



## TUESDAY TELEGRAPH NEWS FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE April 21, 2026

*As a reminder, to accommodate the EOC testing schedule, **there will be NO X-block this week.** Dismissal will be at 3:30 pm every day this week.*

### Seniors - Class of 2026

#### Graduation Reminders

The Commencement Ceremony is **May 18 at 7:00 pm** at the Kennesaw State University Convocation Center!

There are **two required graduation practices** for any graduate planning to participate in the commencement ceremony:

- **Wednesday, May 13 at 1:45 pm in the PAC Gym**
- **Thursday, May 14 at 12:00 pm in the PAC Gym**

All guests must have a ticket. Graduation Ticket Requests that were made through the portal are now available; all requests were honored. If additional tickets are needed, extras will be available at graduation rehearsal.

All students must have an approved **cap and gown** to wear at the commencement ceremony. If you are still in need of these items, please purchase them ASAP through <https://atlgrad.com/>.

The Commencement Information Guide and Schedule of Activities is available on our school website: [Graduation Information](#). Please read through this entire document as it contains critical information regarding graduation requirements and related activities.

All seniors planning to participate in the graduation ceremony must have a [graduation contract](#) signed by the student and parent/guardian. **The contract must be returned to the Attendance Office at Pope by May 1.**

#### Senior Survey Information

Seniors! The end of the school year, and your high school graduation, are rapidly approaching! As a flurry of activity, AP tests, finals, parties, and more overtake your lives, we counselors want to take a moment to wish you an early congratulations. You've done an amazing job. We are so proud of the **Class of 2026** and can't wait to see the incredible things you will do!

Below are some Counseling-related steps that we need ALL SENIORS to complete along with some reminders about the HOPE/Zell/HOPE Grant Programs. Counselors will be reviewing the survey with seniors during English classes this week.

Also, listing scholarship award amounts is optional, but it's always exciting to compile the total scholarship amount of each graduating class to highlight the amazing accomplishments you have achieved each year! We ask that you list all awards you've been **offered** (so, even the awards at colleges you are not attending). We will NOT be publishing any individual student names/awards; only a total amount compiled together for one grand total. Please do NOT list projected HOPE/Zell/Grant amounts, since this will be determined after graduation.

# Senior 2026 MUST-DO Check List



Complete your **Required** Naviance "Class of 2026 Graduation Survey" (under Tasks From My School).

- Check your post-HS plan.
- Update ALL your college results.
- CHECK "ATTENDING" for the college you're attending.
- CHECK "SEND FINAL TRANSCRIPT" for the college you're attending and any other institute that needs a final (NCAA, waitlist college, etc.).
- List ALL your awarded scholarships and dollar amounts (excluding HOPE/Zell).
- Provide your post-graduation contact information.
- **This is how you request your Final Transcript!**
- Deadline - April 24 (we can re-open for adjustments)
- We will send final transcripts AFTER the last day of school.



Apply for HOPE/Zell/HOPE Grant

- Two options (we recommend both):
1. FAFSA - [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) (you must submit yearly)
  2. GSFAPP - [www.gafutures.org](http://www.gafutures.org) (good for 10 years)
- \*\*See page 2 for additional HOPE/Zell details!



See Your Counselor

If you have questions and/or are still undecided about what to do after graduation, we can help!



# HOPE/Zell/Grant Programs

## BASICS

All HOPE programs require the following:

- Students must meet residency/citizenship requirements.
- Males must register for selective service [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov) when they turn 18.
  - Registering for selective services is required by federal law.
- Students must apply through the FAFSA and/or GSFAPP.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

