

Postsecondary Institutions/Colleges/Universities/Technical College and Degree Programs
10th Grade Advisement Activity
Estimated time: 30 Minutes

Georgia Teachers-As-Advisors Framework

Goal 10-1.3 - Use accurate, current, and unbiased career information from the local, state, and national levels during the career exploration and planning process.

a. Locate and utilize career information that includes occupational, education and training, employment, and economic information.

Goal 10-2.3- Identify and participate in ongoing, learning experiences to enhance the ability to perform effectively and work in diverse and changing world

d. Identify types of ongoing learning experiences available and how one prepares to participate in life-long learning

Objectives:

- Students will become familiar with various types of postsecondary institutions
- Students will be aware of the tools and information available on GACollege411 regarding the selection of postsecondary institutions
- NOTE: This activity can assist with **Apply to College Week** if your school participates.

Materials:

- Handout: Selecting Postsecondary Institutions (print front and back to save paper)

Activity:

1. *Say:* Good morning. Welcome to advisement. Have you ever had to make an important decision? *Pause.* We make decisions every day. Many of them are not important. Whether you chose to eat a Big Mac or a Chik Fil-A for lunch, will probably not affect your future. Maybe you had to make a personal decision having to do with your integrity, maybe you thought about cheating on a test, lying to you parents, experimenting with drugs. *Entertain s discussion about decision-making.* *Ask:* When we make an important decision what steps do we take? *Entertain a discussion.* Yes, we weigh the pros and cons as we visualize the outcome of our decision.
2. *Say:* Today we are going to discuss considerations you should make when selecting a postsecondary institution. It's like planting a tree. It must offer you what you are looking for – shade, visual appeal, temperature hardiness, etc. Like a tree, your postsecondary education will be around a long time to help you. As a high school student, you are already considering your interests, aptitudes, and values when making these choices.
3. *Say:* The first thing you should consider is the academic programs offered and what level of education your career choice demands. What does the term “level of education” mean? *Entertain their answers.* If they did not identify levels of education, write these on the board:
 - a. 4-year degree program or more-some occupations require 4 or more years of education after high school
 - b. 2-year degree program-some occupations require 4 years of education after high school
 - c. Diploma program-some occupations require less than 2-years
 - d. Certificate program-some occupations require a specific amount of hours
4. *Say:* Your specific occupation will require a “level of education” in order to secure employment in that occupation. It will be up to you to discover that piece of information before you begin the “college” selection. Some occupations may demand several levels of education like accounting--ranging from a certificate to a Doctoral degree. However, remember the general rule is, the more education and training one has the more income potential they will have. *Put these occupations on the board then ask* what level of education does each one need?

Teacher-4-year degree

Graphic Designer-4-year degree

Data Processing Equipment Repairers-Certificate

Computer Support Specialist-2-year degree
 Dental Hygienists-2-year degree
 Paralegal & Legal Assistants-2-year degree
 Registered Nurse-2 year degree
 Radiologic Technician-Diploma program but can go much higher

5. *Ask:* Do you all understand? How many of you know the level of education you will need to be employed in your chosen career? *Notice the hands and ask them to share the information with the others.* *Say:* Once you know the level of education needed, then you can begin to plan for the next step after graduation like which school you will attend. *Say:* Let's look at some of the criteria to consider when making a selection: *Let the student's determine the criteria for selection.* *Possible answers may include:* Size of the student body, location, academic programs, campus life, cost including financial aid opportunities, diversity, athletic division, male/female ratio, public/private. *Other criteria may include:* student/staff ratio, completion rate, job placement, general reputation of the institution

6. *Say:* You may have spent some time discussing these considerations with your counselor. Let's take a minute to revisit them now:

Location: distance from home, city, suburbs, rural. If it is important to be home often, consider a commuter school or a program that you can take some online classes. Some students enjoy being far away from home in an unfamiliar environment. Everyone is different. Do what works for you. Your friends are not you!

Total enrollment: Universities generally have the largest total student enrollments. You may thrive in a diverse environment. Or, your program of choice may have a smaller enrollment. What do you prefer?

Program Availability: A no brainer. If the institution doesn't have your program of choice, don't go there, ever if the cutest girl in your class is going there!

Cost: This is important, although should not be THE most important factor. But, it gives you a starting point to figure out how much your education will cost you.

Financial Aid Possibilities: The types and amounts of financial aid will determine your bottom line cost. If the institution has a history of generous grants, that may balance out a hefty tuition.

Extra-curricular activities: Do you really have to have a winning Division I football team? If this is the only reason you are going, think again! Football games are 10 Saturdays during the entire year. You may be in a state of bliss on those Saturdays, but the rest of the time, you may be miserable. Generally an institution will have some groups which will be of interest to you.

Decide ahead of time what is important.

Opportunities for internships or work: Sometimes the location of the institution and agreements with local businesses are a handy source of income to help pay for your living expenses.

Special considerations: If you have health issues or other concerns, ask the admissions counselor at the school. Most of the time programs will have special equipment, tutoring, or other help if you qualify.

Average class size: If you love being anonymous, then a large university is for you. You will be a pinhead in the crowd to the professor in a large lecture class. If you thrive with personal tutoring and encouragement, a smaller program may better suit your personality.

