: work, volunteer or take a college-level course. Update a high school portfolio with all achievements and activities.

**11th Grade Highlights**

- Register for and take exams like the SAT, SAT Subject Test, and the ACT for college admission. Check for free test prep classes in the area.
- Start drafting essays to use for scholarships and college admissions applications. Search for scholarships to help pay for college on GAfutures, as well as through a guidance counselor, community, family and friends.
- Schedule campus visits or contact colleges to request information about financial aid, admission requirements, applications and deadlines.

**12th Grade Highlights**

- Make sure you’re on track to graduate and fulfill all graduation, admissions and academic rigor requirements.
- Pay attention to deadlines and apply to the colleges. Ask teachers and counselors to submit required documents (letters of recommendation) to preferred colleges.
- Submit a request through a My GAfutures account for your high school to send an official transcript to any college you’ve applied to.
- Beginning October 1, plan to complete the FAFSA. Attend a FAFSA Completion event to get help filling it out (don’t forget to create a FSA ID).
- Stay involved in after-school activities and work hard all year. Grades can still impact scholarship and other financial aid eligibility.
- Complete any additional scholarship applications.
- Decision time! Review college acceptances, compare financial aid offers and plan visits where you have been accepted.
- If you have questions about the aid being offered, contact that college’s financial aid office. When you decide which college to attend, notify the school and submit any required financial deposits. Also, notify the other colleges you were accepted to and withdraw your application.
For information about college access and resources, visit embarkgeorgia.org

For more information about Education and Training Vouchers, visit etv.embarkgeorgia.org

The Georgia Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program is administered by the J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development at the University of Georgia in partnership with Georgia DFCS

Embark is based at the J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development at the University of Georgia and is designed to increase college access for youth who have experienced foster care or homelessness