- **HOPE Scholarship** - 3.0 HOPE GPA
  - Varies each year - pays a large portion of tuition to GA public 2- & 4-year colleges
- **Zell Miller Scholarship** - 3.7 HOPE GPA and either 1200 SAT or 25 ACT
  - Pays 100% tuition to University System of GA institutions (public 2/4-year colleges)
  - Must maintain 3.3 in college
- HOPE/Zell both also require 4 courses of "rigor":
  - ex: AdvAlg+, Chem/Phys/Anat/Astro, Span2+/Fren2+/Germ2+, core DE/APs, & more
  - Full list of courses that count for "rigor" can be found on [www.gafutures.org](http://www.gafutures.org)
- A portion of HOPE funds are awarded to students attending private GA colleges.
- **HOPE Grant** - no min GPA out of high school, but must maintain a 2.0 in college
  - Award varies each year (large portion of tuition at TCSG institutions)
  - For certificates/diplomas only
- **HOPE Career Grant** - no min GPA out of high school, but must maintain a 2.0 in college
  - Provides additional funding beyond HOPE Grant to equal 100% tuition!
  - Funds tuition specifically for "high demand" careers
  - Funds certificates/diplomas at technical colleges only
- **Zell Miller Grant** - will fund 100% tuition after earning a 3.5 after each term at technical colleges for certificates/diplomas

## SENDING SAT/ACT SCORES FOR ZELL

- Visit <https://tinyurl.com/ZellSATACT> for details on submitting SAT/ACT scores to [www.gafutures.org](http://www.gafutures.org) for Zell eligibility.
- Qualifying score must be earned before HS graduation.

## HOPE GPA CALCULATION

- HOPE/Zell GPA can ONLY be found at [www.gafutures.org](http://www.gafutures.org).
- **REMINDER!! The HOPE GPA is NOT on Pope transcript!!**
- HOPE GPA weights only core AP/DE classes with 0.5 extra quality point up to a 4.0.
- The HOPE GPA is usually *lower* than both the Pope weighted & unweighted GPAs (but not always) because it is based only on core classes (Engl, math, sci, soc st, and for lang)

## Senior Walks at Elementary Schools

SENIORS! Grab your caps and gowns and head down memory lane at your elementary school!

**MURDOCK**  
ELEMENTARY

ESTD 1975

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

LEARN · SERVE · LEAD

**SENIOR WALK**

Monday  
May 18, 2026  
**8:30 AM**

- Please arrive @ Murdock by 8:15am
- Parking is limited - please carpool if possible
- We encourage you to wear your cap and gown
- Parents of graduating seniors are welcome

Pictures and light refreshments in the covered play area to conclude the walk

Questions?  
770.509.5071

Shallowford Falls Elementary  
Senior Walk  
May 18, 2026

Light refreshments      Arrive: 8:30      Games with  
Walk: 8:45      Mrs. Douglas

**TIMBER RIDGE ELEMENTARY**

Welcomes the Graduating  
Class of 2026 to your

## SENIOR WALK!

- Please wait until 7:50 AM to enter the parking lot AFTER carpool ends.
- After 7:50, gather on blacktop (near bus entrance).
- PTA and Staff will come out to greet you for a group photo and the walk.
- Wear your cap and gown.
- Parents are invited!
- We can't wait to celebrate you!

**Monday,  
May 18  
8:15 am**



TRITT ELEMENTARY HOSTS

## Alumni Senior Walk

CLASS OF 2026  
MONDAY, MAY 18TH, 2026  
START: 7:30 AM  
END: 8:30 AM

**MIX AND MINGLE STARTING AT 7:30 AM.  
PARENTS & FAMILIES AT THE COVERED PLAY AREA.  
ONLY SENIORS WILL MEET IN THE LLC.**

**SENIOR WALK AND CLASS PICTURE AT 8:00 AM.  
SENIORS WILL MEET FAMILY OUTSIDE IN THE BUS  
LANES AFTER THE EVENT.**

**PLEASE WEAR YOUR CAP AND GOWN.**

**PARKING IS VERY LIMITED. PLEASE CARPOOL.**

**RSVP USING QR CODE BELOW.**



### Spring Open House at Paul Mitchell The School Esani - TOMORROW

Paul Mitchell's Open House is a great opportunity for students who are exploring career options—especially those interested in cosmetology, esthetics, or the beauty industry—to experience the school firsthand in a fun, welcoming environment.

