

WINDER-BARROW HIGH SCHOOL



POSTSECONDARY PLANNING GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION

Dear WBHS Junior and Seniors,

This handbook has been designed to equip you with the tools necessary to make well-informed decisions about post-secondary options after high school. As a junior at Winder-Barrow, your thoughts will move towards a plan to complete your high school career and what are your next steps after graduation. As a senior, you are putting your plan to action and life beyond the halls of our school is quickly becoming a reality. This is an exciting time in your life and we hope that you will use this handbook as a guide during the decision-making process.

It is the hope of the Winder-Barrow Counseling Department that this handbook will take some of the anxiety and mystery out of the college admissions process and help you discover those colleges that will be a good fit for you. For many students, where to attend college will be the first major decision that you will make in your life. Read through this handbook carefully, and should questions arise, make an appointment to see your counselor.

Many different resources were used in compiling the information contained in this planning guide. Our office would like to thank CollegeBoard, GAFutures, and high schools, especially Winder-Barrow High School, whose materials were incredibly helpful.

The Winder-Barrow High School Counseling Department

COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING CHECKLIST

Spring Semester Junior Year

- Start thinking about your future plans; take a career survey at www.gafutures.org. Utilize collegeboard.roadtripnation.com your YouScience results to develop a career road map.
- Make a binder for all important college/career planning information. You'll need it!
- Register for the ACT at www.actstudent.org and/or the SAT at www.collegeboard.org.
- Study for the SAT and ACT. Purchase a study book or use free online resources.
- Check to see if schools you are interested in require the SAT Subject Tests.
- Attend a college fair. Check www.nacacnet.org or www.gaprobe.org for dates. You can also attend fairs electronically by visiting www.collegeweeklive.com.
- Seek out internships or chances to "shadow" people in careers you are interested in.
- Visit www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org to search and compare schools.
- Use your Spring Break to take tours of colleges you are interested in!
- Develop a list of 5-8 possible schools. Look at safety, match, and reach schools.

Summer before Senior Year

- Plan college visits. As a senior, you are allowed to have 1 excused absence per semester for visits; summer is also a great time to go to avoid missing school.
- Begin working on your resume or brag sheet. Resume Builder is available on GAFutures.org.
- Retake the ACT and/or SAT if you are not happy with your score.
- Start to learn about financial aid with your family. Read the DOE's *Funding Your Education* and *Getting Financial Aid* by the College Board.
- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center (www.eligibilitycenter.org) if you plan to play college athletics at an NCAA school.

Fall Semester (Senior Year)

- Meet with your school counselor to discuss your college choices and the college application process.
- Create a master list/calendar of admissions tests, college deadlines, and financial aid deadlines.
- Attend the Senior Info Night in August/September.
- Register to take the SAT, ACT, or Accuplacer if you have not yet taken it.
- If you need recommendations, ask teachers and counselors (**2 weeks notice**).
- Work on scholarship applications.
- Request transcripts for out-of-state schools or use GAFutures.org for in-state schools.
- Complete your applications and complete the FAFSA.
- Attend a FAFSA completion event.

Spring Semester (Senior Year)

- Register to take an ASVAB test with a recruiter if necessary.
- Fill out the FAFSA if you did not in the fall for HOPE Grant and Scholarship at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- Send test scores to any schools to which you are applying.
- Send final transcript to the college you have selected.

COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS AT WBHS

Step 1 – Research colleges for academic, financial and personal fit. Plan a college visit or complete a virtual tour. As a senior, you will have 1 excused absence per semester for college visits. To be excused for a college visit students must be signed off as in “good standing” by their teachers in each course. Please visit Ms. Long in the College and Career Resource Center for appropriate paperwork.

Step 2 – Apply to colleges online using the college’s website, GAFutures or the Common Application. *Take note of deadlines imposed by the college, and plan ahead.* Be sure to complete the entire application as well as additional documents needed such as immunization records and lawful presence documentation. The documents needed will vary by school.

Important information for college applications:

Winder-Barrow High School
272 N. Fifth Avenue
Winder, GA 30680

Main Number: (770) 867-4519

Fax Number: (770) 307-2919

CEEB School Code: 113275

School Website: <http://www.barrow.k12.ga.us/wbhs/>

Counseling Website: www.bit.ly/wbhscounseling

Step 3 –It is your responsibility to have SAT/ACT scores sent directly from the testing agency to the college you are applying to. Make sure to plan ahead and keep in mind that it may take a few weeks for the college or scholarship agency to receive your scores. For technical schools, take the Accuplacer at the institution you plan to attend.

