

**The Importance of Continuing Education Beyond High School**  
**Keep Going!**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Advisement Activity**  
**Estimated time: 20-30 Minutes**

**Georgia Teachers-As-Advisors Framework**

**Goal 7-2.2 - Recognize and attain performance levels necessary to reach educational and career goals.**

**b. Identify and recognize strategies for improving one’s educational achievement and performance**

**Objectives:**

- Students will understand the importance of continuing education beyond high school
- Students will learn about various Postsecondary/Continuing Education opportunities available

**Materials:**

- Handout, “Keep Going”

**Activity:**

1. *Greet students:* Good Morning, students. Welcome to advisement. Today we are going to talk about diamonds---yes diamonds! What do you know about diamonds? *Entertain answers. For example, diamonds are expensive, precious, rare, hardest natural material, they are cut into different shapes, they are placed in jewelry, used for industry, etc. Then ask students, “How are you like a diamond?”* *Entertain answers. Some might be: Diamonds are tough, hard to find, easy to go unnoticed, dull, enmeshed in rock, sparkle, precious, brilliant, etc.*

*Discuss:* Students are like diamonds in the rough. They are precious but we can’t see them ‘sparkle’ yet. It takes time, 12 years or more, to polish you up to sparkle (graduate) in the marketplace.

*Discuss:* What happens when a diamond is neglected? *Entertain answers: Becomes lost, loses its luster, is forgotten in the jewelry box, is set aside for more interesting or more recently purchased diamonds, etc.*

2. *Discuss:* So, you are like that. We polish you up for 12 years and present you as a precious gem to the world when you graduate. But, in order for you to keep sparkling, it is important to keep polishing. That is like continuing to educate yourself after high school.

*Discuss:* What kinds of continuing education is available after you graduate high school? *Entertain answers. Examples should include:*

Programs	Examples
4 year college or university	UGA, GA Tech, Valdosta State; Kennesaw State
2 year college	Gordon College, Floyd College
Licensure programs	Technical College
Apprenticeships	Carpentry, Heating and A/C, Electrical
Military opportunities	Enlistment or officer training
Special Purpose Schools	Funeral Services

Examples of these programs are available to you on [www.GACollege411.org](http://www.GACollege411.org) under the COLLEGE PLANNING tab. *Write COLLEGE PLANNING on the board or flip chart.*

3. *Put students in groups. Ask students:* 1. Think of as many occupations as you can that does not require additional training and 2. occupations that require continued education. *Students will come up with many answers – some will be silly, example, circus clowns. Circulate to ensure they are on task. After about 2 minutes say,* Nearly all occupations have some specialized training or continuing training. Because the marketplace changes so rapidly, every occupation must keep up with new advances in that particular field. There is always someone who will do the job better, more efficiently, more quickly, and more economically. Therefore, it is important for everyone to continue learning in their chosen fields. *Use yourself as an example--- talk about your educational process from high school until now--- include your continuing education experience and the requirements you must meet to continue teaching.*

*Discuss: In groups. Ask,* “Why is it important to select a career that you enjoy?” *Answer:* “Because you will most probably work there for 30 – 40 years. If you select a career you love, you will never go to work a day in your life. You will be going out to ‘play’.

*Say:* When you are in a career you love, continuing education in that field allows you to:

- Learn something new
- Learn something important in your field
- Become more valuable in the workplace
- Receive an advanced certificate or degree
- Receive additional income
- Meet others in your field who can help you advance
- Become aware of career related opportunities

*Close with:* Education is a lifelong process. It does not mean that you will not change careers in your lifetime. But, whatever career you choose, if you love what you do, then continuing education will be a positive in your life. Wouldn't you rather “play” at something you love than “work” at a job you hate? Education is the polishing cloth for your diamond. Go out there and “sparkle.! See you the next time we meet. Have a great day! Remember, selecting your career is important when you select your high school classes and your postsecondary courses. So don't wait, begin now. *Distribute the flyer on GAcollege411.*

## GAcollege411

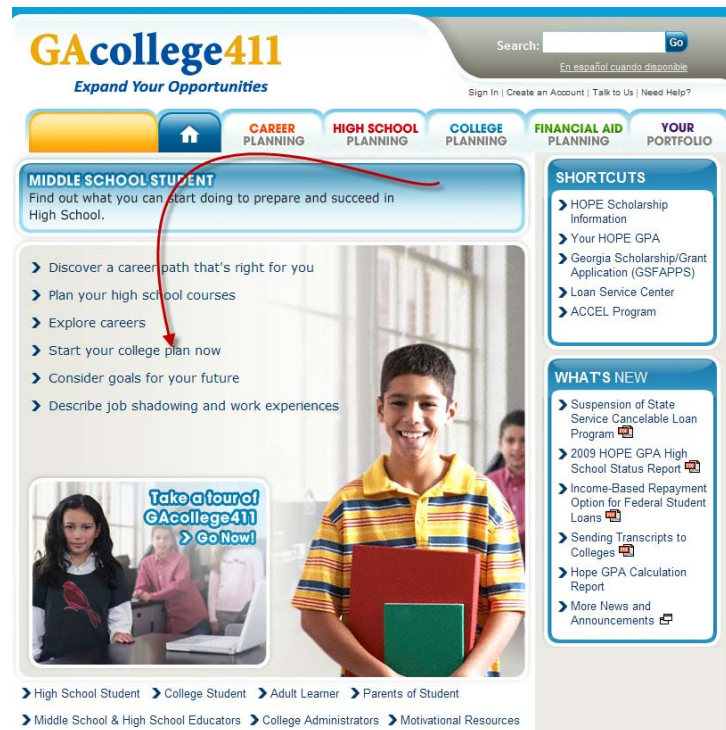
Expand Your Opportunities

Remind students it is important that they continue to explore and investigate future plans on GAcollege411. You can search and connect Programs of Study (what you will study at the postsecondary level after high school) {*write Program of Study on the board or flip chart*} with specific occupations. You should start now beginning to look at and expand your opportunities! *Any questions?* Entertain questions if time permits.

Have a great day. See you next time or before.

## Connecting Your Program of Study To Postsecondary Education with GAcollge411

It is never too late to start this process of making the connections you will need between your selected career and possible postsecondary "Programs of Study" at different institutions. GAcollge411 is the place to start connecting those dots! Once you complete your investigation, connecting all the dots, you will have a picture of what you should do between now and then including middle and high school. Remember PLANNING is the key to get where you want to be!



Step #1 - Go to  
[www.GAcollge411.org](http://www.GAcollge411.org)

Step # 2- Go to start your  
college plan now

Step #3- Follow the guideways  
to find your way  
Don't wait to start planning!