



## HIGHTOWER TRAIL MIDDLE SCHOOL PRESENTS

# HIGH SCHOOL & BEYOND PARENT NIGHT

### PSAT in 8th Grade

What the PSAT is  
Why early testing matters  
Summer preparation tips

### SAT in High School

Purpose of the SAT  
Why it's important  
How to prepare

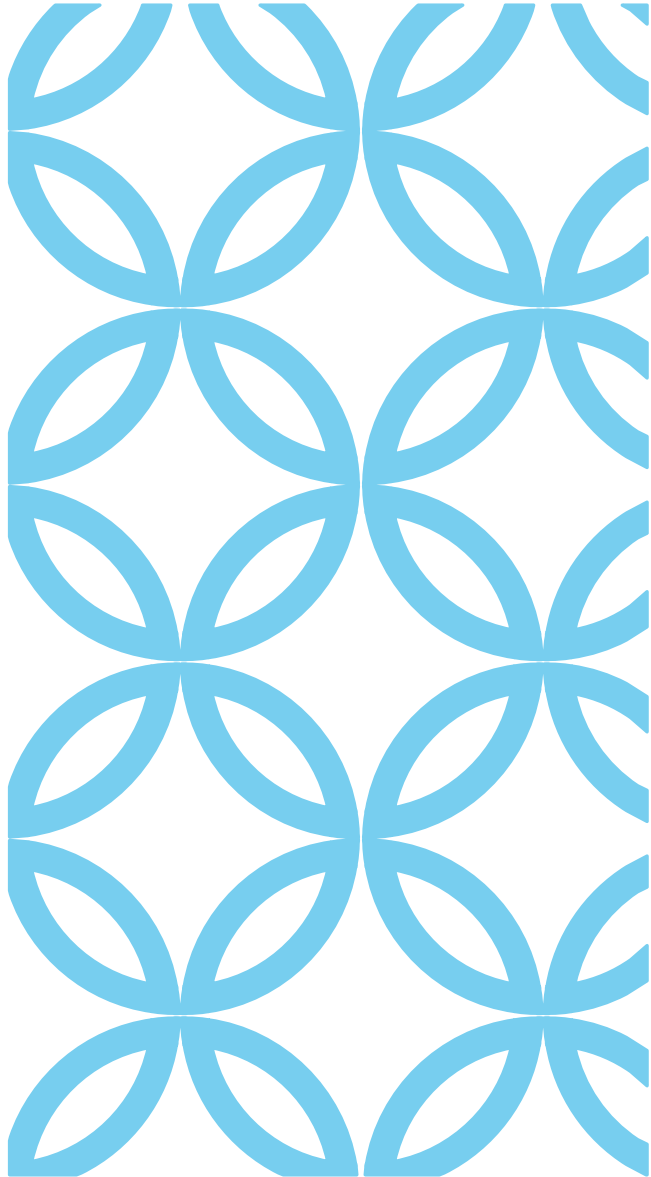
### Dual Enrollment

Understanding it  
What are the benefits  
What to know before high school

### What Colleges Seek

What colleges look for  
Common misconceptions  
How students stand out





PTSA Review

PSAT in 8<sup>th</sup>  
Grade

SAT in High  
School

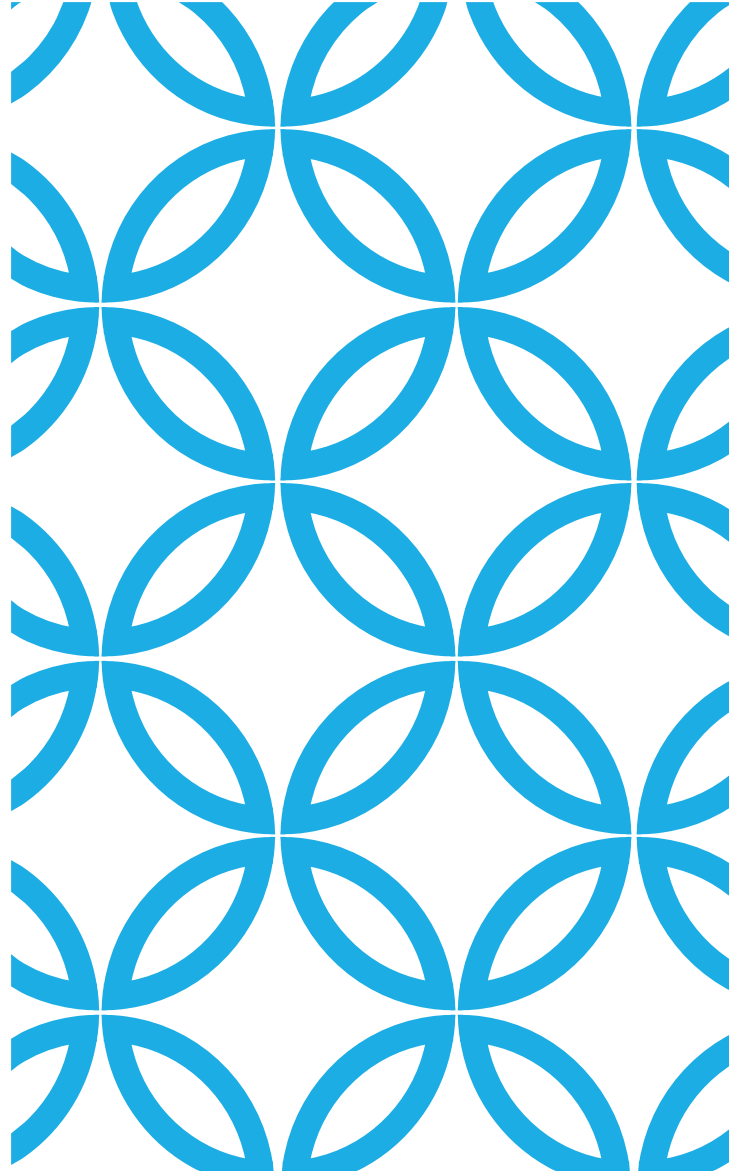
Dual  
Enrollment

What  
Colleges  
Seek

Q&A

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## AGENDA



# PSAT IN 8TH GRADE

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Huntington Learning Center

# What is the PSAT 8/9?

- A skills-based assessment in Reading, Writing, and Math geared towards 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Graders
- Created by the College Board (same organization as the SAT)
- Helps measure college-readiness skills early
- Low-stakes, practice-focused exam

# PSAT 8/9 – Reading & Writing Section

Area	Details
Total Time	64 Minutes
Total Questions	54 Multiple-Choice Questions
Passages	Literature, Social Studies, Science, Humanities
Reading Skills	<b>Main Idea, Details</b> , Inferencing, Evidence, Structure, Purpose, Vocab in Context, Cross Text Connections
Writing Skills	<b>Grammar</b> , Sentence Structure, Clarity, Organization, Transitions, Effective Writing

# PSAT 8/9 – Math Section

Area	Details
Total Time	70 Minutes
Total Questions	44 Multiple-Choice and Student Produced Response Questions
Math Topics	Arithmetic, Linear Algebra, Basic Geometry, Ratios, Rates, Probability, Nonlinear Functions, basic trig...
Additional Skills	Problem-Solving and Data Analysis

# Why Take the PSAT in 8th Grade?

- In Cobb County, the PSAT 8/9 score is used as part of the application process for competitive magnet programs. If you're applying to one of those programs, taking the PSAT 8/9 may be required or strongly recommended.
- Identifies strengths and learning gaps before high school: Reading efficiency, Writing, Math skills, Critical Thinking, Problem Solving,...
- Exposure to standardized testing, reducing anxiety
  - Builds familiarity with test structure and timing
  - Practice for test taking strategies

