

JUNIOR ADVISEMENT for the Class of 2025

COUNSELORS

Caseload	Counselor
A – E	Anna Blount
F – La	Leslie Shearstone
Le - R	Cheryl Gully
S - Z	Jamie Hamrick (Dept. Chair)
504/Special Projects	Shinae Watterson

Students are assigned to a counselor based on the first letter of their last name.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	UNITS
Language Arts	4
Mathematics	4
Science	4
Social Studies	3
World Language/Fine Art/CTAE	3
Health/Personal Fitness	1
Electives	4
Total	23 Units

CREDITS

Students must earn **16 credits** by the start of the 2024-25 school year to be in 12th grade, however, **17 units** are required for on-time graduation without having to take classes outside the school day. If a student does not have 16 credits then the student is placed in an 11th grade homeroom and cannot attend any senior activities, nor apply for a parking space. Students can be promoted to 12th grade when proper credit is earned and is on track to graduate.

EXTRA QUALITY POINTS AND CLASS RANK IN COBB COUNTY

A 0.5 extra quality point is added to the Pope GPA Calculation for honors classes and 1.0 extra quality point is added for AP courses and the fourth year of a world language. Cobb County Schools does not rank.

HONOR CORDS

In order to graduate with “honor” and receive a gold honor cord to wear at graduation, a student must have a final weighted, cumulative GPA of 3.50 or higher, with no rounding. Several honor societies for world languages, science, etc. also have colored honor cords for their members to wear at graduation. A white service cord is available to students who have documented community service hours totaling 120 hours for the four years of high school, with no more than 20 hours from non-Pope organizations. See Ms. Keeline in the PPO Office for service hours forms each semester.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTING-AP

AP courses are college level courses and are highly desired by selective colleges & universities. AP exams occur in May each year and students can potentially earn college credit with a score of a 3, 4 or 5 (scale of 1-5) depending on college policies. For college AP policies, see www.collegeboard.com/ap/creditpolicy. AP score results are released in July and do not affect AP course grades.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Dual Enrollment (DE) programs provide qualified Georgia high school students the opportunity to earn college credit while dually enrolled in a Georgia public high school and a GA college, university, or technical institution. Tuition, books, and mandatory fees for approved courses and colleges are paid for through Georgia’s Dual Enrollment program. Additional expenses are the student’s responsibility. Students receive high school credit and college credit simultaneously while attending college classes. For detailed information about the DE program, please visit the Pope Counseling website: <https://www.popeschoolcounseling.com/dual-enrollment/>

ONLINE AND SUMMER SCHOOL OPTIONS

Pope students can take online courses through Cobb Virtual Academy (CVA) (www.cobbvirtualacademy.org). If a course is unavailable through CVA, they can access Georgia Virtual School (GAVS) courses (www.gavirtualschool.org). Courses can be taken during the school year as part of the student’s schedule (please closely **follow instructions** during course registration in Feb/March) or in addition to the schedule for a fee (\$275/\$250 per half credit respectively). Summer online courses are available for tuition. CCSD hosts summer school locations each year for credit recovery. Information available after spring break in Hound Highlights.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid resources can be found at www.gafutures.org, www.studentaid.gov, Naviance, college websites, the Pope Counseling Webpage, and more. It is a very comprehensive topic and there are many resources for families to find aid for college.

Please note that it takes time and effort to search and research to find \$\$ for college! Approach paying for college as methodically as you would for purchasing a home - costs can be similar!

GEORGIA'S HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Eligible students receive financial assistance covering partial (HOPE) or full (Zell Miller) tuition at any eligible Georgia public or private college, university, or public technical institute.

