
CHEROKEE BLUFF HIGH SCHOOL



SENIORS 2021-2022

Make sure to follow the senior remind (students and parents) for information throughout the year and especially nearing graduation!!!

- Senior Remind: @cbluff2122 (Text @cbluff2122 to 81010)
- CBHS Website: cbhs.hallco.org

****Senior Yearbook Information ****

- Yearbook Sponsors: Kim McGuirt (kim.mcguirt@hallco.org) and Chelsea Millwood (chelsea.millwood@hallco.org)
 - Please direct all yearbook questions to Mrs. McGuirt or Mrs. Millwood.

ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ARE DUE ON NOVEMBER 5TH...

1. SENIOR FORMAL PICTURES

(visit cadystudios.com or call 678-722-3312 to make appointment)

2. SENIOR CASUAL PICTURES

(either schedule through Cady Studios or upload your own at bluffyearbook.com)

3. SENIOR QUOTE (upload at bluffyearbook.com)

4. SENIOR AD/TRIBUTE (upload at bluffyearbook.com)

YEARBOOKS ON SALE AT <http://www.bluffyearbook.com/>

COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST

Spring Semester (Junior Year)

- Start thinking about your future plans; take a career survey at www.gafutures.org
- Make a folder for all important college/career planning information. You'll need it!
- Register for the ACT at www.actstudent.org and/or the SAT at www.collegeboard.org.
- Study for the SAT and ACT. Purchase a study book or use free online resources.
- Attend a college fair. Check www.nacacnet.org or www.gaprobe.org for dates. You can also attend fairs electronically by visiting www.collegeweeklive.com.
- Seek out internships or chances to "shadow" people in careers you are interested in.
- Visit www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org to search and compare schools.
- Use your Spring Break to take tours of colleges you are interested in!
- List 5 possible schools. Look at safe, reach, and stretch schools.

School Name/Website	Early Decision Deadline	Regular Admission Deadline	What appeals to me? (Ex. Size, Location, Majors)	Special Information Needed. (Ex. Recommendations, etc)

Summer (Junior Year)

- Plan College Visits. As a senior, you are allowed to have 1 excused absence for visits.
- Begin working on your resume or brag sheet.
- Retake the ACT and/or SAT if you are not happy with your score.

Fall Semester (Senior Year)

- Complete your applications (transcripts, test scores, recommendations, etc).
- If you need recommendations, ask teachers and counselors (**2 week notice**), a brag sheet **MUST** be filled out prior.
- Request transcripts to be sent to schools.
- Send your SAT and/or ACT scores electronically.
- If you are attending a Technical College, Accuplacer is needed. (Scheduled with each school.)
- Attend the financial aid meeting. (September 27, 2021 6-8pm @ CBHS theater)
- Fill out the FAFSA for HOPE grant and scholarship at www.fafsa.ed.gov. **This can be done starting in October now!!!**

Spring Semester (Senior Year)

- Apply for scholarships (through prospective college and outside funding).
- Accept admissions
- Fill out form to have your final transcript sent upon graduation (to come out via REMIND).

TYPES OF ADMISSIONS DECISIONS

The following are some of the most frequently mentioned admissions practices.

EARLY DECISION

Early decision allows a student to apply between October and mid-January for an early determination of admissibility. If accepted, the student is obligated to attend. The student may submit other applications during this period, but only one can be Early Decision. If accepted through the Early Decision program, the student must withdraw all other applications. Please keep in mind that if you apply for Early Decision and are accepted, ***IT IS BINDING!***

EARLY ACTION

Early Action is a plan offered by a few schools that invites early applications, but does not require the student to attend if accepted. The application deadline is usually in early November. It allows the student to receive notice of admission, but is not binding. The student usually has until May 1st to inform the school of his/her decision.

DEFERRED DECISION

The college or university determines that more information is needed to make a final decision about a candidate's application. Often the decision is delayed until the second semester and/or new test scores are received.

ROLLING ADMISSIONS

The college will notify the applicant as soon as the application has been processed (usually four to six weeks) and the file is complete. It is to the student's advantage to apply early.

OPEN ADMISSIONS

Students are accepted after application completion (usually community colleges).

DEFERRED ADMISSION

Deferred Admission permits a student, once accepted, to postpone matriculation for one year in order to pursue other plans.

EXPLORING POST-SECONDARY OPTIONS

Remember that there are over 7,000 post-secondary options in the United States. You have a *lot* of choices when it comes to higher education. What's next after high school? Even if you're unsure what path to take, you have to start planning now for your future. The same skills and knowledge needed to get into college are also necessary to get a good job.