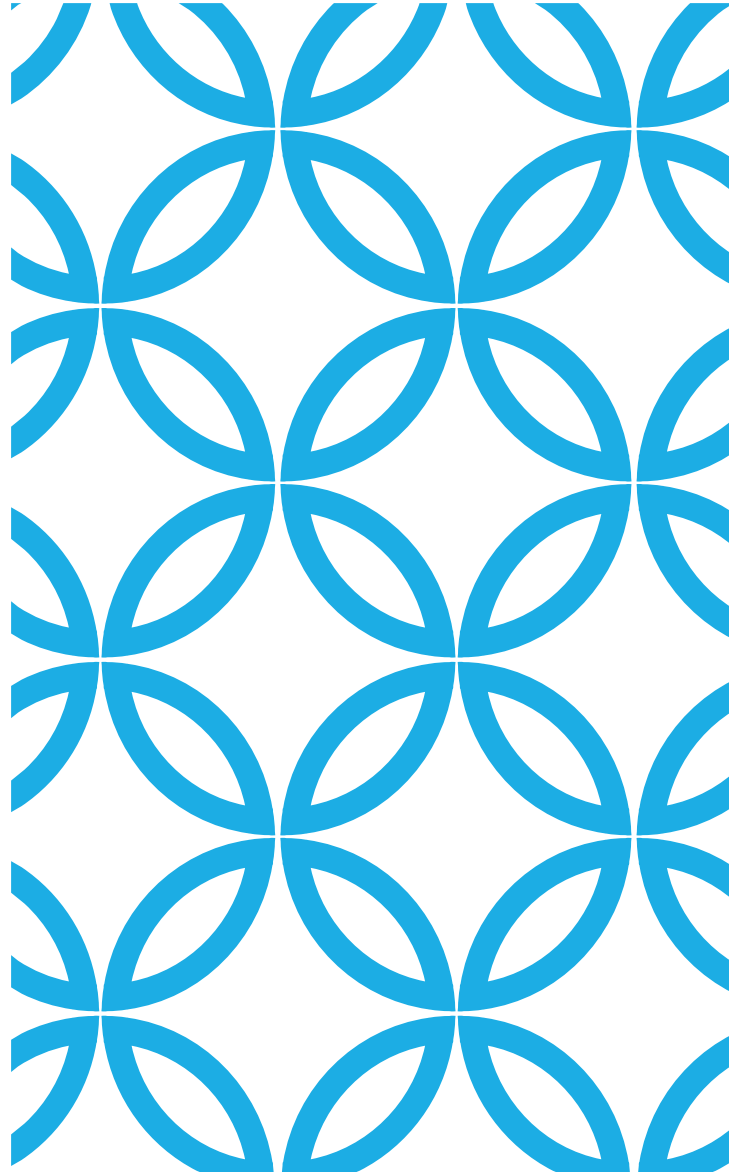
# Summer Preparation Guide

1. Take a Practice test
2. Identify the gaps  
ex: grammar, algebra, arithmetic, main idea...
3. Choose the easy fixes, or “quick wins,” to start with and work on these 30 minutes every day
4. Take the test again after working 20h
5. Identify the new gaps
6. Repeat practice and testing

# Final Takeaway for Parents

- Provides valuable academic insight
- PSAT 8/9 can be part of the application process for a Magnet Program.
- Builds confidence and familiarity early
- Reduces stress later in high school
- Summer can be a crucial moment to build the skills





# SAT IN HIGH SCHOOL

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College Board

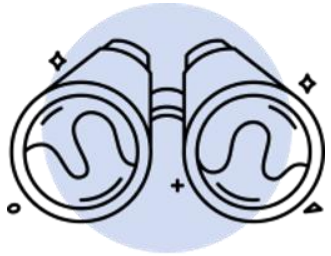


Start your students on  
their journey planning  
for college or career



# What do you want to do after high school?

It's ok to not know. It's getting started that matters. Explore today!



I don't know where to start!



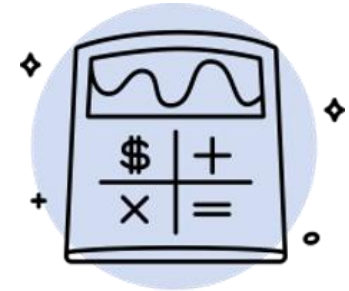
Take the career quiz



I don't know where to go for  
career training or school!



