



FOR

# GA MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS

## August Monthly Focus

For the month of August we are focusing on student's either creating a GAcademy411 account or updating their account. The beginning of the school year is a great time to remind students to log in and update their information.

## Professional Center Updates

Last year one of the major suggestions that you had was for there to be various access levels to the Professional Center. We're pleased to announce that you now have additional options when creating an account. There are now three different access levels: Professional Account, Administrator Account, and Transcripts Professional Account. The levels will give access to the following tabs:

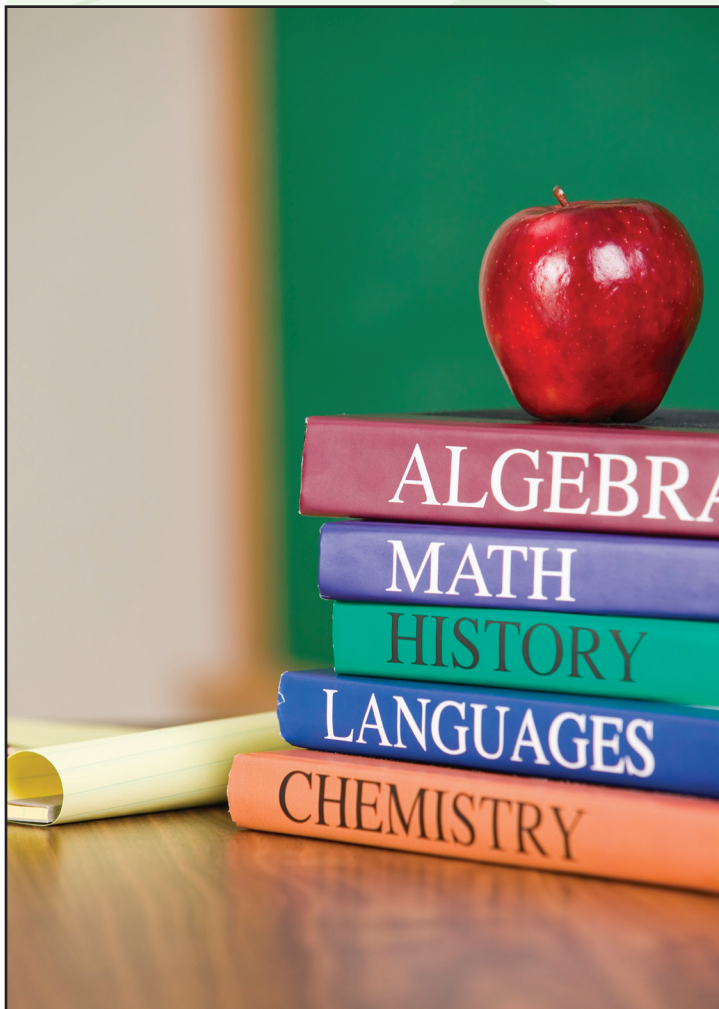
**Professional Account:** Students and Groups, Reports, Communications and Resources

**Administrator Account:** Students and Groups, Reports, Communications, Resources, Transcripts and Administration

**Transcripts Professional Account:** Students and Groups, Reports, Communications, Resources and Transcripts

You can modify account access for individuals on the Administration Tab if you are the Professional Center Administrator.

If your school needs access to the Professional Center, you need to complete and [return the access form](#).



## Welcome Back!

It's the beginning of a new school year and we're excited to provide The 411 on 411 to you again this year. We have lots of things going on at Georgia Student Finance Commission and with the GAcademy411 website. We know it is going to be a great year and we are looking forward to working with each of you.

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## Releasing Student Accounts

As a reminder, it is a great time to release accounts from your school if students are no longer there. This will keep those students from showing up on your reports. Please remember, it is not necessary to give a list of user id's and passwords to the counselor at another school. As soon as the student has associated themselves with the new school, the new counselor will be able to see all of their information and the items they have completed on GAcademy411.org.

## Training

We will be offering Professional Center training across the state in September. You can view the dates and locations and register, by [viewing the flyer](#) that was sent out via email. We have heard from many of you that you would like to see additional locations and dates. Please [check the Events Calendar](#) on GAcademy411 for additional times and dates.

We will also offer webinars on GAcademy411 starting in September. Watch for an announcement about these dates soon!

## Are you looking for Professional Learning Opportunities?

Georgia is extremely lucky to have an opportunity for counselors to take modules that are intended to provide high quality, online professional learning for certified middle grades and high school counselors to improve their effectiveness in preparing all students for college and careers as well as postsecondary enrollment professionals to improve their effectiveness in working with students to enroll in college and apply for financial aid. The modules include strategies for advising all students – particularly first generation college students from low-income families.

Modules include practical reading assignments, online and off-line activities, virtual counselor scenarios,

assistance in building a resource bank that counselors can incorporate immediately into their work with students, and a culminating project appropriate for use in resumes. The modules do not have pre-requisites, so participants are not required to take all three 8-week modules.

The modules are designed for participants to receive Professional Learning Units (PLUs) for the individual modules. Each module includes eight 1-week sessions that require an average of about 5 hours per week to complete. Participants who complete a module will earn four PLUs or four CEU's.

The next session will begin on October 4th, 2010. To find out more information and register for the courses, please visit: <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/collegeaccess.html>.

All interested educators (whether they are or are not college/career advisors or financial aid professionals) are welcome to enroll in the modules yet are encouraged to review module content to determine usefulness. Each 8-week module is \$100 each and can be paid through several sources such as by the individual or through state or local professional development funds, Perkins Funds, or stimulus funding.

## Final Thoughts

If you have any suggestions for improvements, please send them to me at [sarahb@gsfc.org](mailto:sarahb@gsfc.org). We're always interested in what you have to say!

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