Degree Programs:

1. **Certificate and Diploma Programs:** Usually a program you can finish in less than two years, sometimes one. These programs are very career-specific and lead to employment opportunities.
2. **Associate of Arts (A.A.) or Associate of Science (A.S.):** A degree awarded after completing a two-year college program.
3. **Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or Bachelor of Science (B.S.):** A degree awarded after completing a four- or five-year college program.

Four-year universities and colleges offer B.A. or B.S. degrees.

1. Most four-year college students focus on coursework full time and work no more than part-time. Graduates from four-year colleges and universities are in greater demand by employers and generally earn more money than non-graduates. Tuition costs can be high and may include fees or living on-campus, but some financial aid is available for all students.
2. A common misconception is that you need to know what you want to do before going to college. On the contrary, college is a place to explore your interests and abilities in a multitude of new areas. Liberal Arts colleges, for example, encourage you to experiment in different fields before declaring a major. Most colleges require students to declare their major by the end of sophomore year. Students who do know what they want to major in can apply to that area of study from the very beginning. Undecided students can sample a variety of courses before concentrating.

Community/ Technical colleges generally require 2 years of coursework to earn a degree.

These schools are open to everyone, though a high school diploma or GED is usually required. They are relatively inexpensive and offer flexible class schedules. It is often possible to transfer to a four-year school to get a B.A. or B.S. after earning your Associate's degree.

U.S military provides training and money for education.

Options include enlistment, military academies and Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC programs). Many colleges and universities offer ROTC programs for one or more branches of the military. In addition to regular coursework, ROTC cadets take classes on military science and participate in physical and leadership training outside of the classroom. ROTC graduates can earn a B.A. or B.S., but most enter the military as an officer with a four-year active duty or eight-year inactive duty commitment after college.

Uncertain of which option to follow or which career path matches your interests and skills? We recommend that you use GAfutures (www.gafutures.org) to help you with this process or YouScience.

BUILDING A COLLEGE LIST

When building a college list it is important to consider the following characteristics:

- Campus Size/Student Population
- Location: City, Suburban, Rural
- Cost: Tuition, Financial Aid, Scholarships
- Programs and Majors Offered
- On-Campus Activities: Sports and Greek System

After you determine a college is an overall fit, it is generally a good rule to follow these guidelines when you are deciding where to apply:

Students should have on their list:

- ***One or two safety colleges:*** colleges to which they will almost certainly be admitted.
- ***Some “matches”:*** colleges where their GPA, test scores, and other features look very similar to those of recent entering classes.
- ***A reach (or two):*** colleges where they meet the criteria for admission, but may not have the stellar qualifications of most first year students.

Ultimately, deciding how many schools to apply to is a family decision. However, counselors generally recommend to consider applying to one to two schools in each category.

TIPS FOR WRITING COLLEGE APPLICATION ESSAYS

1. Be concise-admissions officers must read thousands of essays
2. Be honest-do not inflate achievements or accomplishments
3. Be an individual-how can you distinguish yourself from other applicants to the college?
4. Be coherent-do not try to cover your life story with one essay; a college application is a “snap shot” not the entire story
5. Be accurate-spelling, punctuation, etc. (proofread)
6. Be vivid-provide details in order to be relatable
7. Be likeable-how well do you communicate with others?
8. Be smart-do not just state your intended major, but elaborate on why the subject intrigues you to continue pursuing it

TIPS FOR WRITING AN ACADEMIC RESUME

- *Name, address, email, phone number.*
- *Education information.* This includes the name and address of the high school, GPA, and class rank. College courses can also go in this section, if the student has taken any.
- *Activities.* These can be in or out of school—for example, marching band, intramural basketball, or youth group at the student’s church. Especially important are any leadership roles the student has taken in these groups.
- *Other experience.* A part-time job, participation in a walk for cancer awareness, or contribution to a science fair are all pertinent details.
- *Accolades.* Academic awards or awards in extracurricular competition—state wrestling champion or member of the top-ranking marching band in the region, for example.
- *References.* Names and phone numbers of teachers, coaches, employers, or internship directors don’t necessarily have to go on the resume, but it’s good to have these people lined up in advance.
- *Anything else that makes you “shine.”* A resume is the one chance a student will have to tell college recruiters everything they need to know. If something makes the student unique and interesting, by all means include it. Fluency in a foreign language or proficiency in advanced computer programs may qualify here. A word of caution, however: Don’t go overboard. The resume should contain only what a specific school will want to know.

Testing Preparation and Dates

The SAT and ACT are important components of the college admissions process. Students who take time to study for these tests see positive results. You can study by taking a class, using internet resources, and/or reviewing with a test preparation book. It is highly recommended that you take a practice test prior to your testing date.

