

Gibbs Senior Night

Thank you for coming!

Please help us by signing in and completing the brief survey at the end of the presentation.

Introductions

Gibbs High School Counselors

- Kim Galyon: students last names A-F
- Malee Hogan: students last names G-M
- Marissa Buchanan & Sarah Draper: students last names N-Z

PATH to
COLLEGE

By the end of this session...

- I will know how to start my college and scholarship search
- I will have resources to direct my search
- I will have a basic understanding of how to start the financial aid process
- I will love my Gibbs' counselors more than ever before

How your counselor can help

We support you by

- Helping you develop post high school plans
- Conducting workshops & educational sessions
- Providing resources to help you make your college and scholarship search more effective
- Monitoring your progress toward meeting the graduation requirements

Upcoming workshops and events

- College App Week (September 16th – 20th)
 - Daily information sessions and workshops during lunch
- Knox County College and Career Fair (September 24th)
 - Field Trip for all Juniors and Seniors on track to graduate
- FAFSA Completion Workshops. Drop in between 5:00 – 6:20 pm (the event ends at 7:00 pm)
 - Thursday, October 3rd
 - Thursday, January 16th
- See handout and website for more important dates

Important things to remember

STUDENTS:

- *Letters of recommendation* – Download the GHS Brag Sheet on our School Counseling website/Senior side tab. Complete it and submit it to your school counselor at least **2 weeks** before any required deadlines.
- Make sure your college applications are complete

PARENTS:

- *Parent Portal* – Monitor your senior's grades
 - email helpdesk@knoxschools.org or submit a **Help! Form** from www.knoxschools.org website

Val, Sal, GPA's, & Transcripts

- Valedictorian and Salutatorian are determined at the end of the 7th semester (this December)
- Students are ranked in deciles
- Weighted & Unweighted GPA's
 - HOPE uses unweighted GPA: 3.0 GPA or 21 on ACT
- Request transcripts
 - Transcripts have to be requested through Parchment
- Final transcripts will automatically be sent to the schools you put on your senior survey

Finding the right college

- Use college search engines
 - A few of our favorites that help you find colleges that offer the major you want, explore careers, financial planning, etc.
 - www.collegeforTN.org
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
 - www.cappex.com
 - <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
 - Many to choose from
 - Guides your planning, saves your favorites

Choosing the right college

- Visit the websites for your colleges of interest
 - Admissions requirements
 - Collect info on admission requirements, tuition, & majors
- Narrow your choices
 - Top 3 choices (remember each has an application fee)
 - Always have a backup plan
 - Narrow your choices based on admission req.'s, tuition, majors offered, setting, location, etc.
- Tour the campus
 - 2 excused absences allowed for college visits
 - Get a feel for the place

Where do I start?

- Once you're ready to apply
 - Go to the college's website
 - Find "Apply Now" or the admissions page
 - Begin application
 - Don't forget to request your transcript

Getting started with Financial Aid and Scholarships

- Complete the FAFSA (opens October 1st) - Free Application for Federal Student Aid
 - www.fafsa.ed.gov (never pay a fee to complete!)
 - FAFSA4caster - get an estimate of your eligibility
 - Required for TN Promise and HOPE scholarships, federal loans, and grants
 - Required for post-secondary schools to build a financial aid package for you
 - October and January workshops to assist
- Look on the Gibbs “School Counseling” webpage often
 - This is where we will post local and national scholarships
- Sign up with scholarship search engines
- Get to know your college admissions counselor where your child will be attending

Financial Aid & Scholarships

- Contact the experts - your college admissions counselor or the university's financial aid office
- Scholarships are not just for the straight A students
- Apply early before the deadlines if possible...the money goes fast!
- Apply, apply, apply.....

Improve your ACT score

- Take the ACT again if you want or need to improve your score
 - Register online at www.act.org
 - Upcoming test dates
 - Senior Retake at Gibbs – October 1st
 - October 26th – Sign up by September 20th
 - December 14th – Sign up by November 8th
 - Free ACT test prep
 - ACT books and resources in the GHS Library
 - Number2.com
 - knoxlib.org (need a library card to log on)
 - See our School Counseling website for additional resources

Getting “Paid” to Play

- To be eligible to play college sports you must register with either NCAA or NAIA (depending on the type of school you want to attend)
- NCAA = www.eligibilitycenter.org
- NAIA = www.playnaia.org
- See your coach for more information

Don't Forget - Use the Library!

- College and Career Books
- Scholarship Search Books
- ACT Preparation Materials and Books (online; can access from home)
- Individual College Files
- AP Preparation Books
- Helpful Website Resources
- Delightful Librarian

Building Skills for Success

- Student to advocate for himself/herself
- Students should complete their applications
- College questions and concerns
 - Student to contact financial aid and admissions offices with questions and concerns

Summing it all up

- Finding the right college and scholarships is up to you
- We strive to provide user-friendly resources and meaningful guidance to help you complete this important and challenging project
- Questions?

Help us improve

Please follow this link to complete our SUPER short survey before leaving the auditorium:

<https://forms.gle/Fugrebs3Whze76Y49>

We value your feedback.

Follow us on Twitter & Instagram:

@_GHSCounseling