Take the college quiz

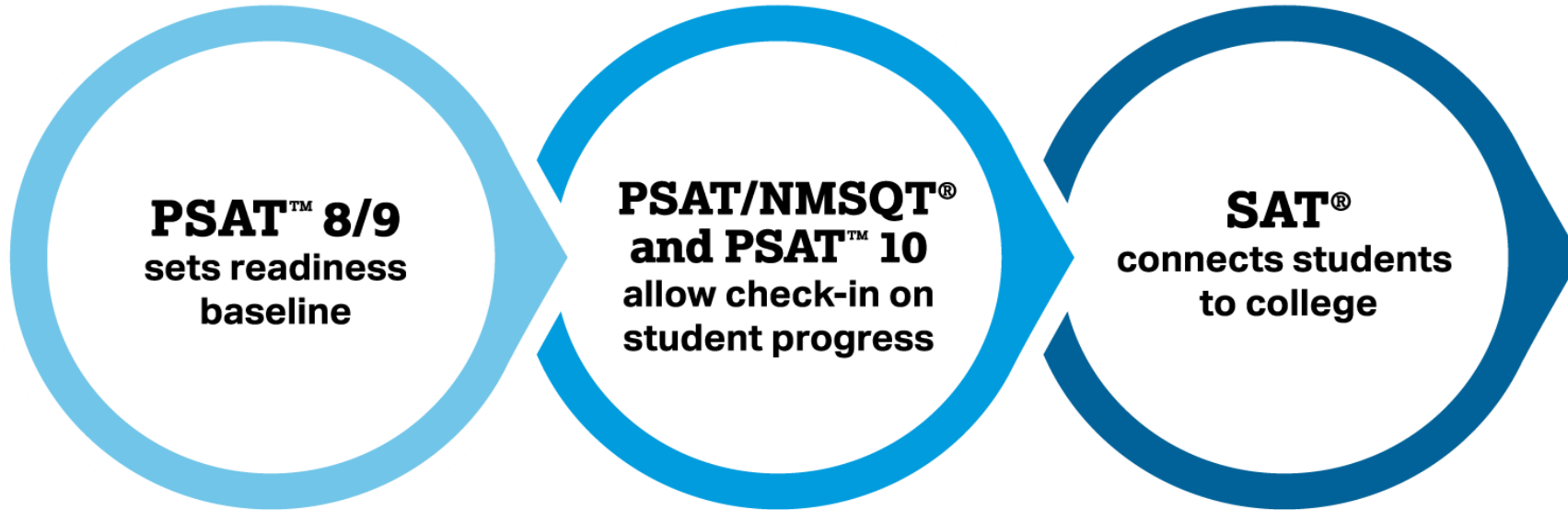


I don't know how to pay for it!

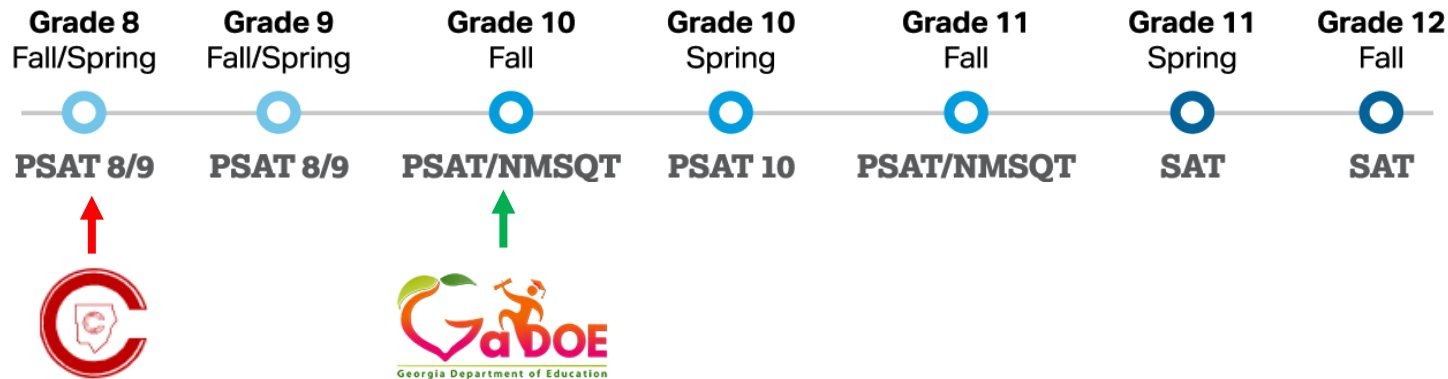


Take the scholarship quiz

# The SAT<sup>®</sup> Suite of Assessments



Practice and Preparation  
Whether you're taking the  
SAT on a weekend or  
school day, PSAT/NMSQT,  
PSAT 10, or *PSAT 8/9*, find  
your free practice  
resources here.