Step 4 – If required by the college, request teacher recommendations *at least 2 weeks* ahead of deadlines. Provide your teacher with a resume or come to the counseling office to pick up a brag sheet. Please check if your college requires the submission of electronic forms or if they prefer everything be mailed with your transcript packet. ****The teacher evaluations provided by the counseling office do not serve as the teacher recommendations that colleges are requesting. They serve only to help your counselor write your counseling recommendation letter.****

Step 5 – ONLY IF required by the college to have a counselor recommendation, you will need to fill out and return the following items found in the counseling office and on our website: 2 teacher evaluations and 1 brag sheet. **These items should be completed and returned at least 2 weeks ahead of your deadline.** Make sure to have a teacher fill out the evaluation that knows you and your strengths well, personally and academically. Make sure to fill out the brag sheet thoroughly and avoid acronyms and abbreviations. When you turn in your paperwork, tell your counselor how your recommendation needs to be sent and provide a web address or mailing address if needed.

Step 6 – Send your transcripts. For **in-state schools**, you can send your transcripts by logging into your www.gafutures.org account, select the "My GAFutures" tab, then select "My Transcript," then select the college(s) to which you are applying. If you are applying to **out-of-state schools or scholarships**, complete a transcript request form with Ms. Long in the CRC. All transcripts are sent at no cost.

Step 7 – Beginning October 1, you will need to complete your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Begin your FAFSA by signing up for a FSA ID at www.fsaaid.ed.gov. The application is completed electronically on www.fafsa.ed.gov. You will need W2’s for you and your parents from the prior-prior year to complete the application. All documents needed are listed on the FAFSA website.

TYPES OF ADMISSIONS DECISIONS

The following are some of the most frequently mentioned admissions practices.

Early Decision

Early decision allows a student to apply between October and mid-January for an early determination of admissibility. If accepted, the student is obligated to attend. The student may submit other applications during this period, but only one can be Early Decision. If accepted through the Early Decision program, the student must withdraw all other applications. Please keep in mind that if you apply for Early Decision and are accepted, IT IS BINDING!

Early Action

Early Action is a plan offered by a few schools that invites early applications, but does not require the student to attend if accepted. The application deadline is usually in early November. It allows the student to receive notice of admission, but is not binding. The student usually has until May 1st to inform the school of his/her decision.

Deferred Decision

The college or university determines that more information is needed to make a final decision about a candidate's application. Often the decision is delayed until the second semester and/or new test scores are received.

Rolling Admissions

The college will notify the applicant as soon as the application has been processed (usually four to six weeks) and the file is complete. It is to the student's advantage to apply early.

Open Admissions

Students are accepted after application completion (usually community colleges).

Deferred Admission

Deferred Admission permits a student, once accepted, to postpone matriculation for one year in order to pursue other plans.

EXPLORING POST-SECONDARY OPTIONS

Remember that there are over 7,000 post-secondary options in the United States. You have a lot of choices when it comes to higher education. Even if you're unsure what path to take, you have to start planning now for your future. The same skills and knowledge needed to get into college are also necessary to get a good job.

Degree Programs:

1. **Certificate and Diploma Programs:** Usually a program you can finish in less than two years, sometimes one. These programs are very career-specific and lead to employment opportunities.
2. **Associate of Arts (A.A.) or Associate of Science (A.S.):** A degree awarded after completing a two-year college program.
3. **Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or Bachelor of Science (B.S.):** A degree awarded after completing a four- or five-year college program.

Four-year universities and colleges offer B.A. or B.S. degrees.

1. Most four-year college students focus on coursework full time and work no more than part-time. Graduates from four-year colleges and universities are in greater demand by employers and generally earn more money than non-graduates. Tuition costs can be high and may include fees or living on-campus, but some financial aid is available for all students.
2. A common misconception is that you need to know what you want to do before going to college. On the contrary, college is a place to explore your interests and abilities in a multitude of new areas. Liberal Arts colleges, for example, encourage you to experiment in different fields before declaring a major. Most colleges require students to declare their major by the end of sophomore year. Students who do know what they want to major in can apply to that area of study from the very beginning. Undecided students can sample a variety of courses before concentrating.

Community/Technical colleges generally require 2 years of coursework to earn a degree.

