



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. What do I need to do to get into Gateway to College?

The Admissions Process will involve the following steps:

- Complete the Gateway to College application packet (turn application in before information session!)
- Attend an Information Session
- Complete Assessment testing at two evaluation sessions
- Participate in an interview
- Attend an Orientation Session

### 2. How does the Gateway to College program work?

Once you have been admitted, you will be enrolled in a Gateway to College learning community at one of the Savannah Technical College campuses (Savannah campus or Effingham campus, depending on your school district location).

- A learning community is a group of 20-25 students who take all of their first term courses together in preparation for becoming college students on the college campus.
- First term courses are reading, writing, math, college survival, and academic lab.
- Students spend 3-4 hours outside of class working on homework.
- After successfully completing a Foundation learning community, students transition into regular college classes and earn both high school and college credit, as they work towards earning a high school diploma.
- All courses after the first term are selected with the assistance of your Academic Coach, based upon each student's high school completion plan and educational goals.

### 3. What if I've already dropped out?

If you have already dropped out of high school, you will need to complete the application process (see question 13). If you are accepted into Gateway to College, you will be asked to re-enroll at your home school and then to request release from the school system. Gateway to College is required to ask students to perform this step for funding purposes.

### 4. What if I don't attend a public school in Chatham County or Effingham County?

If you are not currently attending a public high school, you will need to complete the application process (see question 13). If you are accepted into Gateway to College, you will be asked to enroll at the public high school in your district. Once you have enrolled in the public school system, you will then request release from the school system. Gateway to College is required to ask students to perform this step for funding purposes.

### 5. What can I achieve in this program?

Students can earn their high school diploma and earn a significant number of college credits toward a diploma, certificate or an associate's degree.

### 6. How long would it take me to earn my high school diploma?

Most students are in Gateway to College for 2-3 years. The exact length of time to earn a diploma varies by a student's course load and credit needs. Students remain in Gateway to College until they earn a diploma or turn 21. We encourage graduates of the program to continue their college studies to meet their academic goals.

### 7. Who are Gateway to College students?

Gateway to College is for students who are:

- 16 to 20 years old.
- Behind in high school credits (for age and grade), with a history of absenteeism and low GPA. Students who have fewer than 17 credits when they begin the program. Students who live in Savannah-Chatham or Effingham County school districts.
- Reading at an eighth grade level or higher and able to achieve acceptable scores on the Math, Reading, Grammar, and Writing assessments.
- Able to complete their high school diploma requirements by age 21.

- Willing to make a long term commitment (two or more years) to work hard to complete high school and progress toward a college degree.
- Gateway to College does not serve students who are doing well in high school and want to make an early transition to college. Gateway to College works exclusively with students who have not experienced success in a traditional high school. They are either no longer attending or are significantly behind in credits and are unable to graduate with their peers.

**8. What is expected of me?**

- Students are expected to attend 100% of their classes.
- Students are expected to come to class on time, be prepared with class materials, and to complete all class and homework assignments.
- Students are expected to spend 3-4 hours a day working on their homework (outside of class time). We strongly encourage students who have a job to consider the time demands of the program. Students are expected to adhere to all Savannah Technical College policies and procedures.

**9. What is the cost of the program?**

With the exception of the \$15 Savannah Technical College application fee, there are no out-of-pocket expenses for students. Students will receive technical assistance from Gateway staff in completing the federal financial aid form (FAFSA) so that they will receive HOPE funds. Gateway to College will supplement the funds received through HOPE. Gateway will also provide textbooks at no cost to students.

**10. What kind of support will help me be successful in a college setting?**

Students who are accepted into the program are assigned an Academic Coach. Academic Coaches provide support and access to resources to help all students in the program to be successful. Academic Coaches provide the following services:

- Transcript reviews and academic advising.
- Assistance with completing enrollment and registration.
- Referrals to resources, such as tutoring, counseling, student activities, health services, and more.
- Personal counseling and guidance including assistance with problem solving, time management and stress management.

**11. If I have been on an Individual Education Plan (IEP) at my high school, will I still receive the same services and support with Gateway to College?**

Applicants who have received Special Education Services and who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) in place are required to participate in an IEP meeting in the school district where you currently live. This meeting will involve staff from Gateway to College and will help determine if Gateway to College is an appropriate placement for you. If you have an IEP, you need to alert the GtC staff as soon as possible so that we may begin the process of meeting with your high school IEP team. We cannot guarantee that this process can be completed in time for acceptance for the term for which you are applying, so we encourage you to apply the term prior to the term you wish to begin with GtC.

**12. I am enrolled in high school and do not want to withdraw until I know if I have been accepted. Can I be considered for Gateway to College if I am still enrolled in high school?**

Yes. If you are currently attending high school, please consider staying in school until you know that you have been admitted into Gateway to College. Once you have been accepted into Gateway, you will need to withdraw from high school. You cannot be dually enrolled in Gateway to College and a high school or alternative education program.

**13. Who will issue my high school diploma?**

High school diplomas will be issued by the student's school district and will look identical to diplomas received by students who completed their high school requirements at the home school.