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# Factors in College Admissions

According to NACAC, college admission officers are currently ranking the following features of the application in order of importance:

1. **High school grades in college prep courses (AP/IB/DE)**
2. Overall High School GPA
3. Strength of high school curriculum overall
4. Positive character attributes
5. Essay / Sample Writing
6. Student's interest in attending
7. Counselor and teacher recommendations
8. Extracurricular activities/ Community Service
9. Class Rank
10. Standardized admission test scores (SAT/ACT)

In Georgia, starting in **Fall 2026**: the following 7 institutions will be test required: University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, Georgia State University, Georgia College & State University, Augusta University, Kennesaw State University, and Georgia Southern University.

# AP by the Numbers—Class of 2025

Year	AP Offerings
1956	12
2025	40 (with more in development)

## Then & Now

In 1956, AP began with 12 exams. Today, the AP Program offers over 40 courses across disciplines like STEM, the arts, world languages, and social sciences—with new offerings in subjects like Cybersecurity, Business with Personal Finance, and African American Studies.

### Arts

- 2-D Art and Design
- 3-D Art and Design
- Drawing
- Art History
- Music Theory

### English

- English Language and Composition
- English Literature and Composition
- English 10: Seminar

### History & Social Sciences

- African American Studies
- Government and Politics (Comparative)
- Government and Politics (U.S.)
- European History
- United States History
- World History: Modern
- Human Geography
- Psychology
- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics

### Capstone

- Seminar
- English 10: Seminar
- Research

### Math & Computer Science

- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC
- Computer Science A
- Computer Science Principles
- Precalculus
- Statistics

### Sciences

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Environmental Science
- Physics 1: Algebra-Based
- Physics 2: Algebra-Based
- Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
- Physics C: Mechanics

### World Languages & Cultures

- Chinese Language and Culture
- French Language and Culture
- German Language and Culture
- Italian Language and Culture
- Japanese Language and Culture
- Latin
- Spanish Language and Culture
- Spanish Literature and Culture