These schools are open to everyone, though a high school diploma or GED is usually required. They are relatively inexpensive and offer flexible class schedules. It is often possible to transfer to a four-year school to get a B.A. or B.S. after earning your Associate's degree.

U.S military provides training and money for education.

Options include enlistment, military academies and Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC programs). Many colleges and universities offer ROTC programs for one or more branches of the military. In addition to regular coursework, ROTC cadets take classes on military science and participate in physical and leadership training outside of the classroom. ROTC graduates can earn a B.A. or B.S., but most enter the military as an officer with a four-year active duty or eight-year inactive duty commitment after college.

Uncertain of which option to follow or which career path matches your interests and skills?

We recommend that you use gafutures.org or bigfuture.collegeboard.org to help you with this process. Also, please look at the Important Resources section of this guide for additional sources.

BUILDING A COLLEGE LIST

When building a college list it is important to consider the following characteristics:

- Campus Size/Student Population
- Location: City, Suburban, Rural
- Cost: Tuition, Financial Aid, Scholarships
- Programs and Majors Offered
- On-Campus Activities: Sports and Greek System

After you determine a college is an overall fit, it is generally a good rule to follow these guidelines when you are deciding where to apply. For up-to-date data on current admissions averages, please visit <http://admission.gatech.edu/images/pdf/USG-chart-final-2019-reduced.pdf>.

- **One or two safety colleges:** colleges to which they will almost certainly be admitted.
- **Some “matches”:** colleges where their GPA, test scores, and other features look very similar to those of recent entering classes.
- **A reach (or two):** colleges where they meet the criteria for admission, but may not have the stellar qualifications of most first year students.

Generally speaking, colleges fall into 6 admissions categories ranging from Most Competitive to Noncompetitive based on GPA, class rank, test scores, and the school’s acceptance rank. When making admissions decisions, many colleges take into consideration the applicant pool, rigor of curriculum, recommendations, special talents, leadership, essays, intellectual curiosity, and your level of interest.

Most Competitive Schools

GPA Class Rank: Typically accept students with an A average/are in the *top 10% of their class or higher*.

Test Scores: Median SAT of 655 to 800 on critical reading and math / 29 and above score on the ACT.

Acceptance Rate: Many admit only a small percentage (1% to 33%) of students who apply.

Examples: Duke, Brown, Harvard, Military Academies, Princeton, Stanford, Yale, Emory, Georgia Tech, Vanderbilt, UNC Chapel Hill

Highly Competitive Schools

GPA and Class Rank: Look for students with *at least a B or B+ average in rigor high school classes*. Accept most of their students from the top 10% to 35% of their high school class.

Test Scores: Median SAT of 620 to 654 on SAT critical reading and math/ 27 to 28 composite on the ACT.

Acceptance Rate: Generally accept between 33% and 50% of their applicants.

Examples: University of Georgia, University of Florida, Furman, Oglethorpe, New York University, Boston University, Wake Forest

Very Competitive Schools

GPA and Class Rank: Look for students with at least a B- average and students that rank *in the top 35% to 50% of their class or higher*.

Test Scores: Median SAT of 572 to 620 on SAT critical reading and math / 23 to 27 composite on the ACT

Acceptance Rate: generally accept between 50% and 75% of their applicants

Examples: North Georgia, Georgia College, Georgia State University, Appalachian State University, University of Tennessee, University of Alabama, Clemson, Mercer, Berry

Competitive Schools

GPA and Class Rank: Some require that students have at least a high school GPA of B- or better, although some state a minimum of C+ or C. They typically admit students *in the top 50% to 65% of their high school class or higher*.

Test Scores: Median SAT between 500 to 572 on critical reading and math / 21 and 23 composite on the ACT.

Acceptance Rate: generally accept 75% to 85% of their applicants.

Examples: Valdosta, Georgia Southern, Kennesaw State, Auburn

Less Competitive Schools

GPA and Class Rank: Admit students with averages below C who rank in the top 65% of their class. Usually a 2.0 Academic GPA is required.

Test Scores: The median freshman test scores are *below 500 SAT critical reading and math and below 21 on the ACT*.

Acceptance Rate: generally accept 85% or more of their applicants.

Examples: Georgia Gwinnett College, West Georgia, Augusta State, Savannah State, Columbus State, Clayton State

Noncompetitive Schools

GPA and Class Rank: Only require evidence of graduation from high school or GED.

Test Scores: Some require that entrance exams be taken for placement purposes only.

