



Junior Jam

LASSITER COUNSELING | 2025

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In this packet you will find:

- Junior Year Timeline
- Future Post-secondary Options
- High School vs College Requirements
- Different Types of GPA
- College Research Information
- Financial Aid Information
- HOPE Scholarship Information
- Testing Information
- Dual Enrollment Information
- Naviance Tools
- Testing Information
- Dual Enrollment Information
- Naviance Tools
- Helpful Resources

What do you need to know now?

- Courses left to meet **high school graduation requirements** and **college admissions requirements**.
- **Your goals.** It's time to start defining your goals in terms of what you want to do after high school and the steps required to get there.
- **Research.** Don't be afraid to Google!

Fall:

- **Create** a GAFutures account.
- **Learn about colleges.** Look at their websites and find colleges at bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search. Talk to friends, family members, teachers, and recent grads that are now in college. List the college features that interest you.
- **Research:** Talk with College Admissions Reps and ask questions when they visit the cafeteria. Plan to visit college campuses during breaks.
- **Take the PSAT**
- Make a file to manage your college search, testing, and application data. If appropriate (for example, if you're interested in drama, music, art, sports, etc.), start to gather material for a portfolio.

Winter:

- Sign up to take the SAT/ACT in the spring.
- Continue to research colleges/career paths.

Spring:

- Stay open to all the possibilities — don't limit your search. To find the best college for you, you should apply to colleges of varying selectivity. Selective colleges admit a portion of students who apply. Some colleges are highly selective while others are less selective.
- Take the SAT/ACT
- Visit colleges, even if it's virtually – Most schools offer interactive virtual tours!

Summer:

- Register with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (**NCAA**) **Eligibility Center** if you are an athlete planning to continue playing a sport in college (www.ncaaclearinghouse.net).
- **Visit colleges.** Visit colleges. When planning your campus visits, make sure to allow time to explore each college. Take campus tours and, at colleges you're serious about, make appointments to have interviews with admission counselors if available. Most campuses offer virtual tours as well!
- Take the SAT/ACT if necessary.
- Create a résumé — a record of your academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, and work experiences since you started high school.
- **Make a list of 3-5 schools** you plan on applying to in the fall.



Your Future: Post-secondary Options

Job Training & Apprenticeships	Military	Specialty School	2 -year and/or Technical College	4-year College / University
<p>Short-term or long-term training provided by employer at the beginning of a new job.</p> <p>Examples: Skilled construction work, plumber, HVAC, firefighter, automotive technician</p>	<p>6-11 weeks of basic training when you join. Speak with a recruiter for more information. Excellent scholarships available for students who pursue ROTC in college Plan to take ASVAB.</p>	<p>Enroll in schools like Full-Sail, Nashville Diesel, Cordon Bleu, Paul Mitchell, etc.</p>	<p>Technical: Enroll in a certificate or diploma program to prepare for a specific career.</p> <p>2-year: Earn an Associate's degree or take courses that will transfer to a 4-year college.</p>	<p>Earn a Bachelor's degree for a broad-based education or a specific education in a chosen subject area/major.</p>

Not sure yet?

That's ok, check out these resources on your Naviance account!

Resource	What is it?	How to
Career Interest Profiler	<p>Career interest profiler is an online career interest assessment for students based on Holland's interest codes.</p> <p>60 questions - plan to spend about 15 minutes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Click "Self-Discovery" (top of screen) 2. Click "Career Interest Profiler" 3. Click "Start Assessment"
Career Cluster Finder	<p>The Career Cluster Finder helps you identify interests and discover career clusters that contain careers that might interest you.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Click "Self-Discovery" (top of screen) 2. Click "Career Cluster Finder" 3. Click "Start Assessment"

State Workforce Development Initiatives

Skills Gap Video: [The Skills Gap - YouTube](#)

High Demand Career Initiative

The High Demand Career Initiative (HDCI) was launched in 2014. Governor Nathan Deal described the initiative as an opportunity “to allow [Georgia] to hear directly from employers of our state about what they expect their future talent needs will be, and it will give our institutions of education the chance to get ahead of the curve in preparing tomorrow’s workforce.”

