

2026

JUNIOR

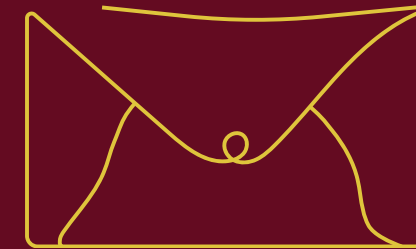
College Chat

Lassiter Counseling



SIGN IN!

WHERE TO START?



COLLEGE LIST

CAMPUS VISITS

RESUME/REC FORM

REC LETTERS

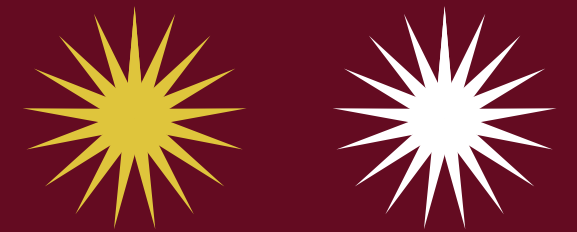
ESSAYS

SAT/ACT

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COLLEGE LIST



- Name of School
- Deadlines (admissions and financial aid)
- What is required? (essay, recs, resume)
- Reach, Range or Safety

MAKE A CHART!



REACH, RANGE SAFETY



REACH

Academic credentials fall below the school's range for the freshman class • Apply to 1 – 2 schools



RANGE

Academic credentials fall within or slightly higher than the school's range for the freshman class • Apply to 2 – 3 schools

SAFETY

Academic credentials are much higher than the typical range for their freshman class • Apply to at least 1 school

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES SO FAR FOR CLASS OF 2026...

AUBURN - 58

FL STATE- 11

NOTRE DAME- 1

NYU- 1

GA TECH- 37

JOHNS HOPKINS- 1

CLEMSON- 20

CORNELL- 1

EMORY- 1

U OF TENN- 26

UGA- 85

GA STATE- 43

VANDERBILT- 1

GA SOUTHERN- 99

NOTEABLE SCHOLARSHIPS

INDEPENDANT

Posse Scholarship
Horatio Alger
Golden Doors
Gates Scholarship

COLLEGE

UNC- Morehead Cain
U of Virginia- Jefferson Scholarship
Davidson- Fellows Scholarship
Multiple Schools-Army ROTC
NC State- Park Scholarship
U of Texas - Eugene McDermott

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU?



COLLEGE FIT



CAMPUS SIZE
AND LOCATION

PROGRAMS AND
MAJORS

COST

ON CAMPUS
ACTIVITIES

COLLEGE VISITS!

1

IN PERSON

Stop on campuses during vacations, set up meetings with financial aid offices, reach out to program directors, etc

2

VIRTUAL

Not always feasible to visit everywhere. A lot of great resources on college websites- can give you an idea of the feel





RESUME



BRAG ON YOURSELF!

TEMPLATE IN NAVIANCE, CANVA, ETC

ACADEMIC

CLUBS/SPORTS

EXTRACURRICULAR

CERTIFICATIONS

COMMUNITY SERVICE

LEADERSHIP

JOB EXPERIENCE

SOFT SKILLS



RESUME STEPS

5 simple steps for a perfect resume

RESUME STEPS



STEP 1: *Make a Master List*

- Brainstorm and write down everything you have done that could go on a resume
 - Activities & Involvement: clubs, sports teams, volunteer work, leadership roles
 - Work Experience: jobs, internships, babysitting, tutoring, or summer programs
 - Awards & Achievements: academic honors, certifications, or recognitions
 - Skills: technical (Canva, Excel), creative (graphic design, writing), or interpersonal (teamwork, leadership)
- Include Metrics of Success
 - Ex: numbers or outcomes when possible

STEP 2: *Organize your Information*

- Group your experiences into sections that make the most sense for your goal (college, job, scholarship, or internship)
 - Ex: Education, Work Experience, Leadership & Activities, Skills, Awards & Honors
- Arrange experiences most recent to least

STEP 3: *Choose a Resume Template*

- Use a clean, professional template from Microsoft Word, Canva, or Google Docs
- Select a layout that fits your audience
 - Traditional Template: business, finance, or formal settings
 - Modern/Creative Template: marketing, design, or media fields
- Avoid overly decorative fonts or bright colors
 - Clarity is key

STEP 4: *Write Strong Descriptions*

- Use action verbs and focus on your impact
 - NOT THIS: Helped with social media posts
 - THIS: Created weekly Instagram content that increased engagement by 25%
- Each bullet point should start with an action verb and when possible, include results or measurable outcomes

STEP 5: *Proofread, Polish, Share, and Save*

- Check for spelling, grammar, and formatting errors
- Make sure spacing and font sizes are consistent
- Have a teacher, counselor, or parent review it before sending
- Save as Firstname_Lastname_Resume.pdf
- Always submit your resume as a PDF unless otherwise requested

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS



Can start asking now!

