# **Post-High School Transitions**

# College and Post - Secondary Resource packet

**Class of 2011** 

## **School Counseling Staff**

 $\begin{array}{lll} \text{Dr. Dawson} - \text{Hardy} & \text{A} - \text{C} \\ \text{Mr. Fisher} & \text{D} - \text{G} \\ \text{Dr. Rives} & \text{H} - \text{L} \\ \text{Ms. Huntzinger} & \text{M} - \text{R} \\ \text{Mrs. Clark} & \text{S} - \text{Z} \end{array}$ 

Mrs. Fournier Receptionist
Mrs. Conley Records Clerk

## How do I see my Counselor?

- By Appointment
- Emergency (everyday there is a counselor on-call)

# Why

- Academic Concerns
- College Information
- Personal Issues

## What resources are available in counseling office?

- Career Center
- College Representatives
- Peer Tutoring

Important Senior Information about the College Application Process

# 1. College Application

- Where do I obtain?
  - Directly from College (contact admissions office)
  - Probe Fairs: Talk to College Reps from all over the Southeast!
    - KSU Sept 28th 6-9
    - North Point Mall Sept 29<sup>th</sup> 6 9
    - Cherokee High School Nov 8th 6 8
  - o On-line (Most colleges prefer that you apply on-line.)
    - College Web Site

### When do I send?

- Check college deadlines.
- Early is better. If you have questions about a particular college, you can contact the admissions office of the college and speak to an admission's officer.

Ex: UGA 1st deadline "Early Action" is Oct. 15th.

## How do I send?

- On-line Application: Follow on-line instructions regarding transcripts, CBE scores, etc.
- Traditional Application
   Complete all portions of application (including essays, if necessary.)
- Bring completed application, application fee, essays (if needed)
  and secondary school report portion to guidance office. You do
  not need an appointment with your counselor to do this. The
  secretary will process this request.
  - Complete the Request for Transcript card (if you don't know, ask secretary.)
    - ❖ First transcript is free. There is a \$2 charge for each additional request.
  - Give application, application fee, transcript card, etc. to the secretary. We mail it all together.
  - Recommendation: If counselor recommendation is required, it is important that you allow a full two weeks to process your request.
  - Mid-Year Report Forms accompany most applications.
     You are to keep this portion until the end of the first semester when you should bring it to your counselor.

# 2. Transcripts: (You do not have to see a counselor to request transcript)

- What: All colleges request a copy of your school grade record.
  - o Official
  - o Unofficial. \$2.00 each (first one is free)

#### How

- Form (Card) in guidance must be completed EVERY time you need a transcript sent to a college / institution (copy attached).
- o Must be requested in writing with signature.

- Card stays on file so you can always know when and where your transcript was sent.
- \$2.00 each (first one is free).

#### When

- Each time you send an application to a college.
- o At the end of the first semester if requested by your school.
- Final transcript

## 3. Recommendations

- Some colleges require recommendations; some do not. It will tell you on your application
- Check college application deadline.
- Profile Sheet must be completed and turned in with your request for a recommendation (see attached example).
- Do I need to see my counselor before I request a recommendation? If you have not personally met and talked with your counselor, and you know that you will need his/her recommendation, it is recommended to make an appointment to meet with him/her.
- 5. Scholarships and Financial Information: There are several sources that provide scholarship information:
  - Career Center:
  - Financial Aid Evening: Held each Fall
  - FAFSA: Free application for Federal Student Aid: Must be completed by every student who expects to receive any form of financial aid: scholarships or loans including HOPE and ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS.

Requires Income Tax Form for previous year information and is not available until December when it is mailed to the guidance office. Students eligible for HOPE, this is the only form you will complete.

## HOPE:

- Must complete FAFSA
- o Review requirements at GACollege411.org
- No income criteria

 Lassiter sends in eligibility list to Georgia Student Finance Commission

## 6. College Admissions Glossary of Terms

- Early Action: Students who apply under a college's early action plan receive a decision earlier than the standard response date BUT are NOT required to accept the admission offer or to make a deposit prior to May 1. Check with the individual colleges to determine if the college you are applying to offers an early action plan.
- Early Decision: Students who apply under early decision commit to enroll at the college if admitted and offered a satisfactory financial aid package. Application deadlines are usually in November or December with a mid-to-late December notification date. Some colleges have two rounds of early decision. Check with individual colleges to determine if the college to which you are applying offers an Early Decision Plan. Some Early Decision Plans require withdrawal of all other applications.

#### **SENIOR YEAR TIMELINE**

### August

- Check your course list one more time. Are you missing credits required by schools you're applying to?
- Plan to work really hard this term because your first-quarter or first-semester grades will be included on your transcript.
- Ask colleges to send you their application materials.
- · Continue researching scholarships. Begin assembling documents for aid applications.
- Give out recommendation forms and stamped envelopes addressed to the colleges' admissions offices.
- If you plan to apply for early decision, consider what effect that choice could have on financial aid.
- Review your final list of colleges with your counselor.
- As you schedule visits with admissions and financial-aid advisers, think about also visiting with faculty and students in the department that interests you.
- Register for the fall ACT and/or SAT I and SAT II.

## September and October

- Request that your transcripts be sent to colleges.
- Mail early-action or early-decision applications.
- Take any tests for which you are registered. Have your test results sent to schools.

#### **November**

- Take the SAT II: Language Test With Listening (for French, German, Japanese, Spanish, and English proficiency) if required by your colleges.
- Start writing your essays. If you applied early decision, notify the college about honors you've received since you submitted your application, and ask your high school to send out your most recent transcript.

#### December

- Mail applications, or turn them in at school.
- · If you applied early and you were accepted, withdraw your applications from other schools.
- Start working with your parents on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form. Apply at www.fafsa.ed.gov, or get forms from your high school or by calling (800) 433-3243.

#### January

- · File all federal financial-aid forms, and apply for state aid.
- · Ask your school to send midyear grade reports to your colleges.
- · Verify that all your application materials have been sent out.

#### February

• Check with schools to make sure that they have the documentation they require.

#### March and April

- Decision letters begin arriving. Don't give in to "senioritis." Your admission is contingent upon your final grades.
- Evaluate your financial-aid offers. You'll have to make a decision about where to go and notify your college by May 1st, then let other schools know you won't be coming.

#### May and summer

- · Have your high school send your final transcript to the college you will be attending.
- · Know when tuition and room and board payments are due.
- Notify the financial-aid office if there have been any changes in your family's circumstances that might make you eligible for additional aid. Perhaps one of your parents was laid off, or there was a major illness in the family.

College/University	1 <sup>st</sup> School	2 <sup>nd</sup> School	3 <sup>rd</sup> School	4 <sup>th</sup> School
Public/Private				
Total Undergraduate				
Location				
City/State				
Setting				
Distance from Home				
Academics				
Student to Faculty				
Ratio				
Full Time Faculty				
Majors				
_				
Cost				
Tuition and Fees				
Room and Board				
Parking				
Other				
Admissions				
Acceptance Rate				
Number of Applicants				
Average GPA				
Average SAT/ ACT				
Financial Aid				
Financial Aid				
Grants/ Scholarships				
Average Aid Package				
Student Body			_	
Student Body				
Diversity Student Organization				
Student Organization				
% Living Off Campus				
% Living Off Campus				
Other				