Acceptance Rate: generally accept 98% or more of their applicants.

Examples: Georgia Perimeter, Gwinnett Tech, Lanier Tech, Athens Tech, Chattahoochee Tech

SAT Testing Information www.collegeboard.org

\$52.00; \$68.00 (w/essay); Late fee: \$30.00

Test Date	Reg. Deadline	Late Deadline
August 29, 2020	July 31, 2020	Late Fee Waived
September 26, 2020	August 26, 2020	September 15
October 3, 2020	September 4, 2020	September 15 - 22
November 7, 2020	October 7, 2020	October 20 - 27
December 5, 2020	November 5, 2020	November 17 - 24
March 13, 2021	February 12, 2021	February 23 - March 2
May 8, 2021	April 8, 2021	April 20 - 27
June 5, 2021	May 6, 2021	May 18 -26

The SAT is offered at WBHS on the dates in **BOLD.*

ACT Testing Information www.actstudent.org

\$55.00; \$70.00 (w/writing); Late fee: \$35.00

Test Date	Reg. Deadline	Late Deadline
September 12, 2020 September 13, 2020 (Sunday) September 19, 2020	August 31, 2020	No Late Fees
October 10, 2020 October 17, 2020 October 24, 2020 October 25, 2020 (Sunday)	September 17, 2020	September 18 -25
December 12, 2020	November 6, 2020	November 7 - 20
February 6, 2021	January 8, 2021	January 9 - 15
April 17, 2021	March 12, 2021	March 13 - March 26
June 12, 2021	May 7, 2021	May 8 - May 21
July 17, 2021	June 18, 2021	June 19 - 25

The ACT is offered at Apalachee HS on all of the above dates.

**Waivers for students on free/reduced lunch can be obtained from Ms. Long (CRC).*

TESTING INFORMATION: SAT vs. ACT

SAT WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG

Basic Format:

Math (1 section w/calculator, 1 without)
Reading
Writing and Language
Optional Essay

Philosophy:

Aptitude: Rewards reasoning, meaning of words in context, & focus on knowledge for college/career readiness.

Material Covered:

Math up to Pre-Calculus
Vocabulary
Reading Comprehension
Grammar/Editing
Essay writing (Comprehension of text)

Timing:

3 hours plus 50 min. for optional essay

Scoring:

Each section is graded on a 200-800 scale, with a total range of 400 to 1600. 500 is the national average of each section. Scores range from 10-40 on test and cross-test scores, and components of the essay will each be reported on a 2-8 scale.

Superscoring:

Most schools will superscore the SAT, meaning they will take the best math and best evidence-based reading and writing score, even if they are from different sittings.

Guessing Penalty:

No, meaning a student should never leave an answer blank. Guess!

ACT WWW.ACTSTUDENT.ORG

Basic Format:

Math (Calculator allowed on all questions)
Reading
English
Science
Optional Essay

Philosophy:

Achievement: Rewards hard work in school, general reasoning, and strong grasp of material. (No formulas given.)

Material Covered:

Math up to Trigonometry
Reading Comprehension
Grammar/Editing
Science (critical thinking skills, not science knowledge)
Essay writing (Evaluating/analyzing complex issues)

Timing:

2 hours 55 min. plus 40 min. for optional essay

Scoring:

Each subject is graded on a 1-36 scale. 21 is the national average in each. The four subject scores are averaged, and a composite score is reported on a 1-36 scale. The optional writing score is reported on a 2-12 scale and is not part of the composite score.

Superscoring:

Most schools will not superscore the ACT, but they will take the highest composite score. More schools are beginning to superscore the ACT.

Guessing Penalty:

No, meaning a student should never leave an answer blank. Guess!

2018 Concordance Tables

Table A1: SAT Total to ACT Composite

SAT	ACT	SAT	ACT	SAT	ACT
1600	36	1250	26	910	16
*1590	36	*1240	26	900	16
1580	36	1230	26	*890	16
1570	36	1220	25	880	16
1560	35	*1210	25	870	15
1550	35	1200	25	860	15
*1540	35	1190	24	*850	15
1530	35	*1180	24	840	15
1520	34	1170	24	830	15
1510	34	1160	24	820	14
*1500	34	1150	23	810	14
1490	34	*1140	23	*800	14
1480	33	1130	23	790	14
1470	33	1120	22	780	14
*1460	33	*1110	22	770	13
1450	33	1100	22	*760	13
1440	32	1090	21	750	13
*1430	32	*1080	21	740	13
1420	32	1070	21	730	13
1410	31	1060	21	720	12
*1400	31	1050	20	*710	12
1390	31	*1040	20	700	12
1380	30	1030	20	690	12
*1370	30	1020	19	680	11
1360	30	*1010	19	*670	11
1350	29	1000	19	660	11
*1340	29	990	19	650	11
1330	29	980	18	640	10
1320	28	*970	18	*630	10
*1310	28	960	18	620	10
1300	28	950	17	610	9
1290	27	940	17	600	9
*1280	27	*930	17	*590	9
1270	27	920	17		
1260	27				

