ONLINE RESOURCES... RESEARCHING POSTSECONDARY OPTIONS

Career Cruising
(Talk to your advisor or counselor to get log-in information.)
www.careercruising.com

Georgia College 411
(Set up a “My 411” account for postsecondary planning.)
www.GAcollege411.org

College Board Online
www.collegeboard.com

Go College
(Check out Education Options.) www.gocollege.com

University System of Georgia
www.usg.edu

Federal Student Aid Publications
(Set up a “MyFSA” to explore college and career options.)
www.studentaid.ed.gov/pubs

American Council on Education
www.KnowHow2Go.org

College Guides
www.petersons.com, www.eCampusTours.com

POSTSECONDARY ADMISSIONS AND PLACEMENT TESTING

Because colleges, universities, and technical colleges have varying admission policies, students should carefully research the admissions requirements for institutions to which they plan to apply. Your school counselor and advisor can give you advice on which test(s) may be right for you and how to register. All Georgia public colleges and universities accept either the SAT Reasoning Test or the ACT Assessment for admission, while private institutions, as well as colleges outside of Georgia, may prefer one test over the other. Be aware of the admission and testing requirements and deadlines for the schools in which you are interested.

College-bound students are encouraged to take one or both of these college-admissions tests in the winter or spring of their junior year. Some students choose to take the tests more than once to increase their score with additional practice and time in the classroom. Most institutions will accept a student’s highest subtest score from different test administrations to combine for the highest composite score. Some students choose to submit scores for both the ACT and the SAT to give colleges a more complete picture of their abilities.

College-admissions tests require a fee, though fees may be waived for students from families with low incomes. Ask your counselor for more information about fee waivers if you think you might qualify. A Fee Waiver Form is submitted instead of money to cover college testing and admissions fees for eligible students.

PSAT/NMSQT
The PSAT/NMSQT is a shorter, 130-minute version of the SAT. The PSAT includes critical reading, writing, and mathematics sections. The PSAT is administered in October. Budget permitting, GCPS covers the cost for PSAT for all 10th graders. For a small fee, GCPS 11th graders have the option to take the PSAT in order to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program or for the National Achievement Scholarship Program for African American students. Only PSAT scores from the 11th grade administration may be used for these scholarship programs. PSAT scores also are required for consideration for the Georgia Governor’s Honors Program if SAT scores are unavailable. Students should ask their counselors for specific test dates or check the College Board website at www.collegeboard.com.

SAT Reasoning Test
The SAT Reasoning Test is a national college-admissions test accepted by most institutions, including those in the University System of Georgia. The SAT consists of three parts—Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing—and requires approximately three hours and 45 minutes of testing time. The SAT includes several different question types, including a required essay, multiple-choice questions, and student-produced responses. For details regarding content of this test, registration, test preparation, test center locations in Gwinnett and metro Atlanta, testing dates, and fees, go to the student section of www.collegeboard.com.
SAT Subject Tests
SAT Subject Tests are one-hour tests that measure the student's knowledge of a particular subject and his or her ability to apply that knowledge. Subject tests are available in 23 specific subjects. Some colleges and universities require one or more SAT Subject Tests for admission. Some colleges offer credit or allow students to be exempt from certain courses for high scores on SAT subject tests. Be aware of SAT Subject Test requirements and deadlines for the colleges or universities of your choice. Check www.collegeboard.com to learn more about the available subject tests, test center locations in Gwinnett and metro Atlanta, testing dates, and fees.

American College Test (ACT)
The ACT also is used for college admissions. The ACT consists of four multiple-choice tests in English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning. Test-takers have 175 minutes to complete the test. Students also may take the optional 30-minute Writing test for an additional fee. Go to www.actstudent.org to register and to learn more about the test, test preparation, test center locations in Gwinnett and metro Atlanta, testing dates, and fees.

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams
Optional subject-specific AP exams are given at the end of the school year and graded by the College Board. Many colleges either award college credit for passing the exams or allow a student to be exempt from certain courses. However, some colleges do not honor AP credit. Students should check with their college of choice. The cost to take each exam is approximately $89. Budget permitting, GCPS covers the cost of one AP exam for each of the county’s AP students. (Students are required to pay a nominal registration fee). Students who choose to take additional AP exams are responsible for exam fees. Students with documented need may qualify for financial assistance to cover exam fees. The College Board sponsors the AP program. Learn more about the tests, exam fees, exam calendar, and more at www.collegeboard.com.

COMPASS TEST
COMPASS is an untimed, computer-based test that helps colleges evaluate skills and place students in appropriate courses. This test may have a fee for the student, depending on the institution. COMPASS offers tests in Reading, Writing, Math, Writing Essay, and English as a Second Language (ESL). COMPASS is not scored in the traditional sense, but rather provides a report of a student's academic strengths and weaknesses, allowing for the most appropriate placement in college classes and additional support, if needed. Most colleges administer COMPASS during freshman orientation, before students register for classes. In Georgia, technical colleges (including Gwinnett Technical College), most two-year colleges, and many four-year colleges and universities use COMPASS in the admissions process. Talk to your counselor or advisor to learn more or go to www.act.org/compass/index.html.

ONLINE RESOURCES... PREPARING FOR COLLEGE TESTING
One of your best options when preparing for college-admissions tests is www.GAcollege411.org. The state's free, one-stop site—sponsored by a number of state agencies and community partners—allows students to “plan, apply, and pay” for college.

On the site, you’ll find free, online test preparation resources for the SAT (requires an access code from your school), ACT, and COMPASS, including tutorials, vocabulary help, and more. (Note: You must set-up a free account to use GAcollege411.)

The following websites also offer test prep resources. Look for “Test Prep” links on these pages:

www.collegeboard.com
www.actstudent.org
www.careersandcolleges.com
www.4tests.com
www.number2.com

ONLINE RESOURCES... APPLYING TO COLLEGE
www.GAcollege411.org (see above)

Apply to one or many of the state's colleges with one application.

www.commonapp.org The Common Application

Apply to one or many private and out-of-state public colleges and universities with one application.

Check your school's counseling web page or talk to your counselor for more resources on the college application and admissions process.