Internet Resources: *Many of these websites offer free tools.*

- www.collegeboard.org
- www.actstudent.org
- www.princetonreview.com
- www.kaptest.com
- www.khanacademy.com
- www.march2success.com
- www.satexamprep.com

If you receive free and/or reduced lunch, come to the counseling office to receive a testing waiver. Cherokee Bluff testing code (CEEB Code): 110270 (Use this code when registering and/or on testing day so the school receives your scores.)

ACT (sign up at actstudent.org)

Test Dates	Registration Dates
September 11	August 6
October 23	September 17
December 11	November 5
February 12	January 7
April 2	February 25
June 11	May 6
July 16	June 17

SAT (sign up at collegeboard.org)

Test Dates	Registration Dates
SCHOOL Day: October 13	Sign up w/ Mrs. Catrina by September 10
October 2	September 3
November 6	October 8
December 4	November 4
March 12	February 11
May 7	April 8
June 4	May 5

MILITARY OPTIONS

Take the ASVAB: Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test

If you plan on joining the military one of the most important tests you will take before you enlist is the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test, also known as the ASVAB test. This test measures strengths and weaknesses and is usually a good indicator of what type of career path would suit your skills and interests.

Contact a Recruiter

Often, an armed forces recruiter will visit our school during lunchtime. Usually, these recruiters are members of the military whose main job is to find and recruit individuals into the military. If you're interested in exploring your military options, you'll need to set up a meeting with a recruiter to discuss your options and determine if you qualify to join the military.

Mrs. Purdy can get you in touch with the appropriate recruiter!

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

Breakdown of the Financial Aid Terminology:

- **Scholarships:** An award that does not have to be repaid. Scholarships are generally granted based on an applicant meeting certain eligibility criteria.
- **Grants:** A grant is a financial award given to a student for the purposes of paying for all or part of college expense. A grant does not need to be repaid by the student.
- **Loans:** Financial Aid awards that the student or parent borrows from a lender, the school or other third party. Loans must be repaid by the borrower, usually with interest.

(EVERYONE needs to sign up for www.fastweb.com; sends scholarship opportunities directly to email!)

Sources of Financial Aid:

- **Federal Government:** The federal government is the largest source of financial aid. Awards are based on financial need. Students fill out the Federal Application for Student Aid each year. Visit www.fafsa.gov for additional information.
- **Colleges and Universities:** Schools offer a wide variety of aid and scholarships to students. These awards are both merit-based and need-based. Students might need to complete an additional application for scholarships or it may be offered as part of the admissions process. Contact your school of interest for additional information.
- **Private Sources:** Churches, companies, and other organizations offer a variety of scholarships for students. Each organization has a specific set of qualification requirements. For additional information contact local organizations or visit scholarship search websites.

Georgia's Hope Program:

- The **HOPE Scholarship** program is for students that are seeking a college degree and plan on attending college in Georgia. A 3.0 GPA in academic courses (Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, Science, and Foreign Language) is required. A part of your college tuition will be covered. This amount will vary depending on projected lottery revenues and expenditures. A SSN is needed for processing.
- The **HOPE Grant** program is for students seeking a technical certification or diploma, regardless of the student's high school grade point average or graduation date. This will cover a certain percentage of tuition at a Georgia public technical college or public college or university.
- The **Zell Miller Scholarship** program is for students who have demonstrated academic achievement and that are seeking a college degree in Georgia. To become eligible, a student must graduate with a 3.70 GPA in academic courses and a minimum score of 1200 on the SAT (Critical Reading and Math, one sitting) or 26 on the ACT in one sitting.

You can check your HOPE GPA using www.gafutures.org.



Senior Brag Sheet

As you prepare to apply for college, you will need letters of recommendation and applications to be completed by teachers and your counselor. In order to give colleges an accurate picture of who you are and what you have accomplished, please complete this form and email or return it to your teacher and/or counselor at least two weeks before the recommendation is due. The more we know, the more we can brag!

If any section does not apply to you, you may leave it blank. PLEASE PRINT.

Name _____

I plan to apply to (list colleges): _____

List the clubs/fine arts/sports/extracurricular activities you participated in during high school:

Activity	Grade(s) Participated (circle all that apply)	Leadership Role/Office Held
_____	9 10 11 12	_____
_____	9 10 11 12	_____
_____	9 10 11 12	_____
_____	9 10 11 12	_____

Honors/Awards Received

9 10 11 12 _____
9 10 11 12 _____
9 10 11 12 _____
9 10 11 12 _____

1. Name 3 adjectives that describe you and explain each. (Avoid using diligent, determined, intelligent and hard-working).