Senior Rec Survey in Naviance

"About Me" "Surveys from My School"

Think about the school and what your intended major is

READ and pay attention to if recs are needed or not

Will demonstrate official process in Fall

Always give
advanced
notice and a
THANK YOU!



ESSAYS



START NOW

Work over the summer on researching what schools require essays and what the topic is



PROOFREAD

If a college requires you to write an essay then they are going to read it. Make sure you take it seriously and spend time editing and perfecting!



TOPIC

Don't have an answer to some commonly asked questions? Find a summer experience that you can use to write about!



ESSAY TIPS



COMMON APP PROMPTS

BE AUTHENTIC, REFLECT ON
PERSONAL EXPERIENCES, FOCUS ON
A NARROW TOPIC, FOLLOW
INSTRUCTIONS, SEEK FEEDBACK



Here is the full set of essay prompts for 2026–2027.

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design

ADMISSIONS TESTS

HAVE YOU ALREADY
TAKEN?

TAKE MULTIPLE TIMES

OUT OF STATE
SCHOLARSHIPS

EARLY FALL TEST USED
FOR EARLY ADMISSIONS

TEST OPTIONAL?

SAT

WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG

JUNE 6th, AUGUST 22nd,
SEPTEMBER 12th, OCTOBER
3rd

DIGITAL/ADAPTIVE, MORE
TIME PER QUESTION, SHORT,
SINGLE QUESTION READING
PASSAGES, FEWER MATH
CONCEPTS, COMPLEX
PROBLEMS

ACT

WWW.ACT.ORG

JUNE 13th, JULY 11th,
SEPTEMBER 19th, OCTOBER
17th

PAPER OR ONLINE/FIXED
FORMAT, FASTER PACED,
LONGER READING
PASSAGES, MORE MATH
CONCEPTS, STRAIGHT
FORWARD PROBLEMS

HOPE AND OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS



HOPE

3.0 Academic, unweighted
GPA pays 80-90%

3.7 Academic, unweighted
GPA and 1200 SAT/25 ACT
pays full tuition

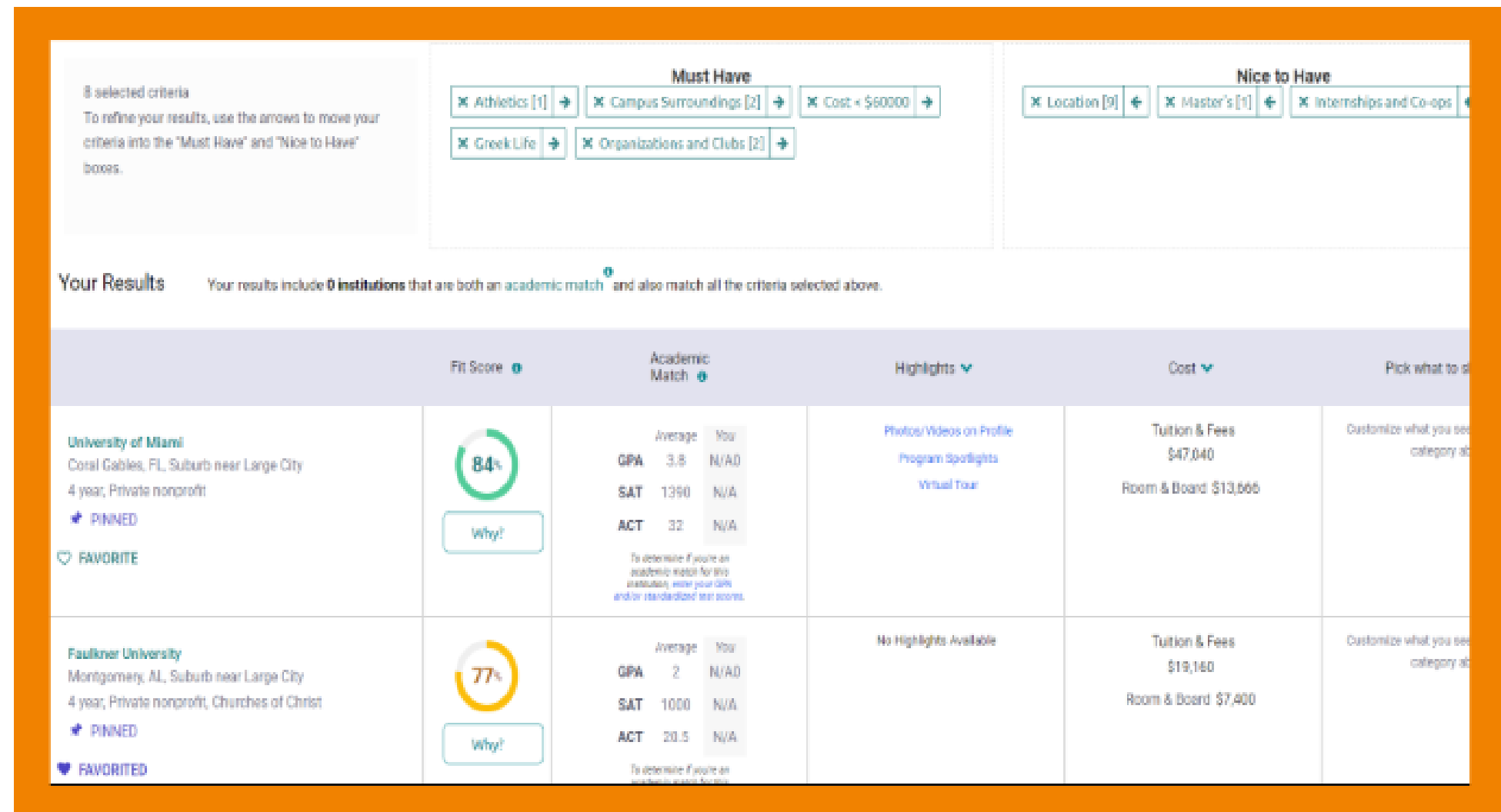
ONLY GEORGIA PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

