



Clarke Central High School Counseling Department

Professional School Counselors:

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College Application Tips

It's that time of year! It's time to begin applying for colleges and planning your future. Here are a few tips to get you started:

1. Visit the campus. Campus visits allow you to see and feel what it's like to be a student. You also have the opportunity to meet with admissions and financial aid representatives, tour the campus, meet current students, and you might get to sit in on a class! If you plan a college visit on a school day, please see your counselor or Ms. Johnson for a college visit form so your absence will be excused. If you can't visit in person do a virtual college tour!
2. Make sure you're applying to schools that are a good match for you based on your interests/needs, finances, the major you plan to pursue, etc. Also make sure you meet admissions criteria. It's always good to look at the profile of the current freshman class to see how you compare in terms of GPA, rigor, and test scores.
3. Also make sure you understand application decision plans—some application decision plans are binding!
4. Pay attention to application deadlines—this is true for applications and all financial aid. If you miss a deadline, you will not be considered!
5. Apply for the FAFSA after October 1st. This application will determine your eligibility for need based financial aid and is also the application for the HOPE scholarship. Plan to attend a FAFSA/Financial Aid Parent meeting so you'll be prepared!
6. If you need written recommendation letters, give your recommender at least 2 weeks notice and follow up with a thank you note. We also recommend that you fill out an activity worksheet, which is available from your counselor.

HOPE Information

Current information about HOPE Scholarship, Zell Miller Scholarship, and HOPE Grant programs is available at: <https://gsfc.georgia.gov/hope>. Students graduating with the Class of 2020 must complete 4 rigor courses in addition to meeting GPA requirements for HOPE & Zell Miller Scholarships. To view more information about HOPE Rigor requirements, including a list of state approved courses that meet Rigor Requirements, please visit the GAFutures website. To apply for the HOPE scholarship and need based financial aid, students will need to complete the FAFSA after October 1st of their senior year. Students should login to their GAFutures accounts NOW and check their in-progress HOPE GPA to determine where they stand and what needs to happen this year to become eligible (if possible). Students interested in HOPE Grant must complete the HOPE Grant application which is available on the GAFutures website.

Important Dates

Sept. 5	Probe Fair at Classic Center
Sept. 12	College Night at CCHS
Sept. 18-19	Counselors in ELA Classrooms for College Lessons
Oct. 3	CCHS FAFSA Night
Nov. 6	CCHS College & Career Fair
Nov. 13	FAFSA
Nov. 16	Apply to College Saturday
Nov. 19	ACCA FAFSA Night
Don't Forget:	Schedule your senior meeting with your counselor!



Follow
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Sign up for REMIND updates and information about upcoming college visits by texting cen2020 to 81010!

Search for Scholarships!
bit.ly/censcholarships

For more information, please visit the Clarke Central Counseling Department website at www.clarke.k12.ga.us/domain/2050

SAT/ACT & College Application Fee Waivers

SAT & ACT fee waivers are available for students who qualify. Because Clarke County is a free lunch district, all students at Clarke Central are eligible to receive 2 fee waivers for the ACT and 2 fee waivers for the SAT during high school. If you have not used your fee waivers, please see Ms. Johnson in the Counseling Office. To register for the SAT, you'll need to create an account at www.collegeboard.org. To register for the ACT, you'll need to create an account at www.act.org. Don't forget that if you used a fee waiver for the SAT or ACT and/or meet income requirements, you are also eligible for college application fee waivers. College application fee waivers are available through College Board, ACT, and NACAC. If you have questions, see your counselor or Ms. Johnson. Don't forget to take advantage of free test prep through Khan Academy and ACT Academy!

TECH ON TUESDAY!

Athens Tech Information Sessions are offered once a month. Students who attend Tech on Tuesdays can apply for free! For dates, visit <https://www.athenstech.edu/executive/PR/spotlight/spotlight.cfm?i=94>

xello



Every student in Clarke County has a Xello account already set up. This website offers inventories to help you with career decision-making, it provides a database of colleges and majors, and more! To access Xello, click on the Xello icon from the Clarke Central Student Start Page.

Where Can I Find Scholarship Information?

Scholarships are out there but YOU have to look for them and YOU must apply. It's up to you to research scholarship programs and apply for them. Here are some starting points:

1. All scholarship information that comes to the Counseling Office is listed on the Counseling Department's Scholarships Guide which is available at bit.ly/censcholarships. Check the CCHS Counseling Department website for additional information.
2. Check with the Admissions or Financial Aid department at the schools you are interested in to see what types of merit based scholarships are available through the schools (be aware...these are usually very competitive!).
3. Many employers offer scholarship programs to their employees. Ask your parents to check with their employer to see what programs may be available.
4. Local scholarships are announced year-round. These scholarships are made available through community partnerships and will be announced on the Counseling Department's Scholarship Guide.
5. GAFutures has an amazing database of scholarship programs (over 23,000 scholarship opportunities) and it's searchable.
6. Many other scholarship databases are available. In general, beware of scholarship programs or search engines that require a fee. However, one app that CCHS counselors really like is Scholly-- it does charge a small monthly fee. Free scholarship search services include: www.fastweb.com, www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org, cappex.com, brosescholar.com, www.scholarshipexperts.com, www.finaid.org, petersons.com, CareerInfo.Net, and QuestBridge but there are many more.
7. If you're looking for athletic scholarships, first make sure you're familiar with and meet NCAA or NAIA requirements and talk to your coaches for advice on how to proceed with scouts and recruiters. For additional tips, visit: <http://www.athleticscholarships.net/how-to-get-recruited-scholarship.htm>
8. Clarke Central High School is very fortunate to have a College Adviser to help with college applications and scholarship information. Our College Adviser is currently Brionna Johnson. If you have not met with our College Adviser yet, please get to know her. You can schedule an appointment with her in the Counseling Office. Her email is johnsonbri@clarke.k12.ga.us.

How to Request/Send Transcripts:

- Send your transcripts to colleges in Georgia for free through: www.gafutures.org.
- Send your transcript anywhere in the world using Parchment for a small fee. Place your order at www.Parchment.com
- If you use Common App to apply to schools, your transcript will automatically be sent as part of the school report prepared by your school counselor. You must type in your counselor's correct email address in order for them to send these items.
- If you need a hard copy of your official transcript, please see Ms. Jorge in the counseling office. You will complete a transcript request form.