[Free Tuition – TCSG | Technical College System of Georgia](#)

HOPE Career Grant

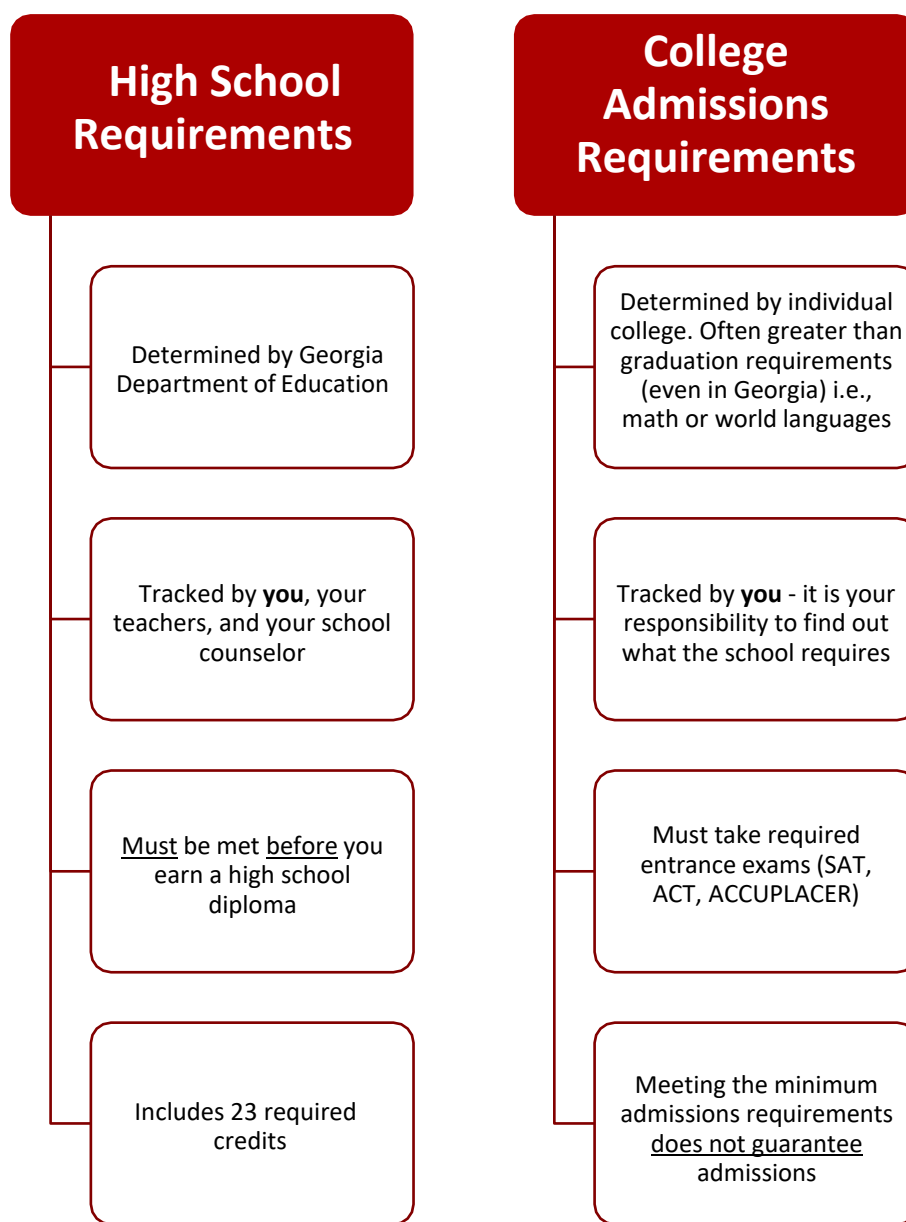
The HOPE Career Grant can be the boost a student needs to get started on a rewarding career in a well-paying job, and without accumulating a lot of student debt. It also helps Georgia employers by creating a pipeline of skilled workers they can hire well into the future.

To be eligible for the [HOPE Career Grant](#), students must first qualify for and be receiving the [Hope Grant](#). The two grants together will cover all tuition in these 18 programs of study.

**These programs are in High Demand and can be studied at a Technical College Tuition Free.
There is no GPA requirement to earn the HOPE Grant and HOPE Career Grant out of high school!**

- Automotive Technology
- Aviation Technology
- Certified Engineer Assistant
- Commercial Truck Driving
- Computer Programming
- Computer Technology
- Construction Technology
- Diesel Equipment Technology
- Early Childhood Care and Education
- Electrical Alignment
- Health Science
- Industrial Maintenance
- Logistics/Transportation Technology
- Movie Production Set Design
- Practical Nursing
- Precision Manufacturing
- Welding and Joining Technology
- Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice

High School Requirements vs. College Admissions



What colleges are realistic options?