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

2. Why do you want to attend college? Which colleges might be good matches for the major you want to pursue?

3. What's your passion? What intrigues you? What activity would you engage in even if it meant no monetary award or recognition?

4. Describe the assets/characteristics that will set you apart from thousands of other applicants applying for college.

5. Write about your experiences as a leader. How have you made an impact at CBHS or in your community?

6. What is your favorite quotation and why?

7. Are there extenuating circumstances in your life which have affected your grades (illness, death in the family, divorce, move, family problems, etc.)?

8. What do you want to get out of college besides a degree?

9. Is there anything else you think we should know? (Attach another page, if necessary)

RESOURCES: FINANCIAL PREPARATIONS FOR COLLEGE

It's important for high school students and their parents to be aware of steps they can begin doing early in the senior year, and even earlier, to prepare for financing college. Knowing when and how to pursue various financial aid options will make for a less stressful college application process. Below are some helpful resources.

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) www.fafsa.gov

- FAFSA now available to file as of **October 1**
 - FAFSA is a need analysis form found at fafsa.gov; federal formula aimed at putting all students on equal playing field; colleges use FAFSA to determine eligibility for grants, work programs, and student loans
 - FAFSA now uses prior-year tax return information; go ahead and file FAFSA with previous year tax returns.
 - Make every attempt to transfer tax information into FAFSA using **IRS Data Retrieval Tool** (more accurate information = time saved and "cleaner" results)
 - Student and parent must apply for Federal Student Aid ID to enable electronic signatures; apply at fsaid.ed.gov
 - More information about federal aid programs at studentaid.gov; fun and informative videos at fafsa.gov
-

www.studentaid.gov

- U.S. Department of Education site dedicated to providing the most up-to-date information regarding student financial aid programs available through the federal government.
-

www.gafutures.org

- Georgia site, administered by the Georgia Student Finance Commission, devoted to college planning and financial aid resources, including the HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship/Grant.
 - Students can register on the site and create a profile as early as middle school.
 - High school seniors may track high school GPA for HOPE Scholarship eligibility.
 - Submit online state grant/scholarship application (GSFAPPS)-ONE time only.
 - Students may use this site to send their transcripts to colleges.
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Scholarship Search

- Search engines help match scholarships to students based on a variety of attributes, offer tips on writing scholarship essays, and provide general college financing information and advice.
 - www.goodcall.com/scholarships
 - www.fastweb.com
 - Reputable scholarship search engine and college planning site
 - Students may register and set up a personal profile that includes academics and career plans
 - Fastweb will notify students of scholarship opportunities that match up with their individual profiles
 - www.scholarships360.com
 - <https://www.salliemae.com/college-planning/college-scholarships/>
 - www.hsf.net (Hispanic Scholarship Fund)
 - www.uncf.org (United Negro College Fund)
 - College Financial Aid websites
 - High School Counseling Office; Remind (@cbluff2122 to 81010)
 - Local Clubs and Civic Organizations
 - Churches
 - Parents' Employers
-

<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>

- College Navigator is the U.S. government's college affordability and transparency center.
- Provides students with information on college costs and what typical students pay after scholarships/grants.
- School comparison tools available

Mrs. Purdy sends various scholarships throughout the year in Remind: Please join!!!!

Virtual College Tours and Information Sessions

- Peach State Tour: www.peachstatetour.org
- [YouVisit](#)
- [Strive Scan Virtual College Exploration](#) (here you can watch pre-recorded info sessions and workshops on a wide variety of college related topics).

College Terms Glossary

Advanced Placement Test (AP)

A test given to high school students, usually at the end of their junior or senior year, after they have completed certain AP or Honors courses. Many colleges give advanced standing and/or credit for these College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) sponsored tests if students earn a score of 3, 4, or 5 on them.

CollegeBoard

A college planning website where students prepare and register for SAT's, research and compare colleges, and explore career options. bigfuture.collegeboard.org

College Scholarship Services (CSS) Profile

The financial aid application service required by many private colleges and universities to help them award non-federal student aid funds.

profileonline.collegeboard.com

Common Application

An online form that allows a student to submit one application to many different schools. Most schools also require supplemental forms. www.commonapp.org

Cost of attendance (COA)

The total cost for one year of college. It includes direct costs such as tuition, fees, food, and housing, as well as indirect costs such as transportation, personal expenses, books and supplies.

Deferred

Being deferred from a college means, they are postponing their admissions decision and will review your application with the regular-decision applicants. You'll find out in the spring if you've been accepted or rejected.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

The amount you and your family are expected to contribute toward college costs. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) determines your EFC.

