

Senior Scholarship Newsletter

September 2023

This newsletter is updated the first week of each month and posted on the GHS website under the "For Students" tab.

How to apply to college

1. Apply on the college's website for the '24 -'25 school year. Four-year colleges have an application fee, but junior college applications are free. Students who qualify for free/reduced lunch should check with their counselor about fee waivers before paying the college application fee. Otherwise, you will pay the fee with a credit card before submitting your application.
2. Send your records. Create a new user account on parchment.com and request your records be sent to the college(s) you apply to. You can mark that you are sending a fee waiver (if eligible) and even mark if you need your senior schedule sent with your transcript. Free/reduced lunch students may turn their fee waiver into the secretary in guidance, Mrs. Steube, to be sent with their records.
3. Send your ACT score directly from your myact.org account. Most four-year colleges now require that you send your highest score or super score report directly through your ACT account.

When to apply to college

Now is a great time to apply! For many colleges, applying early (as soon as the application opens) means better opportunities for housing. Most university applications opened August 1 and junior colleges on September 1. Get to know your college deadlines because admissions by a certain date is also required for certain scholarships!!!

Should you take the ACT again?

Yes! The ACT is important for scholarship money and even class placement. Take it again!!!!

www.myact.org

Registration deadlines are usually about a month prior to the test date. Fee waivers are available for students who qualify for free/reduced lunch.

October 28
December 9

February 10
April 13

Free ACT Prep offered by the Get2College Center!!

Virtual workshops on Oct. 21 and Dec. 2 are available as well as pre-recorded sessions for your convenience! Register through www.get2college.org

FAFSA opens in December

The FAFSA – the Free Application for Federal Student Aid – is the first step in getting money for college. It is required for federal student aid. However, the FAFSA results may also be used for private scholarships, money directly from the college or university, and state financial aid, all with different deadlines. Basic parent/student information along with 2022 tax returns are used to complete this free application.

Get help completing this important online application!!! GHS will have FAFSA days each month so you can get assistance with the application, but you can also make an appointment on your own time through get2college.org to complete it.

HELP GRANT: FREE TUITION IN MISSISSIPPI

Students who have a 20 or higher on the ACT, a minimum C average, and who have taken the classes they need to get into a 4-year college might be eligible for the **HELP scholarship**. This scholarship gives **full tuition** to students who go to an **in-state college**. You have to meet the family income requirements, which are subject to change from year to year. Here are the income levels for last year to give you an idea if you qualify...

If you make this amount or less (for the past 2 years) you could qualify!!!

Students who are the only child.....	\$39,500
Students with one sibling under 21.....	\$44,500
Students with two siblings under 21.....	\$49,500
Students with three siblings under 21.....	\$54,500
Students with four siblings under 21.....	\$59,500
Students with five siblings under 21.....	\$64,500

Visit www.ihl.state.ms.us for more info or talk with your student's guidance counselor.

College recruiters... get to know them!!!

College recruiters or admissions counselors are your main resource for all the information you need about that school... they help with everything from general application questions, campus visits, scholarship questions, and housing. They WANT to get to know you and help... so reach out to them with any question or concern you have!!! To find out who your admission counselor is for your school/area, just look under the admissions tab on the college's website! Here are a few who have contacted us so far this year...

University of Southern Mississippi- Dallas Smith- 601-551-7745
Dallas.D.Smith@usm.edu

Mississippi State University- Stacia Cleveland- 228-669-0640
s.cleveland@msstate.edu

Ole Miss- Shelby-Rae Hamel- 228-238-1396
srchamel@olemiss.edu

LSU- Emily Bernard- 225-578-1175
ebarnard@lsu.edu

MGCCC- Karlea Bociga- 228-236-8346
Karlea.bociga@mgccc.edu

Scholarships with September deadlines

Gates Scholarship: Deadline September 15. This highly competitive national scholarship awards full funding to students who are Pell Grant eligible, minority, and are in the top 10% of the graduating class (3.8 and higher GPA). Student leadership, character, and perseverance are important parts of the evaluation process.

<https://www.thegatesscholarship.org/scholarship>

We the Future Scholarship: Deadline September 17. Scholarship amount is \$1,000. Applicants are required to create and submit one of the following original works on the US Constitution: speech, short film, essay, song, STEM, social media video, or PSA. See complete contest rules and requirements for the specific prompt on the First Amendment

<https://constitutingamerica.org/enter/>

Scholarships with October deadlines

Coca-Cola Scholars Program: Deadline October 2 by 4 pm. This scholarship is VERY competitive. Semi-finalists will be selected in the first phase (by November) to continue with the second phase of applications, including an interview. Only 50 students are selected as national scholars and receive \$20,000 in scholarships. It is for students with a very high ACT score and GPA. Leadership and extracurricular activities are important parts of the selection process. The application can be found at

<https://www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/apply/>

AES Engineering Scholarship: Deadline October 8. Award amount is \$500. Students must submit an essay of between 500 and 1000 words in answer to the following question: *When you look back on your life in 30 years, what would it take for you to consider your life successful? What relationships or accomplishments will be important on this journey?* Details are available

at <http://www.aesengineers.com/scholarships.php> and essays should be e-mailed to scholarships@aesengineers.com

Heisman High School Scholarship: Deadline October 17 by 3:00. Senior scholar-athletes are eligible to apply. Heisman will select a male and female from each school who will go on to compete at the state level for the scholarship. In addition to playing at least one varsity sport, applicants should have at least a B overall GPA and should have leadership and community service at the school and/or community level. Apply online at www.heismanscholarship.com

National Rice Month Scholarship: Deadline October 31. Scholarship amounts range from \$2,000 - \$5,000 from the USA Rice Federation. Applicants should apply online. Create an original video about US rice and the importance of rice to your state.

<https://www.reelricecontest.com/about-the-contest/>

Voice of Democracy Scholarship (VFW): Deadline October 31. Scholarship amounts range from \$1,000- \$35,000. Voice of Democracy is an annual nationwide scholarship program sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). It is an audio-essay contest for high school students. This year's theme is "What are the Greatest Attributes of our Democracy?" For scholarship rules and entry forms, see www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships

There are also national scholarship databases that allow you to search for scholarships. Be careful of any scholarship or organization that asks for an application fee, as they may not be legitimate. Scholarship applications should always be free! These are highly recommended...

- [Big Future](#)
- [SallieMae](#)
- [College Scholarships](#)
- [Fastweb](#)
- [Scholarships by UNCF](#)
- [Unigo](#)
- [Student Scholarships](#)

Get2College is a FREE resource for college planning. Check out their website full of helpful information, including their college guidebook.
www.get2college.org