

# College Planning Checklist

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Create your free, secure **My 411** account. Keep track of your courses, grades, extracurricular activities, honors, and more.
- Invite your counselor to view your online **High School Planner**.
- Stay organized by adding important dates and deadlines to **My Calendar**; such as tests and activities.
- Obtain **Career Info** and explore your career interests on GAcademy411.
- Talk to your counselor about the classes that will prepare you for college and your career.
- Learn about college entrance exams in the **College Test Prep** section. Use free tutorials to prepare for the tests you'll need for college admissions.
- Find information and requirements on scholarships and grants in the **Paying for College** section.
- Explore extracurricular opportunities in your school and community.
- Learn how your grade-point average (GPA) is calculated and how you can track your GPA eligibility for HOPE scholarship on GAcademy411 via the HOPE Progress Report.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Meet with your counselor to review your classes and career goals.
- Register for AP, honors, and other challenging courses.
- Talk to your counselor about the tests you'll need for college admissions. Continue to prepare for the exams using the free tutorials in the **College Test Prep** section.
- Take the state-funded PSAT in October
- Update your **High School Planner**.
- Take “campus tours” of **GA Colleges**. Add interesting colleges to your list of **My Colleges**.
- Continue to pursue extracurricular activities such as clubs, sports, and volunteer activities.
- Talk to your family about savings plans and financing your college education.

## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

### FALL

- Update your **High School Planner**.
- Use the **Planner Comparison** to weigh your academic record against college entrance Requirements.
- Discuss graduation requirements and college admissions requirements with your counselor.
- Continue to take AP, honors, and other challenging courses.
- Attend college fairs and financial aid workshops.
- Take the PSAT again in October. Your score may qualify you for the National Merit Scholarship Program and will also give you practice which may increase your SAT test score.
- Talk to your counselor about college admissions tests. Obtain schedules for the exams you will need to take.
- Mark test dates, registration deadlines, and other important events in **My Calendar**.
- Consider taking on leadership roles in your extracurricular activities.



## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

### SPRING

- Take campus tours online or in person. Learn about preview programs and visitation procedures at **GA Colleges**.
- Narrow your list of **My Colleges** to about 6-8.
- Take the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, and/or ACT, if required by your colleges of choice.
- Use the **College Test Prep** program to prepare for your college entrance exams.
- Research scholarships, loans, and grants in **Paying for College**.
- Talk with coaches about eligibility for college sports.

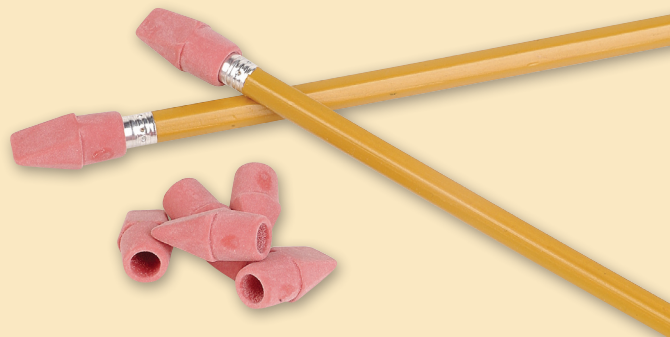
## 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

### FALL

- Review graduation requirements and your transcript with your high school counselor.
- Update your **High School Planner**.
- Take the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, ACT, ASSET, and/or Compass, depending on what your schools of interest require.
- Mark college admissions, financial aid, and scholarship application deadlines in **My Calendar**.
- Ask your counselor about scholarship opportunities. Find additional scholarship and financial aid information in **Paying for College**.
- Narrow your list of **My Colleges** to about 4-6.
- Write college admissions and scholarship essays. Edit, proofread, and rewrite your essays.
- Complete and submit college applications and transcripts. Ask your high school guidance counselor to send your transcript electronically to the colleges to which you have applied. If you have a definite first choice, consider applying early decision or early action.
- Print your **Planner Summary** and give it to your teacher/counselor when you request letters of recommendation.
- Contact financial aid offices at schools to which you have applied for school-specific scholarships and additional financial aid forms.
- If you are an athlete, send transcripts to NCAA for eligibility purposes.
- Remind your parents you will need current tax information in January for financial applications.
- Apply for a Dept. of Ed PIN for FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).
- Check college deadlines to apply for on-campus housing.

### SPRING

- Complete and submit the FAFSA and GSFAPPS after January 1st online.
- If required, send mid-year grade reports to colleges to which you have applied.
- Compare acceptance letters, financial aid, and scholarship offers.
- Make your decision by May 1st as to which college you will attend.
- Inform other colleges to which you have applied about your decision to enroll elsewhere.
- Take AP and other exams.
- Ask your high school guidance counselor to send your transcript electronically to the colleges to which you have applied.
- Submit fees for tuition, room and board



*For a more detailed, interactive approach to planning for college, use the **Student Planner Timeline** on **GAcollege411.org**.*