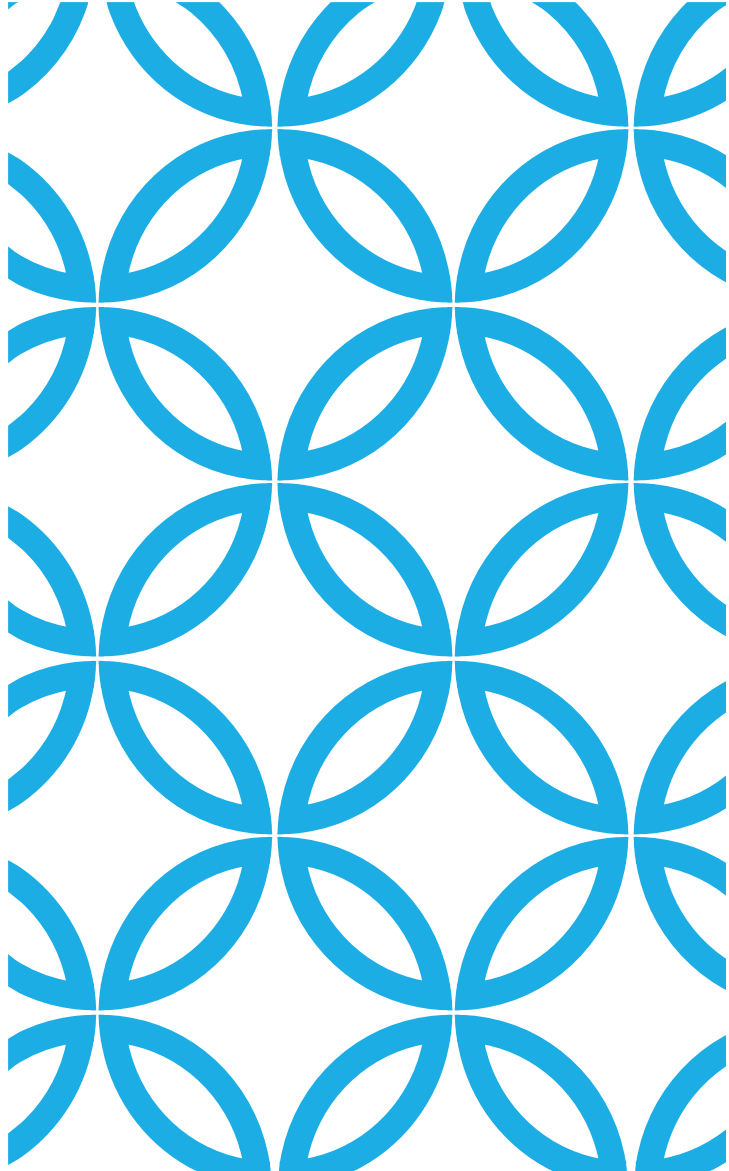
### Career Kickstart™

- 2026-27: Business with Personal Finance
- 2026-27: Cybersecurity
- 2027-28: Networking

## Did You Know?

<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/courses>

- **Over 3.1 million students** took AP Exams in 2025.
- AP is offered in **over 23,000 schools** across the U.S.
- AP helps students **earn college credit, stand out in admissions, and save on tuition.**



# DUAL ENROLLMENT

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Chattahoochee Technical College

# What is Dual Enrollment?

The **Dual Enrollment** program allows qualified high school students the opportunity to maximize their **education** and **career training** by taking courses that earn **college** and **high school credit** at the same time!



# Why Dual Enroll?

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Save time & money

Earn college credit while still in high school

Gain hands-on training & college experience

Become workforce ready

38 courses guaranteed to transfer



CHATTAHOOCHEE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

# Who is eligible for Dual Enrollment?

10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Graders

- 10th Graders eligible for CTAE Courses  
CORE classes: Require min SAT score of 1200 or min ACT composite score of 26 in a single national test administration
- 11th and 12th Graders eligible for ANY course in the directory at [Gafutures.org](http://Gafutures.org)

# GUARANTEED TRANSFER TO USG

*38 courses with direct transfer credit!*

University System of Georgia and TCSG institutions accept the general education courses below for transfer between their respective SACSCOC accredited institutions:

ARTS 1101 Art Appreciation

BIOL 1111 and BIOL 1111L Biology I

BIOL 1112 and BIOL 1112L Biology II

CHEM 1151 and CHEM 1151L Inorganic Chemistry

CHEM 1152 and CHEM 1152L Organic Chemistry

COMM 1100 Human Communication

ECON 1101 Principles of Economics

ECON 2105 Macroeconomics

ECON 2106 Microeconomics

ENGL 1101 Composition and Rhetoric

ENGL 1102 Literature and Composition

ENGL 2110 World Literature

ENGL 2130 American Literature

ENGL 2310 English Literature from Beginnings to 1700

HIST 1111 World History I

HIST 1112 World History II

HIST 2111 U.S. History I

HIST 2112 U.S. History II

HUMN 1101 Introduction to Humanities

MATH 1101 Mathematical Modeling

MATH 1103 Quantitative Skills and Reasoning

MATH 1111 College Algebra

MATH 1113 Precalculus

MATH 1127 Introduction to Statistics

MATH 1131 Calculus I

MUSC 1101 Music Appreciation

PHYS 1111 and PHYS 1111L Introductory Physics I

PHYS 1112 and PHYS 1112L Introductory Physics II

POLS 1101 American Government

POLS 2401 Global Issues

PSYC 1101 Introductory Psychology

PSYC 2103 Human Development

RELG 1101 World Religions

SOCI 1101 Introduction to Sociology

SPAN 1101 Introduction to Spanish Language and Culture I

SPAN 1102 Introduction to Spanish Language and Culture II

SPCH 1101 Public Speaking

THEA 1101 Theater Appreciation

# What is covered by Dual Enrollment Funding?

- **Tuition, mandatory fees & textbooks** 100% covered up to 30 credit hours ( 7-10 classes)
- **Textbooks/Access Codes** are provided by college library
- Course-specific **TOOLS/kits** are the responsibility of the student (i.e. Cosmetology, Auto Tech, Welding, etc.)
- All courses **must** be on the College Course Directory for DE funding approval on [Gafutures.org](http://Gafutures.org)



# Why Dual Enroll at CHATT TECH?



Assigned Student Outreach Specialists

Multiple campuses / convenient in-person & online class options

Convenient scheduling to work around High School schedule

Smaller class sizes

Academic core OR career-based technical classes

Industry-experienced technical program Instructors

**FREE** services available to ALL students:

Tutoring, Mental Health Counseling, Student Life/Clubs & Activities and more!

