FACTS.org

Go Higher Florida,
education pays!

Parent Guide

Florida's **A**cademic **C**ounseling and **T**racking for **S**tudents, **FACTS.org,** is an online student advising system provided by the Florida Department of Education to help students make informed choices about their education. When using this website, students are able to:

- Explore careers and set preliminary career goals
- Create a high school academic plan (ePEP)
- Track progress toward graduation
- Check eligibility for Bright Futures Scholarship Awards
- Learn about Florida's postsecondary programs
- Apply online to state universities and colleges
- Apply online for state and federal financial aid (FAFSA)

Menu tabs across the top of the home page allow users to quickly access information and tools designed especially for them. Selections are made based on the group to which users belong, such as "Middle School Students" or by function, such as "Applying for College," or "Paying for College." There are several areas also designed to assist parents and mentors as well.

The world is changing rapidly. Almost all jobs require a higher skill level than in the past, so it is vital for students to challenge themselves with a rigorous high school program, complete high school, and go on to additional training or education. To have the most career choices possible, students need to take the right courses. Planning early helps students keep their future options open.

This guide is designed to help parents take an active role in this process by helping their child set goals and make important academic decisions. **Have your family visit FACTS.org today!**

Skip Navigation

LOGOUT | HOME PAGE | SITE MAP

Middle School Students | High School Students | Finding a College or Program | Paying for College | Applying for College | College Students | Counselors & Educators

Florida's educational opportunities and student advising at your fingertips!

■ FACTS.org is Florida's Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students. Sponsored by the Department of Education and the Florida Center for Advising & Academic Support, this free online advising website helps students plan and track their education progress from middle school through college.

THE Florida COLLEGE SYSTEM
FINISH UP, FLORIDA!

News & Info:

FACTS.org launches *Finish Up, Florida!* campaign

Go Higher - Get Accepted! Campaign proves successful for high school seniors

FACTS.org announces new training opportunities for Fall 2011

Changes to Bright Futures Awards

HCC using ePEP to motivate middle and high school students

Need Help | Site Map | Glossary | Communications Archive | Privacy | Copyright

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Get ADOBE® READER®

Middle School Career Planning Course

In order to be promoted to 9th grade, **all** public middle school students must complete a Career and Education Planning Course. The course may be offered in either 7th or 8th grade and it may stand alone or be integrated into an existing course. This requirement began in the fall of 2009.

The purpose of the course is to provide students with information they need to start planning their future in a meaningful way, and to help them recognize that high school courses have relevance for their future education and career plans. During the course, students will first use Florida CHOICES (www.flchoices.org), or an equivalent program, to explore their interests and related careers, and choose a career cluster.

Students will then create a plan for high school using the electronic Personal Education Planner (ePEP) on FACTS.org. The ePEP will guide them in choosing all required courses and allow students to plan elective courses related to their career cluster and long term goals *after* high school (*see sample*).

For students who entered 9th grade in 2009 and after, high schools must assist these students in reviewing their ePEPs each year. High school students can make changes to their plans and review their High School Academic Evaluations directly from their FACTS account (*see back cover*).

The ePEP is not a guarantee that the student will take the specific courses as outlined in the plan. Course availability, required remediation or a change in the student's goals may influence the plan.

Enters 9th Grade	High School Graduation Requirements Florida Public Schools 24 Credits *These are the current minimum graduation requirements that change periodically. Your child's school district may require additional credits.*		
2008	4 English 4 Math (1) 3 Science 3 Social Studies	1 Fine/Performing Arts 1 Physical Education 8 Electives	*(1) Must include Algebra 1 or its equivalent*
2009	4 English 4 Math (1) 3 Science 3 Social Studies	1 Fine/Performing Arts 1 Physical Education 8 Electives	*(2) Must include Algebra I and Geometry or the equivalent*
2010	4 English 4 Math (2) 3 Science 3 Social Studies	1 Fine/Performing Arts 1 Physical Education 8 Electives	*(3) Must include Biology I or its equivalent*
2011	4 English 4 Math (2) 3 Science (3) 3 Social Studies	1 Fine/Performing Arts 1 Physical Education 8 Electives	*(4) Must include Algebra II or its equivalent*
2012	4 English 4 Math (2,4) 3 Science (3) 3 Social Studies	1 Fine/Performing Arts 1 Physical Education 8 Electives	*(5) Must include Chemistry or Physics or its equivalent and one other rigorous science course*
2013	4 English 4 Math (2,4) 3 Science (3,5) 3 Social Studies	1 Fine/Performing Arts 1 Physical Education 8 Electives	

ePersonal Education Planner (ePEP)

Your student was/will be guided through the steps below to develop their ePEP. The Login ID/Password can be recorded here for account access.

My Child's FACTS Account Information

FACTS Login ID: _____

Password: _____

1. ESTABLISH ePEP settings:

a) Diploma Type
Most Florida students work toward a standard diploma. Some students involved in Exceptional Student Education, with the guidance of their parents and counselor, choose a special diploma.

b) Graduation Track
Most students graduate in four (4) years. The 3-year track is for students who are able to maintain a high GPA, are willing to forgo most electives, and are mature enough to handle college or work at an early age.

c) Graduation Plan- There are four (4) options:

College Prep provides the course requirements for state university admissions, Bright Futures Florida Academic and Medallion Scholars awards, and high school graduation. Recommended for those who intend to pursue a 4-year Bachelor's degree at a university/college or complete the first 2 years at a college and transfer to a 4-year program (2+2).

Career Prep provides the course requirements for the Bright Futures Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award and high school graduation. Recommended for those who intend to pursue a 2-year degree, Technical Certificate, or specific career training.