*Use this SAT score when a single score point comparison is needed.

Note: Concordance tables for the ACT Composite were derived from concordances of the ACT sum score.

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Table A2: ACT Composite to SAT Total

ACT	SAT	SAT Range
36	1590	1570–1600
35	1540	1530–1560
34	1500	1490–1520
33	1460	1450–1480
32	1430	1420–1440
31	1400	1390–1410
30	1370	1360–1380
29	1340	1330–1350
28	1310	1300–1320
27	1280	1260–1290
26	1240	1230–1250
25	1210	1200–1220
24	1180	1160–1190
23	1140	1130–1150
22	1110	1100–1120
21	1080	1060–1090
20	1040	1030–1050
19	1010	990–1020
18	970	960–980
17	930	920–950
16	890	880–910
15	850	830–870
14	800	780–820
13	760	730–770
12	710	690–720
11	670	650–680
10	630	620–640
9	590	590–610

TESTING PREPARATION

The SAT and ACT are important components of the college admissions process. Students who take time to study for these tests see positive results. You can study by taking a class, using internet resources, and/or reviewing with a test preparation book. It is highly recommended that you take a practice test prior to your testing date.

Below you will find a list of resources that will be beneficial for you:

Internet Resources: *Many of these websites offer free practice or live streaming.*

- www.khanacademy.org/sat
- www.academy.act.org
- www.princetonreview.com
- www.kaptest.com
- www.prepfactory.com
- www.powerscore.com
- www.eprep.com
- www.prepexpert.com
- www.eknowledge.com
- www.military.com/join-armed-forces/asvab
- official-asvab.com
- <https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/student/inside-the-test>

Books: *The list below is just a sample of available books. There are many other test prep books available. You can purchase these books online or at most bookstores.*

- *The Official SAT Study Guide, 2018 Edition* by The College Board
- *The Official ACT Prep Guide, 2018* by ACT
- *SAT Premier 2017 with 5 Practice Tests: Online + Book* by Kaplan
- *ACT Prep Plus 2018: 5 Practice Tests: Online + Strategies + Online* by Kaplan
- *Cracking the SAT Premium Edition with 7 Practice Tests, 2018: The All-in-One Solution* by Princeton Review
- *Cracking the ACT with 6 Practice Tests, 2017 Edition* by Princeton Review
- *Barron's SAT, 29th Edition* by S. Green and I. Wolf
- *Barron's ACT, 2nd Edition* by B. Stewart

Classes: *Classes are available through in-person and online sessions.*

- C2 Education (Hamilton Mill, Dacula)
- Sylvan Learning (Snellville & Suwanee)
- Princeton Review (Atlanta)
- Kaplan (Snellville, Suwanee, Duluth)
- Revolution Prep (Online classes)

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

Breakdown of the Financial Aid Terminology:

- **Scholarships:** An award that does not have to be repaid. Scholarships are generally granted based on an applicant meeting certain eligibility criteria.
- **Grants:** A grant is a financial award given to a student for the purposes of paying for all or part of college expense. A grant does not need to be repaid by the student.
- **Loans:** Financial Aid awards that the student or parent borrows from a lender, the school or other third party. Loans must be repaid by the borrower, usually with interest.
- **Work-study:** A work-study program allows a student to earn money by working part time during the school year as a component of their financial aid package. The jobs are usually on campus.

Sources of Financial Aid:

- **Federal Government:** The federal government is the largest source of financial aid. Awards are based on financial need. Students fill out the Federal Application for Student Aid each year. Visit www.fafsa.gov for additional information.
- **Colleges and Universities:** Schools offer a wide variety of aid and scholarships to students. These awards are both merit-based and need-based. Students might need to complete an additional application for scholarships or it may be offered as part of the admissions process. Contact your school of interest for additional information.
- **Private Sources:** Churches, companies, and other organizations offer a variety of scholarships for students. Each organization has a specific set of qualification requirements. For additional information contact local organizations or visit scholarship search websites.

