



Spring 2025
College/Career Q&A

GCM College & Career Center
with Emma Pace,
Butler University
January 21, 2025





Agenda

- **College/Career Readiness: Timeline & Resources**
- **Tips for Course Registration**
- **SAT / ACT updates and Information**
- **College Visits, Fairs, Info Sessions at GCM**
- **Myths about Admissions that Seniors Should Bust**
- **Financial Aid & Scholarships**
- **Questions ??**

GCM College & Career Center *Gardner Humphreys*

Info for Students & Parents:

SCHOOLGY “Marshall Student Services” Course

- ✓ **College Research & App Help:** gkhumphreys@fcps.edu
- ✓ **Financial Aid, Reducing Cost & Scholarships**
- ✓ **Jobs for Students**
- ✓ **Volunteering, Internships, Summer Programs**
- ✓ **Test Prep** - free online prep and guides, GCM Library website

School Website: [Google “GCM College Career”](#)

<https://marshallhs.fcps.edu/student-services/college-career-center>

Naviance: <https://www.fcps.edu/naviance>

Schoology: GCM Homepage

Monthly Newsletter



GCM COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER
NEWS & RESOURCES

FAFSA OPENS DEC. 1

- FAFSA, the financial aid form for seniors applying to college and some career prep programs, opens Dec. 1, 2024
- Check each of your colleges to see what financial aid forms you need to do and the deadlines
- Free FAFSA help is available from FCPS non-profit partner College Access Fairfax: www.collegeaccessfairfax.org

A welcome message from Mr. Humphreys

- Welcome to my new monthly newsletter!
- Each month will have a theme – like financial aid
- All newsletters will be posted in Schoology/Student Services course or the GCM website
- Contact me for questions! ghumphreys@fcps.edu

\$\$ SCHOLARSHIPS

Use Naviance to find scholarships - FCPS posts trusted scholarships!
Local/state scholarships are easier to win!
Parents & students sign in here with your SIS (login www.fcps.edu/naviance or more - try College Board Big Future (you don't need to use a lot of different scholarship sites)

- Website <https://marshallhs.fcps.edu/collegecareer-resources-activities> or Schoology - Class 2026

COLLEGE & CAREER EVENTS

- ✓ **Junior Focus Day** – April 3, 2025 in school, for Juniors only (students)
- ✓ **Senior College Essay Help** – In-person Mondays 3-4PM Fall/online any time
- ✓ **GCM Financial Aid for College Night** (all grades) – October 2025
- More Financial Aid events and 1-1 help: <https://collegeaccessfairfax.org/>
- ✓ **PSAT & Senior SAT** – Oct. 2025 in school. PSAT for 10-11 only, no charge, no registration needed.
- ✓ **NOVA Visits** – monthly senior year





Agenda, cont.

Career Readiness Steps & Resources

➤ <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2015/article/career-planning-for-high-schoolers.htm>

The screenshot shows the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, SUBJECTS, DATA TOOLS, PUBLICATIONS, ECONOMIC RELEASES, CLASSROOM, and BETA. Below this is a search bar and social media links. The main content area features the 'Career Outlook' logo and a navigation menu with HOME, ABOUT, ARCHIVES, CONTACT US, and SUBSCRIBE. The article title is 'Career planning for high schoolers' by Elka Torpey. The text discusses a high school senior's career goals and provides advice for students. A photo of students in a hallway is visible on the right side of the article.

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Career planning for high schoolers

Elka Torpey |

"I've always had a pretty clear idea of what I want to do," says Megan Lovely, a high school senior who hopes to become a [director](#) someday. She's already taking steps toward her career goal by interning with her school [drama teacher](#), acting, and applying to colleges.

If you're still in high school, you may not be as sure of your vocation as Lovely is of hers. But, like Lovely, you can start thinking about—and planning for—your future before graduation.

"Start exploring what you want to do when you're a freshman," says Mark Danaher, a career counselor at Newington High School in Newington, Connecticut. "The high school years go very quickly."

IN THIS ARTICLE



Agenda, cont.

➤ **College Readiness by Grade: Timeline & Resources**

- <https://www.ecmc.org/students/opportunities-guide-workbook.html>

➤ **Tips for Course Registration**

- Balance challenge & interests, health
- Don't gear towards one college
- Most colleges want 2-3 foreign language credits but not all

➤ **SAT/ACT updates and Information**

- Full Presentation: <https://marshallhs.fcps.edu/node/2554>
- Most colleges test-optional Fall 2025, check yearly
- ACT can be more helpful than SAT – try both
- Check your PSAT scores, College Board sent email to students with login



Agenda, cont.

➤ **College Visits, Fairs, Info Sessions at GCM**

- Fall Visits GCM, list in **Naviance** late August, begin 2nd week of school
- <https://www.nacacfairs.org/> ; <https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/events>

➤ **Myths about Admissions that Seniors Should Bust**

- The best college for me is the one that denies the most people
- There are “good schools”, “bad schools” and “party schools”
- Everyone should apply Early Action or Early Decision and it always helps
- Test scores are always important - just as important as grades, or more!
- I need to know my major before I apply
- There’s a checklist of things that every student needs to impress colleges

➤ **Financial Aid & Scholarships**

- Use Naviance, Net Price Calculators and the colleges’ official websites
- Info & Research costs <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/> and <https://finaid.org/>



GCM College & Career Center, cont.

SOME FAVORITE SITES

College Research and Advice

- ✓ Naviance: <https://www.fcps.edu/naviance>
- ✓ <https://collegesearch.collegeboard.org/home>
- ✓ <https://www.nacacnet.org/> (Knowledge Center)
- ✓ <http://uvaapplication.blogspot.com/>
- ✓ <https://hscw-counselorscorner.blogspot.com/>

Financial Aid & Scholarships

- ✓ <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
- ✓ <https://finaid.org/>

Career Exploring (also in Naviance)

- ✓ <https://www.careeronestop.org/>
- ✓ <https://mypathway.tech/assessment/>



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