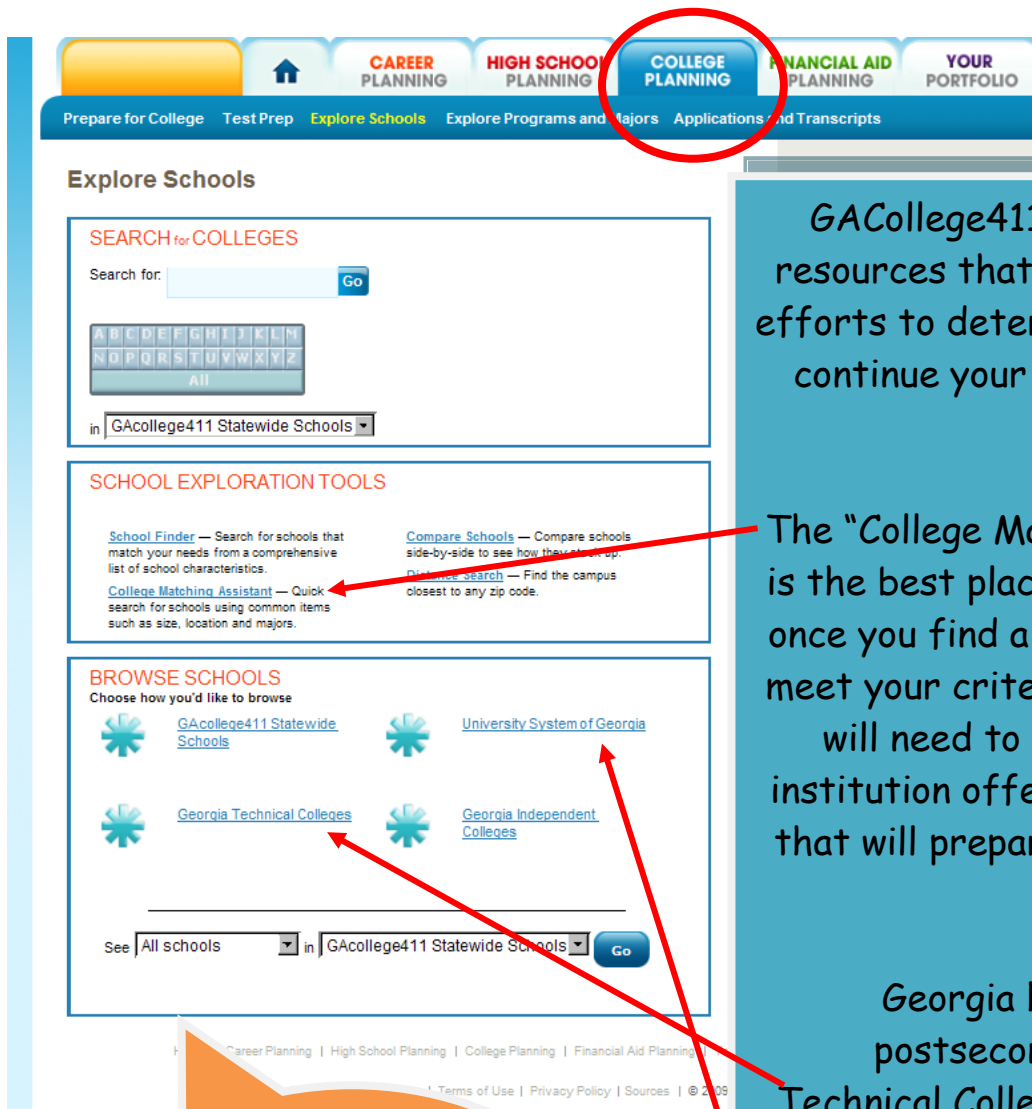
% of students who transfer or leave before program completion: If a significant percentage of freshmen do not return, or drop out, there is a problem. This is the one question you should always ask the admissions counselor who assists you or gives you a tour. If that person doesn't know the answer, ask to speak to the Director of Admissions who will have this information.

Special programs: Some schools will allow students to double major with little additional cost, or go on to an advanced degree. Travel abroad for a semester is an enriching experience, regardless of your major. Sometimes special programs are a tipping point to help you decide.

Pros and Cons from the current student perspective: Plan to have a drink in the student union or where students hang out between classes. Strike up a conversation. Current students will be brutally honest about the school. Take every opinion with a grain of salt. If several students from different groups say the same thing, it is worth noting.

Respect/ reputation of the institution: Ask for the programs which are nationally ranked. Research the school online. However, just because none of your friends ever heard of this school, don't automatically dismiss it for your consideration.

7. *Say:* GACollege411 can help you sort this out. *Distribute the flyer.* Use the flyer to assist you in this process and remember to record the information you discover in your GACollege411 PORTFOLIO. Share this information with your family and seek their advice. On the back of the handout are two maps showing the University of Georgia Institutions and Technical College System of Georgia institutions. See you next time. If you have any problems or need some help, you know where I am!



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Explore Schools

SEARCH for COLLEGES

Search for:

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All

in

SCHOOL EXPLORATION TOOLS

[School Finder](#) — Search for schools that match your needs from a comprehensive list of school characteristics.

[College Matching Assistant](#) — Quick search for schools using common items such as size, location and majors.

[Compare Schools](#) — Compare schools side-by-side to see how they stack up.

[Distance Search](#) — Find the campus closest to any zip code.

BROWSE SCHOOLS

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[Georgia Technical Colleges](#) [Georgia Independent Colleges](#)

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Career Planning | High School Planning | **College Planning** | Financial Aid Planning

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GACollege411 has many tools and resources that can assist you in your efforts to determine where you should continue your education after high school.

The "College Matching Assistant" tool is the best place to start. Of course, once you find a series of schools that meet your criteria, including cost, you will need to make very sure the institution offers a program of study that will prepare you for your future career.

Georgia has two levels of postsecondary education:

Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) which includes schools like North Metro Technical College and Gwinnett Technical College

And

The University System of Georgia (USG) which includes schools like: University of Georgia Georgia Southern Clayton State Floyd College

Take the time to find the right school for you after GRADUATION! Make it one of your priorities when planning for your future.