Requirements:

Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen

Resident of Georgia for one year; graduate from GA High School

Males must register with Selective Service when they turn 18

Must have a valid Social Security Number in the Pope System

HOPE Scholarship Qualifications:

- Covers a large percentage of tuition for GA public 2- or 4-year colleges
- 3.0 High School CORE "HOPE" GPA and 4 "rigorous classes"
- To keep, student must maintain a 3.0 in college
- Can regain HOPE 1 time only

Zell Miller Scholarship Qualifications:

- Covers full-tuition for GA public 2- or 4-year colleges
- 3.7 high school CORE "HOPE" GPA and 4 "rigorous classes"
- SAT CR + M = 1200 or ACT 26 Composite on one test sitting
- To keep full scholarship, student must maintain a 3.3 in college.
- Drop to regular HOPE as long as 3.0 is maintained
- Can regain Zell 1 time only
- Valedictorian and Salutatorian automatically receive Zell

HOPE Grant – available to students going to technical colleges to earn a diploma or certificate; no GPA or rigor requirement; pays same percentage as HOPE Scholarship. **HOPE Career Grant** combined with HOPE Grant provides 100% tuition for students studying one of 17 high-need career fields in Georgia. See <http://tcsge.edu/free-tuition> for info.

Applying for HOPE funds (2 methods):

1. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) - www.fafsa.gov (Students must do this each year to remain eligible)
- OR**
2. Georgia Student Financial Aid Application System (GSFAPPS) – www.gafutures.org (This is done only once)

HOPE GPA Calculation:

- Core courses only
- APs & DE get .5 quality point up to a 4.0 (not honors!!)
- **NOT ON TRANSCRIPT**

(Your HOPE GPA is usually lower than your weighted and unweighted Pope GPAs!)
Find your HOPE GPA at:

www.GAFutures.org

RIGOR REQUIREMENT

Students must take 4 "rigorous" courses to be eligible for HOPE funds. Examples:

Algebra 2	PreCalculus
2 nd year and higher for. Lang	Core AP/DE courses
Chemistry	Physics

See more at www.gafutures.org

TEST INFORMATION

End of Course Tests (EOCs)

The Georgia Department of Education requires that students in certain courses to take an End of Course Test (EOC):

American Literature & Composition	Biology	Algebra I	US History
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The EOC score counts as the final exam, which is 20% of a student's final grade. The total course grade must be a 70 to earn credit.

PSAT/NMSQT – October 11, 2023– The PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) measures the verbal reasoning, math problem-solving, and writing skills that students have developed over the course of their education. Students in Cobb County take the PSAT in grades 9-11. **JUNIORS** who take the test have the potential to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship. Generally the National Merit Scholars score in the top 2% nationwide and are notified Fall of senior year. It is good practice for the SAT for all level juniors. Score reports will be available online in December.

COLLEGE ADMISSION STANDARDS

GPA – "Grade Point Average" Grades and the student's transcript are typically cited by colleges as the most important part of the student's application. Colleges *typically* re-calculate the student's GPA based only on core courses (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, & World Language), however, there are numerous different policies concerning GPA. Some colleges weigh rigorous courses and others do not. It is the student's responsibility to check with the college to determine each GPA policy. Bottom line, **GPA for college admission is determined by the college, NOT the high school.**

Course Selection (rigor; difficulty level) – Selective colleges are looking at the strength/rigor of your courses throughout high school, including senior year. We highly recommend students take a **minimum of 4 academic courses** each semester. (For highly selective colleges, a minimum of 5 each semester). Honors and AP courses are more rigorous and academic electives are desired.

Test Scores (SAT and/or ACT) – Most juniors will take either or both in spring and re-take preferred test in fall of senior year. It is suggested that Algebra 2 be mostly or totally complete to get the most accurate score. Many colleges "superscore," (combine scores from multiple test dates). Check with colleges for each school's super-scoring policy. Colleges accept both tests equally. See <http://fairtest.org> for test optional schools.

Extracurricular Activities – Leadership and participation in clubs, service and sports can be particularly important to competitive colleges. They prefer depth and multi-year commitments in select activities rather than sparse participation in numerous activities.

