

Peachtree Ridge High School Counseling Office

Websites of Interest for Seniors

- Explore careers, plan for your high school courses, compare Georgia colleges, apply to college, and learn about financial aid. <http://www.GAcollge411.org>
- Virtually tour hundreds of campuses; free scholarship search and financial aid resources. <http://www.ecampustours.com>
- Learn how to interview, complete college applications, apply for financial aid, and calculate college costs. <http://wiredscholar.com>
- Dates and locations of college fairs. <http://gaprobe.org/tourdates.asp>
- Counselor-O-Matic is a Princeton Review search engine that allows you to combine your academic and extra curricular information in your preferences to search for good college matches. It is a great starting point for someone who is unsure where they want to apply because it will suggest schools for you. <http://www.princetonreview.com/college/research/advsearch/match.asp>
- Register for the SAT and locate SAT prep material. College and scholarship search engines also available. <http://collegeboard.com>
- Register for the ACT and locate ACT prep material. <http://www.act.org>
- HOPE Scholarship website and resource for Georgians seeking financial aid assistance. <http://www.gsfc.org>
- Scholarship search engine. <http://fastweb.com>
- Research colleges and careers on one helpful site. There is a wealth of information here in both categories. Great starting place for college research. www.careercruising.com
username: Peachtree, Password: Ridge
- Great explanation on the different ways to get money for college. <http://www.finaid.org>
and www.finaid.org/scholarships/average.html
- Your FREE guide to Greater Atlanta area based scholarship information. www.atlantascholarships.com
- Create a custom report of merit based scholarships available from colleges of your choice. www.meritaid.com
- Federal financial aid: free application for federal student aid (fafsa). Apply at www.fafsa.ed.gov January 1st through mid-march. Filing fafsa determines financial aid from colleges and is one way of applying for the Hope Scholarship.

SENIOR YEAR TIMELINE

Fall:

- Attend Senior Night-- September 4, 2008
- Meet with your counselor to discuss graduation requirements
- Finish visiting colleges of interest
- Finalize the list of colleges you will apply to. It is recommended that you apply to 3-5 schools, including a safety school, mid-range school, and reach school.
- Gather admissions requirements for each school, such as: application deadline, required test scores and gpa, essay questions, etc.
- Begin filling out college applications (if necessary based on deadlines)
- Take SAT and ACT tests (entrance exams for 4-year colleges) or the Compass test (for 2-year or technical colleges)
- Request transcripts and letters of recommendation (if required) from the counseling office

Winter:

- Attend Financial Aid Night on December 4th at 7pm
- Apply for federal financial aid at www.fafsa.ed.gov beginning Jan. 1st
- Submit all remaining college applications

Spring:

- Apply for scholarships
- Attend graduation!

Things to Remember:

- All colleges require a transcript for admission. You may request transcripts electronically through www.gacollege411.com (for in-state colleges only) or you may request paper copies from the counseling office. Transcripts are \$2 each and will be completed within 48 hours of the request. It is the student's responsibility to pick up documents and mail to the college.
- Plan ahead! If schools you are applying to require a counselor letter of recommendation or counselor evaluation form/Secondary school report, submit the appropriate forms to the counseling office. There is a **2 week turn-around time** for all Forms & Letters. It is the student's responsibility to pick up documents and mail to the college.
- Pay attention to deadlines: if your college application deadline is over winter break, you must have your request for documents turned in to the counseling office **before** Thanksgiving!
- An SAT or ACT score is required for admission to all 4-year colleges or universities.
- Use the DEN as one of your biggest resources! Make an appointment to see Ms. Glisson in the DEN on Wednesdays. Gain college and scholarship information, research careers, etc.
- You can access your HOPE Scholarship Progress Report by creating an account at www.gacollege411.com Also, you **MUST** have your social security number on file at PRHS in order to be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship or to submit an electronic transcript.