# Leveraging Dual Enrollment w/ Accelerated Career Diploma

## Complete All Nine Required High School Courses

- 2 English: Including the EOC course
- 2 Math: Including the EOC course
- 2 Science: Including the EOC course
- 2 Social Studies
- 1 Health / PE

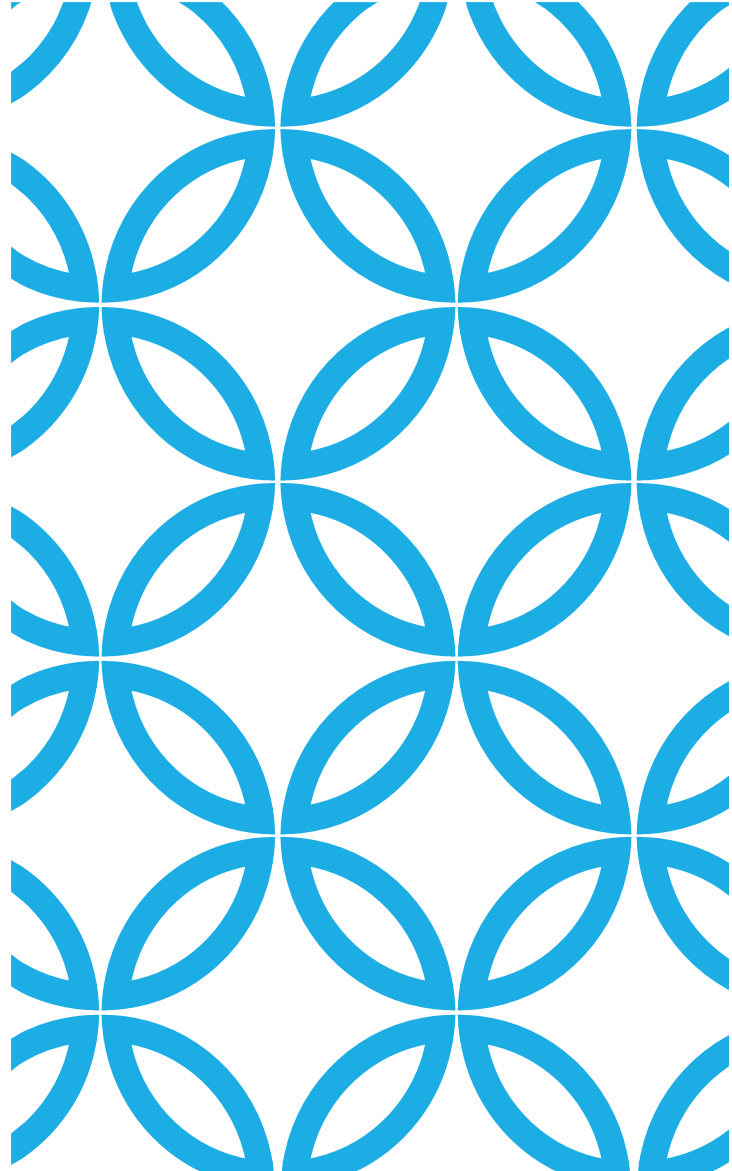
Students may replace one Social Studies course with an additional Math course. Local School Districts may NOT add additional requirements above the state minimum.



## Complete Any of the Following Technical College Credentials

- Two Technical Certificates of Credit (TCC)
- Program Leading to Licensure
- Any One Diploma
- Any One Associates of Applied Science Degree

Program offerings vary by campus.



# WHAT COLLEGES SEEK

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Kennesaw State University

# What Students Should Know as They Transition into High School



# ADMISSIONS ADVICE

- Be informed (use the Internet, school counselors, and college counselors).
- Be involved in the process.  
This is a family decision.
- Visit, visit, visit.