Georgia's Hope Program:

- The **HOPE Scholarship** program is for students that are seeking a college degree and plan on attending college in Georgia. A 3.0 GPA in academic courses (Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, Science, and Foreign Language) is required. A part of your college tuition will be covered, usually about 85%. This amount will vary depending on projected lottery revenues and expenditures.
- The **HOPE Grant** program is for students seeking a technical certification or diploma, regardless of the student's high school grade point average or graduation date. This will cover a certain percentage of tuition at a Georgia public technical college or public college or university.
- The **Zell Miller Scholarship** program is for students who have demonstrated academic achievement and that are seeking a college degree in Georgia. To become eligible, a student must graduate with a 3.7 GPA in academic courses and a minimum score of 1200 on the SAT (EBRW and Math) or 26 on the ACT in one sitting.
- The **Zell Miller Grant** program is students working towards a certificate or diploma at a Georgia technical system or university system college. Full-time enrollment, nor a specific high school GPA is required, however, a minimum 3.5 cumulative postsecondary GPA, at the end of each term, is required in order to maintain eligibility.

You can check your HOPE GPA using www.gafutures.org.

THE FINANCIAL AID RUNDOWN



FSA ID SUMMER BEFORE 12TH



Students and parent/guardians must create a username and password called an FSA ID that you'll use to confirm your identity when accessing your government financial aid information and electronically signing your federal student aid documents.

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) OCTOBER 1



As soon as possible after its Oct. 1 release, complete and submit your FAFSA form at fafsa.gov, along with any other financial aid applications your chosen school(s) may require. You should submit your FAFSA form by the earliest financial aid deadline of the schools to which you are applying, usually by early February.

COLLEGE GOAL GA TBD, DECEMBER



This will be an evening event to assist in completing the FAFSA with experts!



IMPORTANT RESOURCES

College Planning

www.gafutures.org	College Search, Scholarships, Career Assessments, HOPE GPA
www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org	College and Career Exploration, Comparison, Scholarships
www.cappex.org	College Search, Admission Chances, Scholarships
www.collegescorecard.ed.gov	College data, grad rates, debt information
www.commonapp.org	Common Application Forms
www.collegeview.com	College Search, Application Process, Financial Aid, Majors
www.campustour.com	Virtual Campus Tour
www.usnews.com/rankings	College and University Rankings
www.collegeconfidential.com	College Search, Admissions, Paying for College
www.petersons.com	Guide to Colleges and Universities
www.collegeweeklive.com	College Search, Scholarships, Applications
www.usg.edu/information/prospective_students/	University System of GA College Search

Financial Aid and Scholarships

www.fafsa.ed.gov	Federal Application for Financial Aid
www.studentaid.ed.gov	Financial Aid Explanations
www.usg.edu/information/prospective_students	Tuition, Fees, and Financial Aid
www.fastweb.com	Scholarship Search
www.myscholly.com (App available)	Scholarship Search
www.scholarships.com	Scholarship Search
www.studentscholarships.org	Scholarship Search, Career Information, College Search
www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org	Scholarship Search

Academic Majors

www.youscience.com	Majors, Careers, and Schools
www.collegemajors101.com	Major and Career Information
www.majors.admissions.uga.edu	College and Major Search, Test Prep
www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org	Majors, Careers, Schools
www.usg.edu/information/prospective_students/	Degree and Major Search Tool for University System of GA Schools

Military Planning

<i>Students should be aware of the closest recruitment office near them, and look for recruiters outside the cafeteria throughout the school year.</i>	
www.airforce.com	3500 Gwinnett Pl Dr NW #14, Duluth, GA 30096 (770- 418-9567)
www.goarmy.com	GA Square Mall, 3700 Atlanta Ave St 233, ATHENS, GA 30606 (706-546-6201)
www.marines.com	3320 Buford Dr NE #70, Buford, GA 30519 (770-831-1633)
www.navy.com	1154 Lawrenceville Hwy Suite 104A, Lawrenceville, GA 30045 (678-376-0169)

Career and Employment Planning

www.ajb.dni.us	America's Job Bank
www.careerpath.com	Career Information, Career and Personality Tests
www.dol.state.ga.us	Georgia Dept. of Labor
www.onetcenter.org	Occupational Information Network
www.myfuture.com	College, Career and Military Search

WINDER-BARROW HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS

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COUNSELING WEBSITE:

www.bit.ly/wbhscounseling

To make an appointment (Students):

- Go to bit.ly/wbhscounseling
- Click “Make an Appointment”
- Select your appointment type & counselor
- Select an available date & time
- Complete appointment information

To make a Records Request:

Make an appointment like described above for the record you need or email gwen.tilley@barrow.k12.ga.us.

