

College Prep Checklist

9th Grade

Student's 9th Grade Checklist

- Create a GAfutures account at **GAfutures.org**. GAfutures is a great resource to help you explore and plan for college and your career.
- Start thinking about what careers you may be interested in and choose your classes accordingly. Check out the Career Exploration section on GAfutures to help you determine your interests and the different types of careers out there.
- Be sure to introduce yourself to your school counselor. Make an appointment to discuss your classes and ask questions about education options after high school.
- Make sure your parents have a copy of your class schedule and list of teachers.
- Ask your counselor or teachers what Advanced Placement courses are available, whether you are eligible and how to enroll.
- Keep track of your extracurricular activities (volunteering, sports, band, etc.), awards and recognition.
- Develop good study habits. Your HOPE GPA begins calculating as soon as you set foot into high school. Create a schedule and stick to it.
- Discuss financial aid and college saving options with your parents. Consider opening a Path2College 529 Plan college savings account and contribute regularly. It's never too early or too late to save!
- Use the The Federal Student Aid Estimator to help understand your options for paying for college.
- Know your graduation requirements and take challenging classes.
- Participate in school- or community-based activities that interest you.
- Talk to your counselor about dual enrollment and your education opportunities after high school – college, military, career.
- Check your HOPE GPA through your GAfutures account beginning in 10th grade to see if you are on track to be eligible for the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship.*

*High schools must provide transcript data to GSFC in order for a student's HOPE GPA to be available through their GAfutures account.

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10th Grade

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- Research careers that fit your interests and match them up with college majors.
- Use the **GAfutures** *College Search* tool to start researching colleges and create a list of top choices.
- Attend PROBE College Fairs or other college prep events at your school or in your area.
- Discuss your classes and review graduation, college entrance and academic rigor requirements with your school counselor and parents.
- Check your HOPE GPA to see if you're on track to be eligible for the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship.
- Take time to learn about the different options for standardized tests that many colleges require for admission. Consider taking the PSAT/NMSQT to help you prepare for the real thing.
- Look into skilled trade careers and the HOPE Career Grant.
- Think about how to spend your summer: work, volunteer or take a college-level course through dual enrollment.
- Update your high school portfolio with all your achievements and activities.

Visit the College Planning section of GAfutures for additional information on preparing for college.