#### Event Details:

**Date: TOMORROW, April 22, 2026**

**Time: 6:00–8:00 pm**

**Location: 1003 Mansell Rd, Roswell, GA 30076**

During the Open House, students will be able to:

- Tour the campus and learning spaces
- See live demonstrations in hair and skin
- Meet the educators and admissions team
- Learn about program options, financial aid, and career pathways
- Get a feel for what a future in the beauty industry can look like

Paul Mitchell is partnering with Tea Tree for this event, and the **first 25 attendees will receive complimentary Tea Tree products**, along with a fun sustainability-focused experience.

This is a great event for juniors and seniors who may be considering alternative career paths or hands-on learning environments after graduation. [Register today!](#)

### Mississippi State University Hosts Panel Series

Mississippi State University invites students to join a virtual panel series where current students, advisors, and alumni will share their experiences with their occupations, and how MSU set them up for success. These sessions are a great way to gain insight, ask questions, and find out how MSU supports students every step of the way.

- [Pre-Vet Panel Registration](#) TONIGHT, Tuesday, April 21 at 7 pm
- [Pre-Law Panel Registration](#) on Tuesday, April 28 at 7 pm

Students can register for the event(s) they are interested in using the links above and explore the [website](#) to learn more about the panelists ahead of each event.

### College Guidance Network – Financial Fit and Affordability - TOMORROW

**TOMORROW, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 pm** join College Guidance Network’s Director of College Counseling Brennan Barnard and Georgia Tech’s Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Rick Clark for their live, small-group session which will focus on financial fit and affordability. Register [here](#).

### Oglethorpe Junior Preview Day

Juniors and their families are invited to Oglethorpe’s Junior Preview Day on **Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> 10 am – 3 pm**. During the visit, you will tour the campus, learn about programs and scholarships, meet with current students, network with the admissions team (and get tips for your application), and enjoy a complimentary lunch. Don’t miss this opportunity! Schedule your visit at [Oglethorpe Junior Preview Day](#).

### Chattahoochee Technical College Hosts Open House April 30

Chatt Tech’s Open House gives you the opportunity to learn more about the programs of study offered at the college. You’ll also receive information on admission requirements, financial aid, and student services and resources that are available.

Marietta Campus  
**OPEN HOUSE**

Visit Our Programs | **ChattahoocheeTech** | Meet Our Instructors

Admissions and Financial Aid Information

Thursday, April 30, 2026  
5 PM - 7 PM

Marietta Campus  
Building H  
980 South Cobb Drive  
Marietta, GA 30060

ChattahoocheeTech.edu  
A University of Georgia campus with a focus on opportunity, innovation & excellence.

BUSINESS | COMPUTER | MEDIA | HEALTH | TECHNICAL | **Where you thrive.**

## Fly-In Opportunities at Bowdoin, Dartmouth, and Williams

Explore [Bowdoin College](#), [Dartmouth](#), and/or [Williams College](#) on an all-expenses paid college visit for high-achieving low-income and/or first generation high school seniors. Click on the school links for details including application deadlines and college visit dates. These are wonderful opportunities, and preference is given to those students who would not otherwise be able to afford to visit.

## Summer School Options

Sign up for [Summer Personal Fitness](#) (6/1-6/11) and/or [Summer Health](#) (6/15-6/25) at Pope! Payments can be made through [MyPayments Plus](#). Cash or cashier's check will be accepted in the Counseling Office. Pope's website has been updated with other summer school opportunities (CVA and Credit Recovery) and the information can be found [here](#).

## Georgia Ready Summer Institute



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**

Occurring **July 7-12**, the Georgia Ready Summer Institute (GRSI) is a one-week cohort-based residential program for high-achieving high school students in Georgia who are entering their senior year. With an underlying focus on research and innovation, the Institute will provide students an opportunity to deepen their pre-collegiate credentials through this transformative program. As part of the experience, selected GRSI Scholars will begin exploring connections between their academic interests and career pathways, as well as the impact research and innovation have upon entrepreneurial and commercialization endeavors across the state. Additionally, attendees will get a glimpse of what life as a UGA scholar could be like. Through living in a campus residence hall, eating at the dining facilities, touring the Athens campus and research facilities, they hope that GRSI Scholars leave the Institute UGA ready! For more information and to apply, click [here](#). Applications are due **May 3<sup>rd</sup>**, and there is no cost to attend this program.