- Know the various types of GPA (college, core, HOPE, and cumulative)
- Know your test scores and how they stack up to those admitted
- Know the following information for your schools of interest
 - Minimum acceptance requirements
 - Average high school GPA & test scores of the most recent freshman class (Freshman Profile)

Different Types of GPA

Weighted GPA (Lassiter GPA)

- Located on your Lassiter HS transcript
- Includes EVERY course you've taken for high school credit
- Calculates an extra 0.5 quality point for Honors Courses
- Calculates an extra 1.0 quality point for AP Courses
- NOT typically what colleges look at!

Unweighted GPA (Lassiter GPA)

- Located on your Lassiter HS transcript
- Removes any extra weight you received for taking Honors or AP level courses.
- Still includes all courses taken for high school credit

Hope GPA (GA Futures)

- Located on GAFutures.org
- Includes only grades earned in the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language
- 0.5 quality point added to AP, International Baccalaureate (IB), and Dual Enrollment (DE) core courses (not to exceed 4.0)

How to track HOPE GPA Eligibility:

[My High School HOPE GPA | Georgia Student Finance Commission](#)

What you can do when signed into your GAFutures account:

[Preparing for College in Georgia | Georgia Student Finance Commission](#)

College Research Questions:

When deciding between different colleges, ask yourself...

1. Does the school offer the courses/major I want?
2. Do I want to be on a big campus with a lot going on, or do I want to be on a small campus with more personal attention?
3. Do I want to stay close to home or explore new places?
4. Is my budget limited or can I attend any college?
5. Do I have the grades, SAT, or ACT score necessary to get into the college of my choice?
6. Do I prefer a campus located in the city or rural area?
7. Does the school offer athletic or extracurricular activities that interest me?
8. Do I feel like the campus life is a good fit?
9. Are there flexible scheduling options?
10. Can I see myself spending 4 years of my life here?
11. Are there study abroad programs available?
12. What percentage of students graduate and get jobs?

Naviance Tool	What is it?	How to
SuperMatch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Career interest profiler is an online career interest assessment for students based on Holland's interest codes.• 60 questions - plan to spend about 15 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Click "Colleges" (top of screen)• Click "SuperMatch College Search"

Start Here

Things to Know About Your College of Interest: Research & Ask Admissions Representatives

Admissions Information

- What are the admissions requirements?
- What is the typical Freshman profile? (Average GPA, test scores, and academic rigor)
- Do you use weighted or unweighted GPA for admissions?
- Are extracurricular activities, work experience, community involvement factored into the decision-making process?
- Are letters of recommendation from teachers and/or counselors needed?

Application Information

- What is the application fee?
- What is the deadline for applications?
- When will the college let me know their decision?
- Do you offer Early Decision or Early Action?

Expenses

- What is the cost of attendance?
- How much should I budget for tuition, books, room/board?
- Am I required to buy a meal plan?

General Information

- Is the college state or privately owned?
- What is the average class size in the freshman class?
- Are freshman required to live on campus?
- Can I bring my car? Is it easy to park on campus?

Financial Aid

- Do you offer tuition scholarships? What are the requirements?
- Do you offer scholarships that are not academic based?
- Are there loans available from your college?
- Do you have a work-study program? How does it work?

2-Year/Technical College Information

The Pros of Attending a 2-year or Technical College

- Attending a 2-year or community college can help you save money.
 - Great stepping-stone! Helps you adjust to college course work and stay close to home for a slower transition (if a 4-year university is your goal).
 - Quick employment pathway for certain careers
 - Your high school GPA and standardized test scores are not as heavily weighted for admission.
 - 2-year and technical colleges have many career training opportunities!
 - Smaller class sizes!
 - Financial Aid opportunities!
- **HOPE Grant** [HOPE Grant | Georgia Student Finance Commission](#)
 - **Zell Miller Grant** [Zell Miller Grant | Georgia Student Finance Commission](#)
 - **HOPE Career Grant** [HOPE Career Grant | Georgia Student Finance Commission](#)

What can I do if my GPA isn't high enough to get into my dream college?