**MOST MONEY COMES
FROM SCHOOL
ITSELF!
RESEARCH NOW!**

**LOOK AT LOCAL
SCHOLARSHIPS
NOW FOR NEXT
YEAR!**

How to Use SuperMatch College Search

1. Select **Colleges**
2. Select **SuperMatch College Search** under **Find Your Fit**
3. Select **Select Criteria To Start**
4. Continue refining your search by selecting **Choose Fit Criteria** at the top
5. Sort your criteria into the **Must Have** and **Nice to Have**
6. Select **Pin To Compare** colleges on your results list
7. Select **Favorite** to add colleges you are interested and want to learn more about
8. Select **Save Search** and name the search
9. Select **Colleges** and **Colleges I'm Thinking About** to research about the colleges on your favorites list
10. Repeat the above steps to start a new search or edit a saved search



The screenshot displays the SuperMatch College Search interface. At the top, there are sections for 'Must Have' and 'Nice to Have' criteria. The 'Must Have' section includes: Athletics [1], Campus Surroundings [2], Cost < \$60,000, Greek Life, and Organizations and Clubs [2]. The 'Nice to Have' section includes: Location [9], Master's [1], and Internships and Co-ops. Below these, the 'Your Results' section shows a table of colleges. The table has columns for Fit Score, Academic Match, Highlights, Cost, and a 'Pick what to show' dropdown. Two colleges are listed: University of Miami and Faulkner University. The University of Miami has a Fit Score of 84% and an Academic Match of 3.8. Faulkner University has a Fit Score of 77% and an Academic Match of 2. Both colleges are marked as 'PINNED' and 'FAVORITE'.

College	Fit Score	Academic Match	Highlights	Cost	Pick what to show
University of Miami Coral Gables, FL, Suburb near Large City 4 year, Private nonprofit PINNED FAVORITE	84%	Average: 3.8 Your: N/A SAT: 1390 ACT: 32 To determine if you're an academic match for this institution, enter your GPA and/or standardized test scores.	Photos/Videos on Profile Program Spotlights Virtual Tour	Tuition & Fees: \$47,040 Room & Board: \$13,666	Customize what you see category at
Faulkner University Montgomery, AL, Suburb near Large City 4 year, Private nonprofit, Churches of Christ PINNED FAVORITE	77%	Average: 2 Your: N/A SAT: 1000 ACT: 20.5 To determine if you're an academic match for this institution, enter your GPA and/or standardized test scores.	No Highlights Available	Tuition & Fees: \$19,160 Room & Board: \$7,400	Customize what you see category at

How to Research Colleges

1. Select **Colleges**
2. Select **Colleges I'm Thinking About**
3. Select the college you want to research
4. Review the college's general information in **Overview**
5. Scroll down to see how your GPA and test scores compare with others who have applied to the college
6. Continue researching the college by selecting **Studies, Student Life, Admissions, and Costs**
7. To learn even more about the college, return to **Colleges I'm Thinking About**
8. Select **More**
9. Select **Scattergram** to view
Application History, Acceptance Rate, Application Requirements, Recommended Courses, Application Factors, and Application Information
10. Select **Communicate** if you would like to send a message to the admission office



OTHER INFORMATION



APPLEROUTH

WEBINARS



GT ADMISSIONS

BLOG



LASSITER

COUNSELING

PAGE

**YOU
GOT
THIS.**

ENJOY Summer
PREPARE but don't feel
like you have to
complete the
application process
LET US HELP!