Early Action

You can apply to an early action school and receive your admission response early. The decision is usually nonbinding, but you may need to agree to forgo applying to other early action/early decision institutions. When conditions apply it is sometimes called Restrictive Early Action.

Early Decision

A binding agreement between you and the school. You apply early, and if admitted, are bound to attend the school. The application deadline occurs early and the admission decision is delivered early.

Fee Waiver

Permits eligible students to submit college applications or standardized test registration forms without the fee. Students should see their counselor to get fee waivers.

Financial Aid

Financial aid includes grants, scholarships, loans, and part-time employment from federal, state, institutional and private sources. These types of aid are combined to create an "award package." The type and amount of aid you receive is determined by financial need, available funds, academic performance, application quality, and sometimes the timeliness of your application.

Financial Need

The difference between what your family is expected to contribute and the total cost of attendance for one year of college. Financial Need equals Cost of Attendance (COA) minus Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

This free application must be filed every year to receive most forms of financial aid from the federal government, including loans, grants, and work-study.

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

Federal Student Aid ID (FSAID)

Secure, personal login information used in order to access and update the FAFSA.

Full Need College

A college or university that promises to make sure every penny of an accepted student's demonstrated financial need is covered through grants, work-study, scholarships, and in some cases, federal student loans, is considered a 100% meet need college.

Grants (Federal and State vs. Institutional)

Grants are free money offered to a student based on the information reported on their FAFSA. Federal grants include the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) and Pell Grant, while State grants in New Jersey include the Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) and Education Opportunity Fund (EOF), among others. Additionally, some schools offer their own institutional grants. <http://www.hesaa.org/>

Liberal Arts Colleges

Colleges that have an undergraduate focus, small class sizes, a broad curriculum that focuses on critical thinking and writing skills, and a residential school community.

Loans (Federal vs. Private)

Students are offered federal loans through the Department of Education's Direct Loan program, which generally have steady and lower interest rates. Private loans are offered by banks and other private lenders and can have varying interest rates.

Merit-based Financial Aid

Financial aid given to a student based on high academic, athletic, artistic, or community service achievement.

Need-based Financial Aid

Financial aid given to students with a demonstrated financial need.

Net Price Calculator

An online tool designed to provide you with an estimate of your eligibility for both merit and need-based assistance at a school. The results from the Net Price Calculator will show you how affordable a school can be when combining financial assistance and your own family resources. The Net Price Calculator will present you with a sample financial aid award.

Public vs. Private Colleges

Public colleges are run by the state or other government agency and are managed by public boards. Governments do not run private colleges.

Rolling admissions

A process in which a school reviews applications and makes decisions on them at different times throughout the year.

Room and Board

Expenses in a school's cost of attendance (COA) for housing and meal-plan.

SAT I Reasoning Test

A standardized test for college admissions. The SAT is owned by the College Board and is intended to assess a student's readiness for college. SAT I Reasoning Test, includes three sections: Math, Critical Reading, and Writing.

SAT II Subject Tests

Many highly selective schools require students to take two or three SAT II Subject Tests. Students take the SAT II Subject Tests to demonstrate to colleges their mastery of specific subjects.

Scholarships

A college scholarship is a free monetary award based on criteria given by the awarding party. It can be given on the basis of academic merit, athletic ability, financial need or other criteria specific to the group giving the award.

Student Aid Report (SAR)

A summary of the information submitted on your FAFSA. Your expected family contribution (EFC) can be found in the student aid report (SAR).

Subsidized and unsubsidized loans

Unsubsidized loans start accruing interest right after they are taken out, while subsidized loans do not start accruing interest until after a student graduates. Students are expected to start making payments on both six months after they graduate.

Test Optional College

An admissions policy that means some applicants can choose not to submit SAT or ACT scores. Some test-optional colleges require scores if students are out of state or international, are declaring certain majors, or are applying for scholarships from the college.

Tuition

The amount colleges charge for each hour of class time. Tuition does not include the cost of books, fees, room, or board (food). Tuition charges also vary from college to college.

University

A university offers undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees. Professors at universities are generally less focused on teaching and more focused on research.

Unmet need

The difference between a school's cost of attendance and your total financial aid award + expected family contribution. [Unmet Need = COA – (Total Award + EFC)]

Wait-List

A term used in admissions for when an institution may initially delay offering or denying admission, but instead extend the possibility of admission in the future.

Work-Study

The work-study program allows students to earn money and work experience while in college. Jobs are usually part-time, allowing you to attend classes and to study simultaneously. Work-study appears on a student's financial aid package, but is not given to the student up front like loans and grants. Funds from work-study must be earned over the course of the school year through work.