- Consider taking classes at a different school, perhaps a technical or 2-year school. You can start fresh with your GPA and build it up.
- Once you earn 30 college credit hours, you can apply as a transfer student to a different school.
 - More information on applying as a transfer student: [Board of Regents Policy Manual | 4.2 Undergraduate Admissions | University System of Georgia](#) (Section 4.2.1.3)
- You can take TAG (Transfer Admission Guarantee) classes. TAG courses are guaranteed to transfer to a school that is part of the University System of Georgia. Be sure to check with the school you are interested in transferring to for specific transfer guidelines
- Taking classes at a technical school can help you save money during your first year or two of college!

Financial Aid Information

Grants & Scholarships

- Sources: Government, College, Private (business, organizations)
- Merit based or need based
- Do NOT have to be repaid

Loans

- Must pay back
- Each loan has a different set of terms and conditions
- Pay attention to how much you'll need for college, monthly payments, and how much you'll have to pay on interest

Work Study

- Students have a job on campus
- Money earned helps to pay for school

Tips

FAFSA Information:

- Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible: [FAFSA | Georgia Student Finance Commission](#)
- Students apply for HOPE and Zell Miller scholarships through FAFSA completion
- The [Georgia State Financial Application \(GSFAPP\)](#) is the application used to apply for HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarships/Grants, HOPE GED Grant and the HOPE Career Grant.
- Students are encouraged to complete both the FAFSA and the GSFAPP!
- Check to make sure SAT and ACT scores are up to date on GA Futures.

Scholarships: It's a part-time job!

- Apply early and often
- Put together a resume and prepare a personal statement so you are ready to apply
- Create a notebook to keep track of all information
- Start local and expand your search out of state
- Check with your employer and your parent's employer for different scholarship opportunities
- Check the Lassiter Counseling website's scholarship bulletin and Naviance for all scholarship opportunities

Hope & Zell Miller Scholarship Programs

Hope Scholarship

- 3.0 HOPE GPA as calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) in core curriculum courses (English, Math, Science, World Language, Social Science)
- Must earn a minimum of 4 credits from the academic rigor course list prior to graduating from high school. (**Review your HOPE transcript on GAfutures.org**)
- Two year or four-year degree
- Must graduate from a GA high school
- Must be a GA resident for at least one year (Green Card or citizenship)
- Covers a **percentage** of tuition

Zell Miller Scholarship

- HOPE GPA as calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC) in core curriculum courses (English, math, science, world language, social science, additional courses approved)
- Requires 1200 SAT Math and Reading or 25 ACT composite in one test sitting
- Must earn a minimum of 4 credits from the academic rigor course list prior to graduating from high school. (Review your HOPE transcript on GAFutures.org)
- Pays 100% tuition for a two year or four-year degree
- Must graduate from a GA high school
- Must be GA resident for at least one year (Green Card or citizenship)
- Must maintain 3.3 in college. Student can drop to HOPE if GPA is lower than 3.3.

Hope Grant

- No initial GPA requirement; 2.0 required after the first 30 hours
- Technical certificate or diploma
- Must have a high school diploma or GED
- Must be a GA resident for at least one year (Green Card or citizenship)
- Covers a percentage of tuition

Zell Miller Grant

- Requires 3.5 *college* GPA for grant eligibility
- Does not require minimum test score
- Covers 100% tuition (retroactively covers previous semester once 3.5 GPA is earned) for certificate or diploma at technical college
- Must graduate from a GA high school and be GA Resident for at least one year (Green Card or citizenship)
- Must maintain a 3.5 GPA in college

Hope Career Grant

- Enroll in certain high-demand certificate and diploma programs at a University System of Georgia (USG) or Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) school
- HOPE Grant and Zell Miller Grant eligibility requirements apply
- Award amount: Awards are a fixed amount per term based on the program and number of hours enrolled; approved programs and award amounts available on GAfutures.org

SAT, ACT, & Other Testing Information

SAT

Test Dates, Register, &
Registration Deadlines found at:
www.CollegeBoard.org

Key Differences:

- Algebra & Data Analysis
- Digital, Adaptive
- More time per question
- No-calculator Math section

Best way to prepare:

- Take challenging courses
- Ask and answer a lot of practice questions

Timing & Scoring:

- Reading & Writing: 32min
(baseline module: 200-800 points)
- Reading & Writing: 32min
(adaptive module: 200-800 points)
- Math: 35 min
(baseline module: 200-800 points)
- Math: 35 min
(adaptive module: 200-800 points)
- Total Points: 400-1600
- Overall Time: 2h 14min