College Application Essays – Required essays on the college application are important because they demonstrate writing ability and give the college more information. Please seek advice when writing an essay and be sure to proof-read for errors. Not every college requires essays but if they do, try to prepare several topics during the summer before senior year.

Letters of Recommendation – Request teacher recommendations and counselor recommendation **at least two to three weeks prior to**

the college's deadline. **DO NOT REQUEST RECOMMENDATIONS IF COLLEGE DOES NOT ASK FOR THEM.**

Counselor recommendations require student and parent to fill out surveys in Naviance, complete a résumé, and then complete the transcript card to make the official request. See Pope Counseling Webpage for details on letters of recommendation instructions.

Résumé – Document that contains academic info, honors & awards, extracurricular activities, work/volunteer experience, etc.

Naviance has a great résumé builder.

Interviews – Some colleges (especially private and highly selective colleges), as well as prestigious scholarships, require or recommend interviews. Be prepared! Dress for success, do research, ask good questions, and discuss your interests/good qualities.

COLLEGE AND CAREER RESEARCH

Use the Internet to narrow down choices

- Naviance – <http://student.naviance.com/popehs> – Clever Login
Student username: firstname.lastname; password: CobbstudentID#
- www.GAFutures.org
- www.collegeboard.org – “BigFuture”
- www.cappex.com
- www.thecollegesolution.com – for great college financial aid and college choosing advice
- www.thecollegeessayguy.com – FREE resources for college admissions, essays, resumes, timelines, college fit

Visit college websites, note admission requirements and deadlines

Students should look for “freshman profiles” on college websites AND compare their academic profile with the freshman profile. Be certain to pay close attention to out of state college requirements, e.g., University of Tennessee and the University System of California require 1.0 unit of fine art credit. Clemson and College of Charleston also may require 3 units of the same foreign language. Some colleges are flexible for out-of-state students, but not all. When in doubt, ASK the college (in writing)!

Visit College Campuses

- Students can request pre-approved absences through PPO (unexcused w/ note) to visit colleges in junior or senior year.
- Start visits junior year, or earlier. Use breaks and teacher workdays to see the college “in action!”
- Check out special preview days that are often on weekends and showcase the college's offerings.
- Meet with representatives from admissions, financial aid and from your area of interest and ask questions during your visit.

Attend College Fairs

- **Pope Mini Fairs** – schedule is in Naviance and www.popeschoolcounseling.com
- **NACAC National College Fairs** www.gicc.com or www.nacac.com/fairs.html
- **Gap Year Fairs** <http://usagapyearfairs.org>

CREATING A COLLEGE LIST

Using Naviance SuperMatch College Search, or your favorite search tool, create and narrow a **BALANCED** list of colleges.

View the school profiles, and compare the admissions data to your own academic record and test scores.

- **Dream/Reach school (less than 25% chance of admission)**
 - Your Academic Record and/or Test scores are below average for this college (in the bottom 25%), or
 - For highly selective schools, scores may meet or be above average but holistic reviews may not guarantee admissions
 - The college has an extremely low admit range
 - College scholarships are less likely to be awarded, with the exception of talent/athletic based scholarships (highly competitive)
- **Good Fit/Target/Range school (within the middle 50% range of admission)**
 - Your Academic Record and Test Scores are in line with the average
 - They admit a reasonable number of applicants
 - We recommend applying to at least one good-fit, in-state, public college
- **Safety/Confident school (greater than 75% chance of admission)**
 - Your Academic Record and Test Scores are above average (top 25%)
 - Everyone should apply to at least one safety school; we recommend at least one in-state public as a safety
 - Highly selective schools should NEVER be considered safety schools
- **Consider location and the COST of traveling back and forth**
- **Size of college** – do you want a large research university? A small college? Small class sizes? Ok with large lecture halls?
- **Urban, suburban, rural, college town** – what kind of off-campus environment do you want?
- **COST!!** – In-state is usually less expensive than out-of-state/private but financial aid/scholarships can make a difference.
- **Programs of Study** – Is your desired major offered? Are there study abroad, internships, co-ops or other desired programs?
- **Disability Services or Special Support** – While a student with disabilities must still meet the admissions requirements for their colleges, every university has services for students with documented disabilities. Some colleges offer comprehensive support services but all have some support for writing labs, tutoring, study skills and career planning.
- **Two Year & Technical Colleges** – Two year colleges (AKA “Community Colleges”) offer Associate Degrees and can be an affordable option. Many students start at a two year college and transfer to a traditional four year college. Technical colleges offer career focused education toward certificates, diplomas, or even Associate Degrees in specialized fields such as cosmetology, automotive, healthcare technician, culinary arts and a wide variety of industries.
- **Fine Arts Institutes/Conservatories** – Institutes offering programs in performing arts, music, theater, and visual arts. These