# WHAT IS YOUR STUDENT WANTING IN A COLLEGE?



- Public v. Private
- Research, Comprehensive, Professional/Technical, Liberal Arts
- Urban v. Suburban v. Rural
- Large v. Medium v. Small
- Distance from home
- National Rankings: U.S. News and World Report



# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

## Academic Rigor and GPA Trends

Colleges value challenging coursework like AP, IB, and honors, alongside upward GPA trends reflecting growth and resilience.

## Test Scores in Context

Standardized test scores are considered in context with academic background and school environment when submitted.

## Extracurricular Involvement

Depth and sustained commitment in extracurriculars, including leadership and teamwork, demonstrate character and initiative.

## Essays and Recommendations

Personal essays and recommendation letters reveal a student's personality, motivation, and values beyond academics.



# CLASSES ARE VERY IMPORTANT



- 4 years of English
- 4 years of Math
- 4 years of Science
- 3 years of Social Science
- 2 years of the same Foreign Language

**\*Based on GA requirements**

# How Can Students Differentiate Themselves?



## **Sustained Meaningful Activities**

Long-term involvement in activities shows genuine interest and skill development over time, valued by colleges.

## **Building Teacher Relationships**

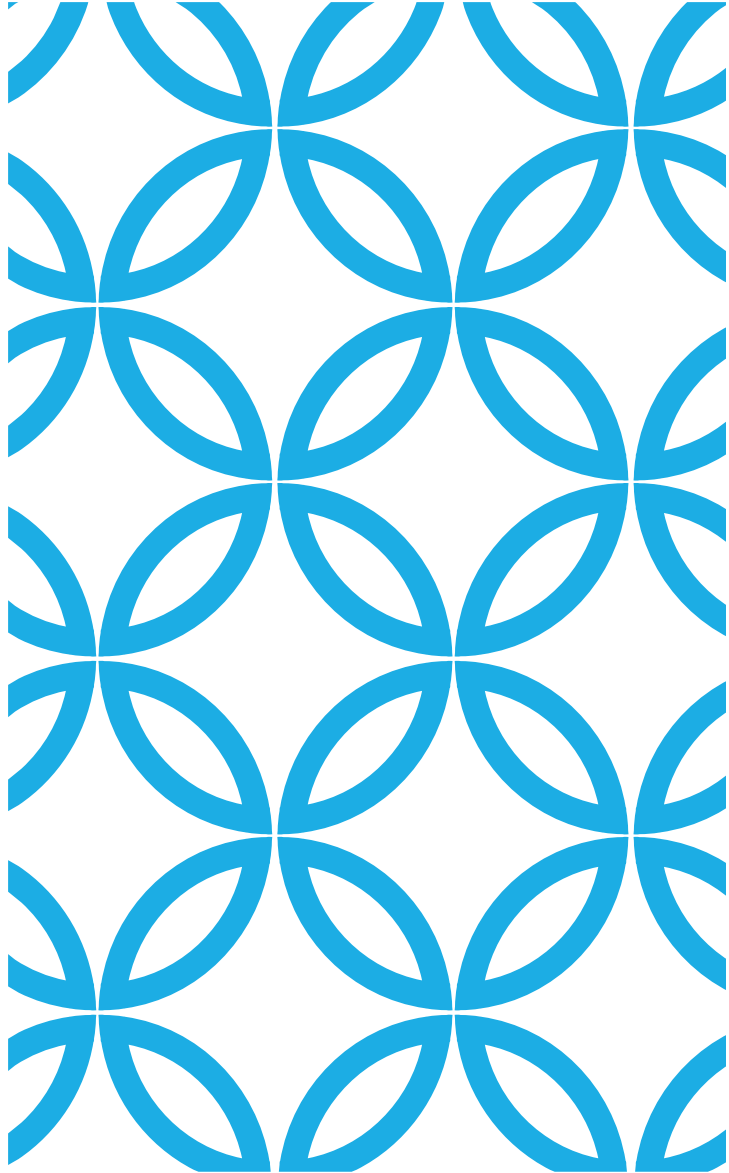
Strong connections with teachers lead to compelling recommendations highlighting effort, leadership, and character.

## **Real-World Experience**

Internships, research, and volunteer roles provide practical experience that clarifies goals and shows maturity.

## **Effective Study Habits**

Strong study skills and time management support academic success and prepare students for college rigor.



**THANK YOU**

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