To make an appointment (Parents):

Contact your child’s counselor through phone or e-mail.

CAREER RESOURCE CENTER:

LIZ LONG

liz.long@barrow.k12.ga.us
(Dual Enrollment & fee waivers)

Finding the Perfect College

Most students want to find the “perfect” college. The truth is, there’s no such thing. You can find many colleges where you can be happy and get a great education. The college search is about exploring who you are and what you want and then finding colleges that will meet your goals.

BEFORE SEARCHING CONSIDER THESE 8 FACTORS

Size	Location
Available majors and classes	Available extracurricular activities
Distance from home	Makeup of the student body
Housing options	Campus atmosphere

Questions to consider:

- Which of these aspects are things you feel you must have to be comfortable at a college?
- On which factors are you flexible?
- What do you want to accomplish in college?
- Do you want to train for a specific job or get a wide-ranging education?
- If you have a major in mind, do the colleges you are considering specialize in that major?

Bigfuture.collegeboard.org is a great option to sort through the many options out there, based on your preferences.

Here are steps you can take to find colleges where you will thrive.

KEEP AN OPEN MIND

Although it’s good to have some ideas in mind about what sorts of colleges will be right for you, stay open to all the possibilities at the beginning of your search.

TALK TO PEOPLE WHO KNOW YOU

Tell parents, teachers, relatives, friends, and your school counselor about your goals, and ask if they can suggest colleges that may be a good fit for you.

DON'T LIMIT YOUR SEARCH

At the start of this process, you may rule out colleges because you think that they are too expensive or too hard to get into, but this may not be the reality. Remember that financial aid can make college more affordable, and colleges look at more than just grades and test scores.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Once you have a list of schools, it’s time to do some research. To learn more about the colleges you’re considering, check out college guidebooks and websites. Jot down your questions and get answers by:

- Talking to your school counselor or teachers
- Checking out colleges’ student blogs, if available
- Contacting college admission officials
- Asking admission officials to recommend current students or recent graduates with whom you can have conversations
- Visiting college campuses, if possible

FAQ: College Entrance Exams

GENERAL

What are college entrance exams? These tests are designed to measure students' skills and help colleges evaluate how ready you are for college-level work. The SAT[®] and ACT are both accepted by nearly all colleges and universities.

Do all colleges require a college entrance exam as part of the application process? Most four-year institutions require a college entrance exam score. The ones that do not require these scores will indicate that in their admission policies.

What other tests may be recommended or required? Some colleges may require SAT Subject Tests[™] as part of the admission application, for application to certain majors, or for course placement.

How many times should a college entrance exam be taken? Most students take a college entrance exam twice—once in the spring of the junior year and once at the beginning of the senior year.

SCORES

How do colleges use test scores? They are used to apply a common standard for all students no matter where they went to high school. Colleges look at your test scores, along with your high school grades and courses, to see how well prepared you are for college-level work.

Does a college receive all scores from every college entrance exam you've taken? Some colleges will allow you to select which scores you would like considered for admission and others might have specific instructions about which scores get reported. This information, along with how they require them to be sent, will be included in their application guidelines.

PREPARING

What is the best way to prepare for a college entrance exam? The best way to prepare is to work hard both inside and outside the classroom. Take challenging courses, study hard, and read and write as much as you can.

What are other ways to prepare for the tests?

- Know what to expect. Being familiar with the test's format is the single best way to prepare for that test. Go to the testing organization's website to get familiar with the various test sections and the instructions for each part.

- Take preliminary tests. These tests (such as the PSAT/NMSQT[®]) are meant to be taken in the sophomore or junior year and have the same format and question types as the admission tests. You can use your score reports to help identify specific areas you need to focus on.
- Practice, practice, practice. Students can use Khan Academy to practice for the SAT for free with a world-class platform offering personalized and instructional content. Using free resources like Khan Academy and practice tests from the testing organizations' websites, you can discover your strengths and weaknesses and learn how to manage your time wisely during the test.

