



# GEAR UP FOR COLLEGE

## It's never too early to start thinking about college.

You're probably thinking, "it's way too early to start preparing for college." You've got more important things to think about: sports, music, hanging out with your friends, going to the movies, finishing your homework, or who you'll ask to the dance. Those things are all great. Keep thinking about those things.

But you should also take a little time to think about preparing for college. Nothing major, we're not asking you to start studying for the SAT or ACT or to start taking classes for college credit in middle school. We just want you to know that there are little things you can do every day to help get ready.

These tips will help you make the most of middle school, prepare for high school, and keep college on your radar.

### Start preparing for college today.

While you're at it, you should take a look at the University of Georgia. Here's a little bit about us to get you started:



#### UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

**FOUNDED:** 1785

**LOCATION:** Athens, GA  
About 60 miles northeast of downtown Atlanta.

**ENROLLMENT:**  
Undergraduate Students  
Graduate Students

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES:**  
700+ Registered Student Activities, including 36 social fraternities and 28 social sororities

**MAJORS:** 200+ majors and academic programs to choose from

**ATHLETICS:** Our 21 NCAA Division I men's and women's varsity teams have won 44 championships, including 32 since 1999.

**RANKINGS:**  
*U.S. News & World Report* ranked UGA as #13 in Top Public Schools in 2018.

According to *Kiplinger*, UGA is ranked #12 for Best Value in Public Colleges.

*Victory Media* ranked UGA as the #1 Military Friendly School in the country.

### College Admission Vocabulary

This glossary can help you make sense of terms you will come across when applying to college.

#### ADMISSION TESTS

Also known as college entrance exams, these are tests designed to measure students' skills and help colleges evaluate how ready students are for college-level work. The ACT and the SAT are two standardized admission tests.

#### FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a form that is prepared annually by college students in the United States to determine their eligibility for student financial aid.

#### FINANCIAL AID

Money given or loaned to you to help pay for college. Financial aid can come from federal and state governments, colleges, and third parties.

#### GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

A number that shows overall academic performance. It's computed by assigning a point value to each grade you earn.

#### TRANSCRIPT

The official record of your course work at a school or college. High school transcripts are usually required for college admission and for some financial aid packages.

#### UNDERGRADUATE

A college student who is working toward an associate or a bachelor's degree.

#### WEIGHTED GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

A grade point average that's calculated using a system that assigns a higher point value to grades in rigorous classes.



#### UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Undergraduate Admissions

Terrell Hall | 210 South Jackson Street | Athens, GA 30602 | (706) 542-8776

[@ugaadmissions](#) [facebook.com/universityofga](#)  
[ugaadmissions.blogspot.com](#) [ugaadmissions](#)

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# ON YOUR RADAR



## TIP 1: Pay attention in class.

We know how easy it is to get distracted. Try your hardest to pay attention in class. Listen to your teachers. They're smart people who get paid to share their intelligence with you. Here's a tip: Find something that interests you in every subject and latch onto that. You'll be glad you did.

## TIP 2: Don't be afraid to make mistakes.

You want to be liked by people. You're probably afraid of failing. Everyone is. Sometimes trying something outside your comfort zone exposes you to criticism. Don't listen to those people. Even if it's in the comfort of your own home, try a new activity every once in a while. Right now you have nothing but time. Do something with it.

## TIP 3: Work hard.

We know you hear this all the time from teachers and parents. You know who else offers this advice? Every musician, athlete, and actor you admire. It's the only thing they have in common: they all work hard. But the trick is to find something you love to do. Then it doesn't feel like work at all. You don't have to study until midnight every night, but achieving a goal like going to college will require you to study regularly. Go for it.

## TIP 4: Challenge yourself.

Enroll in classes and get involved in academically challenging activities outside of school. If you challenge yourself now, you'll be able to enter more advanced classes in high school. Those classes will better prepare you for college. Makes sense, doesn't it?

## *A few more things you can do to start preparing for college* **RIGHT NOW:**

Make a list of the subjects that interest you the most.

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Make a list of the classes you would be interested in taking, but haven't yet. (Be creative! These don't have to be classes that are offered at your school.)

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Make a list of the questions you have about college.

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Make a list of the people that you could talk to about college.

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# And a few ideas for when you get to high school:



## 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- Make sure you're taking classes that will prepare you for college. Your counselor can help you with this, but most colleges will want to see that you're taking classes like English, math, social science, science and a foreign language.
- Ask your counselor about AP/IB and Dual Enrollment classes.
- Your GPA is important. Keeping your grades up is a priority.
- If you haven't already joined a club or sports team, find one (or more!) that interests you. You might also consider volunteering in your community.
- Have a family discussion about college ambitions and expectations—both your goals and theirs. Ask about how paying for college works.
- Use your summer wisely! Develop extracurricular interests. Consider going to an academic camp—focused on the subject you love—at a local college. Read, read, read.
- Check out the Khan Academy at [khanacademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org).

## 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- Sign up for classes that will challenge you. If you're not being challenged in your classes, talk with your teachers and counselor.
- Begin your college search. Review the mail and emails you may start receiving from colleges. Begin a list of colleges that interest you.
- Research what you might want to major in. Read about majors and careers. Research colleges with majors of interest.
- Think about taking the PSAT or PreACT.
- Keep making the most of your summers. Consider starting a college savings account by taking on jobs like babysitting and lawn mowing.

## 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- Try taking a leadership role in your extracurricular activities. Run for an office in student government; head up a community project; ask your coach how you might serve as a captain of your team.
- Take the SAT or ACT. It helps to leave yourself enough time to re-take the test, in case you don't score as well as you want to on the first try.
- Visit a few campuses that are close to you. Start planning for visits to colleges that are further away. Spring breaks and summers might be a convenient time for your family to come with you.
- Begin looking for scholarships. Ask teachers, family and friends if they know of local scholarship programs that you might qualify for.
- Visit scholarship websites like [fastweb.com](https://www.fastweb.com).
- Keep working hard in your classes. If your grades start to slip, don't take too long to ask for help and re-focus. The longer you wait, the harder it will be to pull up your grades.

## 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- If you weren't happy with your first score, re-take the SAT or ACT.
- Start college applications early. This can't be done in an afternoon.
- When you ask someone to write a letter of recommendation for you, make sure you ask them well in advance of the application deadline. At least two to three weeks is ideal.
- Start your scholarship and financial aid applications early. You might find it helpful to keep a calendar of deadlines. Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov).
- If there are any colleges on your list that you still haven't visited yet, try and get to all of them. Visiting during the school year will give you the opportunity to talk with students and experience campus life.
- Push yourself! Keep going and finish strong!