ACT

Test Dates, Register, &
Registration Deadlines found at:
www.Act.org

Key Differences:

- Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Geometry
- Paper or Digital, Fixed format
- Faster paced
- More Math Concepts, straight forward problems

Best way to prepare:

- Practice, practice, practice
- Familiarize yourself with what to expect test day

Timing & Scoring:

- Reading: 40 min (1-36 points)
- English: 35 min (1-36 points)
- Math: 50 min (1-36 points)
- Science: 40 min
(optional section: 1-36 points)
- Total Points: 1-36
- Overall Time: 2h 5min

Accuplacer	Placement exam for two year & technical colleges. Schedule to take the test at chosen college.
ASVAB	Aptitude/career exam required for entrance into the military that determines your eligibility for military jobs.
SAT Subject Tests	Required by a few highly competitive colleges.

SAT Digital Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration
October 4, 2025	September 19	September 23
November 8, 2025	October 24	October 28
December 6, 2025	November 21	November 25
March 14, 2026	February 27	March 3
May 2, 2026	April 17	April 21
June 6, 2026	May 22	May 26

SAT Registration fee: \$68

Late Registration fee: (\$38) \$106

Additional Score Report fee: \$15

Lassiter CEEB Code: 111983

[SAT Dates and Deadlines – SAT Suite | College Board](#)

[SAT Fee Waivers – SAT Suite | College Board](#)

ACT Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration
December 13, 2025	November 7	November 24
February 14, 2026	January 9	January 23
April 11, 2026	March 6	March 24
June 13, 2026	May 8	May 29
July 11, 2026	June 5	June 24

ACT Registration Fee: \$68

ACT Writing Add-On Fee: (\$25) \$93

ACT Science Add-On Fee: (\$4) \$72

Lassiter CEEB Code: 111983

[ACT Registration | ACT Testing Dates | The ACT Test](#)

[Fee Waiver Program | ACT](#)

ACCUPLACER

Chattahoochee Tech Test Information

[Placement Testing for Admission - Chattahoochee Technical College](#)

The cost of the test is \$25.

Georgia Highlands Test Information

[Accuplacer Placement Test | Testing](#)

The cost of the test is \$30.

Preparatory Material

www.accuplacer.org

[What's on the Tests – ACCUPLACER | College Board](#)

[Free ACCUPLACER Practice Resources – ACCUPLACER | College Board](#)

Joining the Military

- Learn more about the military. Discuss your decision with a parent or guardian.
- Go to [Join the Military | Military.com](#)
- Choose the right path for you and meet with a recruiter.
- Take the ASVAB (Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery). [ASVAB, What is ASVAB Test | Military.com](#)
- Visit the MEPS (Military Entrance Processing Station) with a recruiter & complete a physical, select a MOS (Military Occupational Specialty), and join the branch of choice. Go to [USMEPCOM Home](#)
- Request final transcript in May.

Branch	Website	Phone Number
U.S. Army	http://www.goarmy.com	1.800.USA.ARMY
Army National Guard	https://www.nationalguard.com/	1.800.GO.GUARD
U.S. Navy	http://www.navy.com	1.800.USA.NAVY
U.S. Air Force	http://www.airforce.com	1.800.423.USAF
U.S. Marine Corps	http://www.marines.com	1.800.MARINES
U.S. Coast Guard	http://www.gocoastguard.com	1.800.424.8883

x2VOL - Community Service Tracking

- The goal of the Giving Back Community Service Program is to acknowledge the efforts of Lassiter High School's civic minded students who support their community and school by giving back time, talent and energy. To qualify as a volunteer service activity, it must contribute to the community and/or school without compensation.
- Learn more about [Community Service Info](#)
- 100 hours need to be associated with Lassiter (there can be more) and the rest can be from an outside organization.
- Instructions on how to create an account in x2VOL are available [here](#).

Dual Enrollment

What is dual enrollment?

- Dual Enrollment (DE) is a Georgia funded program that allows high school students to take college courses that can simultaneously count toward high school and college requirements.
- The Dual Enrollment program covers tuition, mandatory fees and required textbooks.
- The goal of Dual Enrollment is to increase college access and completion and prepare students to enter the workforce with the skills they need to succeed.
- For detailed information regarding the dual enrollment program in Cobb County visit: [Dual Enrollment](#)

Where do most Trojans Dual Enroll?

- Kennesaw State University: [KSU DE Website](#)
- Chattahoochee Technical College: [CTC DE Website](#)

What should I do if I'm interested in participating in dual enrollment?