Campus Visit Checklist

Visiting a college campus helps you get a sense of what a college — and life at that college — is like. This can help you decide whether the college is right for you.

GATHER INFORMATION

Find out what you need to do to apply, and see if the college's class and major offerings are what you want:

- Take part in a group information session at the admission office.
- Interview with an admission officer.
- Pick up financial aid forms.
- Sit in on a class that interests you. If classes aren't in session, just see what the classrooms are like.
- Meet a professor who teaches a subject that interests you.
- Talk to students about what they think of their classes and professors.
- Get the names and business cards of the people you meet so you can contact them later if you have questions.

EXPLORE THE CAMPUS

Get a feel for student life, and see if this college is a place where you will do well:

- Take a campus tour.
- Talk to current students about the college and life on campus.
- Check out the freshman dorms, and stay overnight with a student, if possible.
- Visit the dining hall, fitness center, library, career center, bookstore, and other campus facilities.
- Talk to the coaches of sports that you may want to play.
- Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.

CHECK OUT CAMPUS MEDIA

Tune in to learn what's happening on campus and what's on students' minds:

- Listen to the college radio station.
- Read the student newspaper.
- Scan bulletin boards to see what daily student life is like.
- Go to the career center and learn what services it offers.
- Browse the school's website and any campus blogs.
- Read other student publications, such as department newsletters, and literary reviews.

GET THE MOST OUT OF A CAMPUS VISIT IN 6 STEPS

1 DECIDE WHERE AND HOW

See if your school arranges group trips to colleges or if you could get a group of friends together and visit the campus. A family trip is another option and allows you to involve your family in the process.

2 PREPARE FOR YOUR VISIT

Before you set out, get a map of the college campus and pick out places of interest. Call the college's admission office to schedule a guided tour of the campus.

3 TAKE YOUR OWN TOUR

Just wandering around the campus on your own or with friends can be the best way to get a feel for what a college is like.

4 EXPLORE THE FACILITIES

Finding the spots on campus where students gather or asking a student where the best place to eat can give you a feel for the character of the college. Visit the library and check out the gym or theater. Ask an admission officer if you can tour a dorm and a classroom.

5 MAKE CONNECTIONS

Talk to current students. Ask the students at the next table or sitting nearby what they like best about the college.

6 TAKE NOTES

During your visit, write down some notes about your experience. What did you see that excited you? Are there aspects of the college that you don't like? If so, what are they?

Questions to Ask During Your Visit:

ASK TOUR GUIDES/STUDENTS

- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- What's it like to go from high school to college?
- What do you do in your free time? On the weekends?
- What do you love about this college?
- What do you wish you could change about this college?
- Why did you choose this college?
- What is it like to live here?
- What does the college do to promote student involvement in campus groups, extracurricular activities, or volunteerism?

ASK PROFESSORS

- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- Can a student be mentored by professors, graduate students, or upperclassmen?
- How are professors rated by the college? Does the college think mentoring and meetings for project guidance are important?
- How does the college help students have access to professors outside class? Do professors join students for lunch, help with community service groups, or guide student organizations?
- How many students do research or other kinds of projects for a semester or more?

ASK FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

- How much has your total college cost for each student risen in the past year?
- How much do your students usually owe in loans when they graduate?
- What is the average income of graduates who had the same major that interests me?
- Will my costs go up when your tuition goes up, or can we use the same tuition rate I started with so I'll know the costs for four years? What should I expect in terms of increases in living expenses?
- How many students usually graduate in the major that interests me? How long do these students usually take to get their degrees? In what ways does the college help students graduate in four years?

College Exploration Worksheet



Audience: Grades 9–11 **Purpose:** To develop college research and assessment skills **Materials:** Computer lab or college information books

Name of College: _____

Location of College: Small town Urban/city
 Suburban Rural
 Other: _____

Type of College: Two-year Four-year
 Public Private

Type of Classroom: Lecture
 Small seminars
 Independent study
 Other: _____

Instructors: Full-time faculty
 Part-time faculty
 Graduate student
teaching assistants

Financial assistance (type of financial aid, average financial aid package, average student graduation indebtedness): _____

Size of the college: _____
Total

Undergraduate *Graduate*

Commuters *Residential*

Benefits of the location (activities, etc.): _____

Student body makeup: _____

Special academic programs: _____

Residential housing: _____

Academic support services: _____

Noteworthy alumni: _____

Special opportunities (internships, study abroad): _____

Why might you recommend this college to a friend? _____

Career services: _____