## Applerouth – Ask the Experts: Advice from College Admissions Officers

Join admissions officers from UGA, Syracuse University, George Washington University, and University of Wisconsin on **May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm** as they provide insights on:

- **Test-Optional vs. Test-Preferred:** When submitting test scores helps, and when it's better not to.
- **The Role of AI in Applications:** How students can use AI wisely, and what raises red flags with colleges.
- **Fit to Major & Academic Direction:** Why a student's intended major can affect admissions chances and course choices.
- **Early Decision vs. Regular Decision Timing:** When applying early improves odds, and when waiting makes more sense.
- **Extracurricular Impact:** Why meaningful involvement and leadership matter more than long activity lists.
- **What's Changing in 2026:** New trends in policies and priorities families should be watching now.

Engage in a live Q&A to address your specific questions. Register [here](#). Can't Attend Live? Register to receive the recording post-event.

ASK THE EXPERTS

## What Matters Most in College Admissions

Advice from admissions officers who review applications at top universities — including UGA

📅 Wednesday, May 6 ⌚ 7 PM EST

Secure Your Spot

Get an inside look at how applications are evaluated — and what actually makes a difference in today's admissions landscape.

**Meet the Admission Officers**



Ashley Templeton  
UGA



Carol Lee Conchar  
GW University



Laura Robitaille  
Wisconsin



Michael McGrath  
Syracuse

**You'll Learn About:**

- **2026 Trends:** What families should know now
- **Test Scores:** When submitting helps—and when it doesn't
- **AI in Applications:** Smart use vs. red flags
- **Fit to Major:** Why academic direction matters
- **Early vs. Regular Decision:** When early helps
- **Extracurriculars:** Depth and leadership over long lists



**Register Now**

[applerouth.com/college-admissions-webinars](https://applerouth.com/college-admissions-webinars)

Can't make it live? Register anyway and we'll send you the recording.



## Rising Juniors – Important Immunization Information

Per the Georgia Department of Public Health, effective July 1, 2021, children 16 years of age and older, who are entering the 11th grade (including new entrants), must have received one booster dose of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4), unless their initial dose was administered on or after their 16th birthday. Please visit this link: <https://dph.georgia.gov/media/89331/download> for a summary of vaccination requirements by age.

**In accordance with this requirement, all Pope students entering the 11th grade, who will be 16 by August 3, 2026, must submit an updated Certificate of Immunization, on GA Form 3231, to the Pope Counseling Office prior to the start of the 2026-2027 school year. Students, who are not yet 16 by August 3rd will have 30 calendar days from the student's 16th birthday to provide the updated Certificate of Immunization.** Students must meet this requirement, or provide acceptable exemption documentation, for them to be/remain enrolled in school. Students requesting to be exempt from Immunization must present a signed, notarized Affidavit of Religious Objection to Immunization, DPH Form 2208.

We prefer that you upload your updated Certificate of Immunization/Affidavit of Religious Objection to Immunization to ParentVUE. Once logged in, you will click on Change My Information → Student Information → Enrollment Documents where you will be able to upload the document. Paper and emailed copies will be accepted as well.

For additional information on immunization schedules, exemptions, and laws governing these requirements, please visit <https://dph.georgia.gov/schoolvaccines>.

Should you have any questions, please contact Lisa Squier in the Counseling Office at 770-578-7903 or [lisa.squier@cobbk12.org](mailto:lisa.squier@cobbk12.org). All paper and emailed documents should also be directed to Mrs. Squier.

## Pope Counseling Office

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Pope Counseling Website:

<https://www.popeschoolcounseling.com/>

Follow us on Instagram @popescounseling and  
Facebook at Pope High School Counseling Department