typically require an audition or portfolio. Some offer degreed programs; others do not.

SAT and ACT

ACT www.actstudent.org Free practice at ACT Academy	SAT www.sat.collegeboard.org Free practice at Khan Academy
Score is 1-36 (each section averaged for Composite or total score)	Score is 200-800 per section (400-1600 total)
Less time per question	More time per question
Questions are more straight forward	Questions may be trickier
Vocabulary is more familiar	Trickier vocabulary
All math sections allow calculator	One math section prohibits calculators
Reading answers are randomly found in passage, rather than in order	Reading questions give line numbers for the passage and questions are in order
Specific science section	Science questions are incorporated throughout the test
(Optional) Essay focuses on you giving your opinion, forming an argument	Essays section has been eliminated
<div> <div> Student should try to answer EVERY question Math through Algebra II 4 distinct answer choices </div> <div> <u>Similarities</u> Essay section is optional No penalty for wrong answers Price: SAT is \$55 & ACT is \$60 (no writing) </div> </div>	

****STUDENTS (not parents) should register for the SAT/ACT to answer interest and survey questions during registration.****

It is recommended that students take the SAT and/or ACT at least once or twice during their junior year and once at the beginning of their senior year. Nearly all four year colleges require either the SAT or ACT. Some two year colleges and the technical colleges offer an alternative placement test called **ACCUPLACER** that can be taken at the college. Some colleges are “test optional” which means that they do not require SAT/ACT scores. Visit <http://www.fairtest.org> for a list of these schools. **SAT will be DIGITAL beginning Jan. 2024!**

TOEFL

A test used by colleges to evaluate the English proficiency of those students whose first language is not English <http://www.ets.org/toefl>. Verify with colleges for their official policies concerning the use of the TOEFL for admissions.

COLLEGE-BOUND ATHLETES- NCAA & NAIA

Students planning on participating in intercollegiate athletics at an NCAA Division I or II or an NAIA institution must register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse at www.eligibilitycenter.org or NAIA Eligibility Center at <http://www.naia.org>, send official transcripts at the end of junior year, and send official SAT/ACT scores. When taking the SAT/ACT, enter **9999** for scores to be sent automatically to the NCAA or **9876** for the NAIA. Students and parents are responsible for determining NCAA/NAIA eligibility. It is not the counselor’s responsibility to determine eligibility. *****Be Aware that the NCAA may or may not approve courses taken through a non-traditional format such as online, distance learning, correspondence, credit recovery, etc. Counselors are not responsible for researching or advising NCAA policies. It is up to the student and family to investigate NCAA regulations as they pertain to non-traditional courses.**

NEXT STEPS in YOUR SENIOR YEAR!

The senior counseling lesson is presented in August and instructs students on how to apply to college, order transcripts, request recommendations and other logistical steps in the application process. We also are making our College and Career Room available during AO on Tuesdays and Thursdays for students to more specifically discuss individual application questions, such as Common Application or Coalition Application, detailed recommendation and transcript steps, essay writing tips, searching for financial aid, and more. You must obtain a pass the day before.