- Visit [DUAL ENROLLMENT | lhscounseling](#)
- **Attend the required Parent Night at Lassiter on February 24, at 6 pm**
- Research admissions requirements for the college you're interested in attending
- Know application **deadlines** for individual schools (some are early)
- Take SAT/ACT/Accuplacer if required
- Look into full-time and part-time options
- Talk to your parent/guardian about this opportunity
- Make an appointment with your counselor
- Consider challenges...
 - Activities during and after the school day
 - Transportation
 - Rigorous college level classes
 - Scheduling classes at college and high school
 - CCSD breaks don't always align with College breaks

Naviance

Naviance Student is a comprehensive, web-based planning tool that will assist Lassiter students in managing the academic, career, and college aspects of high school. Naviance will be the primary method of college planning for Lassiter students.

Logging-on to the Naviance Portal

- 1) Go to the [Lassiter High School](#) website
- 2) On the top right, click "Find It Fast"
- 3) Click "Naviance"

5) Use your Office 365 credentials to log in

- a. Username: FirstName.LastName@students.cobbk12.org
- b. Password: Use the personal password you created for school

*After the first time you log-on, go to the **ABOUT ME** tab. Under "My Account", **update your contact information with a personal email address that is checked regularly**. Do not use the students.cobbk12.org email address for this purpose.

Activities you will be introduced to:

Feature	Description	How to Access
Career Interest Profiler	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A career interest survey. Use the results to explore suggested occupations; examine the education, training, and skills required as well as wages typical for these occupations.• The information is also useful when exploring possible college majors.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Click the <i>Self Discovery</i> tab2. Click <i>Career Interest Profiler</i>
College Super Match	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set search criteria to yield a list of colleges to explore. Save your search to access/modify.• Click on the various tabs of individual college profiles to learn more about financial aid, majors and degrees, and campus life.• Add colleges you are interested into <i>My Colleges List</i> for future reference.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Click on the <i>Colleges</i> tab2. Look under <i>Find Your Fit</i>3. Click <i>College Super Match</i>
Resume	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Record your high school activities, awards, volunteer experience, etc.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Click the <i>About Me</i> tab2. Click <i>Resume</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can rearrange your information into multiple printable versions of your resume to present to potential employers or colleges. 	
AchieveWorks Personality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of the assessment will generate a report that will provide you with important information about your personal characteristics. You will learn about careers that are matched to you, your personal strengths and blind spots, how to negotiate in your daily life, and more... 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Click the <i>Self Discovery</i> tab 2. Click <i>Self Discovery</i> home 3. Click AchieveWorks Personality
College Lookup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows you to use historical GPA and test score info to match you with colleges that you may want to explore further (please remember that there are many factors that affect college admissions – This is just a tool to help you look at other potential colleges to consider). You can see how your SAT and ACT Scores compare to other Harrison students accepted into specific colleges. You can view Admissions information. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The home screen has a search bar at the top. 2. Use this to look up colleges
National Scholarship Search	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can view National Scholarship opportunities. You can also browse by category to yield a search list relevant to your interests/special talents. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Click the <i>Colleges</i> tab 2. Look under <i>Scholarships and Money</i> 3. Click <i>National Scholarship Search</i>
Scholarship List	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can view College and Local organization sponsored scholarship opportunities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Click the <i>Colleges</i> tab 2. Look under <i>Scholarships and Money</i> 3. Click <i>Scholarship List</i>

Helpful Resources

- **GA Futures**
 - www.gafutures.org
 - Create username/password (DO NOT CREATE MULTIPLE ACCOUNTS)
 - View your HOPE GPA (must enter your social security number & enter Lassiter High School as your attending school)
 - Research colleges and scholarships
- **College Data**
 - <http://collegedata.com/>
 - Research different colleges
- **SAT – CollegeBoard**
 - <https://www.collegeboard.org/>
 - Register and prepare for the SAT
 - Send SAT test scores to various colleges
- **ACT**
 - <http://www.act.org/>
 - Register and prepare for the ACT
 - Send ACT test scores to various colleges
- **Big Futures**
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
 - Research colleges and careers
- **High Demand Career Initiatives (HDCI)**
 - [Top State for Talent – TCSG | Technical College System of Georgia](#)
- **FAFSA**
 - [FAFSA® Application | Federal Student Aid](#)
- **NCAA**
 - <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>