

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR'S SCHOLARSHIP ROADMAP

A One-Page Guide to National Databases & GAfutures State Aid

1. Top Search Channels & Platforms

- **Your Georgia Hub:** GAfutures (gafutures.org) is the primary engine for Georgia seniors. Create an account to monitor your official core HOPE GPA, request and send free electronic high school transcripts to in-state institutions, and filter local award updates.
- **National Vetted Databases:** Create comprehensive profiles on top-tier engines to get matched with customized opportunities:
 - Fastweb
 - Scholarships.com
 - College Board BigFuture
 - Chegg Scholarships: Leverage Chegg's streamlined portal (chegg.com/scholarships) to easily filter thousands of personalized public options based strictly on your individual GPA, background, and specific program fields.
- **College Websites (Institutional Aid):** Navigate directly to the 'Financial Aid' or 'Scholarships' tab of your target universities. Most campuses offer automatic merit evaluations, major-specific departmental awards, and foundations requiring separate freshmen applications.
- **The Local Inner Circle:** Local scholarship opportunities are sent out by our graduation coaches through student square

2. GAfutures: Unlocking Georgia State Aid

- **HOPE Scholarship:** Requires graduating with a minimum **3.0 HOPE GPA** (calculated strictly using unweighted core academic courses) and at least **4 academic rigor credits** (such as AP, IB, or Dual Enrollment). Covers a substantial percentage of standard tuition at eligible public/private Georgia institutions.
- **Zell Miller Scholarship:** Requires a minimum **3.7 high school HOPE GPA** combined with an earned test score of at least **1200 SAT** (Math + Reading) or **26 ACT** in a single test administration. Covers up to 100% of standard tuition at public universities.
- **How to Apply:** Submit the Georgia Student Financial Aid Application (GSFAPP) online via GAfutures—which requires just a few minutes and stays active for 10 years—OR complete the annual Federal FAFSA application.

3. Senior Year Portfolio Checklist

- [] **Completed FAFSA:** File early in your senior year to secure institutional grant allocations alongside state tracking.
- [] **Electronic Transcripts:** Authorize your high school counselor to push records seamlessly through your GAfutures profile portal.
- [] **Letters of Recommendation:** Secure 2-3 academic or community recommenders early. Provide them a 2-week window and a copy of your resume.
- [] **High School Resume:** Organize your extracurricular involvements, varsity athletics, community service milestones, and leadership titles.

4. Win-Rate Pro Tips

- **Don't Wait for College Admissions:** Apply to external opportunities simultaneously while submitting college applications throughout the fall and winter.
- **Maximize Profile Filters:** Always complete all optional demographic and background prompts on search platforms. It reduces the visibility of mass-market clutter and exposes niche awards.
- **Prioritize Essay Frameworks:** Avoid click-bait sweepstakes. Your time is best spent on structured essay applications where your personal background, specific career ambitions, and character can shine.