College and Career Prep provides the course requirements for state university admissions, Bright Futures Florida Academic, Medallion, and Gold Seal Vocational Scholars awards, and high school graduation. Recommended for those who intend to pursue a 4-year Bachelor's degree and want specific career training.

Standard Graduation Prep provides students with the minimum course requirements for high school graduation.

2. BUILD the plan: Add courses to the ePEP. These can include Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) courses, where available. Dual Enrollment and Florida Virtual School courses may also be planned.

The ePEP must be signed by the student, parent, and teacher/school counselor/advisor.

3. MANAGE the ePEP: Review the ePEP each year in high school. Students can update their plans as necessary.

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SAMPLE ePEP

LOGOUT | HOME PAGE | SITE MAP

Middle School Students	High School Students	Finding a College or Program	Paying for College	Applying for College	College Students	Counselors & Educators

ePEP Student Information

Last Transcript Update: 03/12/2011

My Profile Information

		ePEP Settings
Student Name:	Sample Student	Graduation Track/Diploma Type:	4-year/24-credit, Standard Diploma
Enrolled School:	Gaither High School, Hillsborough	Graduation Plan:	College Prep
Planned High School:	Gaither High School, Hillsborough	Career Cluster:	Finance
Graduation Year:	2014		

5 — Transcript data will first appear in October of 9th grade.

You are on your way to building a high school academic plan! The State requires a minimum of 24 credits in specified subject areas for graduation; your district/school may require more credits.

The subject areas and credit requirements for graduation are listed down the left side of the ePEP. State universities and Bright Futures Scholarship awards require certain types of courses which are listed on the right side of the ePEP in red. When you add courses that meet the requirements, they will be marked with red dots.

For the College Prep graduation plan you need:

- 3 credits (minimum) designated as College Prep academic electives
- 2 credits (minimum) in the same foreign language

6 — See back cover for details about how to use High School Evaluations.

View the plan by subject area or by grade level.

Counselor Notes	My Profile Information	ePEP Settings	High School Evaluations	Compare	Print	Help

View By: Subject Area

D E L	Course Number	Course Title	Credit	Grade	Grade Level	School Name/ Course Type	Acad Elect	For Lang	Career Tech
For your plan, you need:							3	2	0

English — Add Course

Required: 4 credits (with major concentration in Composition, reading for Information, and literature)

Planned Courses:

X	1001320	English Honors 1**	1.0		9	Gaither High School			
X	1001340	English 2	1.0		10	Gaither High School			
X	1001350	English Honors 3**							
X	1001420	AP English Lang & Composition**							

Courses from Transcript:

| | 1001320 | Eng Hon I** | | | | | | | |
| | 1001320 | Eng Hon I** | | | | | | | |

3 — "Planned Courses" can be updated by students in middle and again in high school. "Courses from Transcript" will appear for each subject area for high school students. Grades will post after each semester. IP means "in progress."

Mathematics — Add Course **4**

Required: 4 credits (one credit must be Algebra 1 or its equivalent or a higher-level math course; one credit must be Geometry or a series of courses equivalent to Geometry)

Planned Courses:

| X | 1206320 | Geometry Honors** | | | | | | | |

Courses from Transcript:

	1200310	Algebra I							
	1200310	Algebra I	0.5	C	9	Gaither High School			
	1206310	Geometry	0.5	B	9	Gaither High School			
	1206310	Geometry	0.5	IP	9	Gaither High School			

Science — Add Course

Required: 3 credits (two credits must have a laboratory component)

Courses from Transcript:

	2003320	Physic	0.5	C	8	Gaither High School			
	2000320	Biolog	0.5	C	9	Gaither High School			
	2000320	Biolog	0.5	IP	9	Gaither High School			
	2003310	Physic	0.5	B	9	Gaither High School			

Add courses using these links.

United States History
Required: 1 credit — Add Course

World History
Required: 1 credit — Add Course

2 — Red "smart dots" indicate any planned electives that also meet requirements for state university admissions and Bright Futures Scholarship Awards. These include academic, foreign language and/or career tech electives.

United States Government
Required: .5 credits — Courses from Transcript:

| | | Govt Honors** | 0.5 | | | | | | |

Add Course

1 — The ePEP lists minimum graduation requirements in each subject area.

Requirements are based on the year a student enters 9th grade.

Add Course — Courses from Transcript:

| | | | 0.5 | A | 9 | Gaither High School | | | |

Add Course

| | | | 1.0 | | 11 | Gaither High School | ● | | |
| X | 8209520 | Digital Design 2** | 1.0 | | 12 | Gaither High School | ● | | |

Smart Dots

Electives — Add Course

Required: 8 credits

Planned Courses:

| X | 0708340 | Spanish 1 | 1.0 | | 10 | Gaither High School | | ● | |
| X | 0708350 | Spanish 2 | 1.0 | | 11 | Gaither High School | | ● | |

Courses from Transcript:

	1001480	Adv Commu Method**	0.5						
	2100340	African-Amer History	0.5						
	1700390	Avid 1	0.5						
	1700390	Avid 1	0.5						
	1700370	Crit Think St Skls	0.5						
	8200320	Keybd & Bus Skills	0.5						

Comments in red remind students about goals they set (Graduation Track and Plan) that have not been met in their ePEP.

| | | | | | | | | 2.0 | 1.0 |

? — Numbered items indicate important features to review with your child.

Summary Evaluation

Subject Area	Required	Planned	Comments
English	4.0	4.0	You do not have enough planned courses to meet the standard high school graduation requirements; you must have 24 credits (minimum) in specified subject areas for graduation.
Mathematics	4.0	1.0	

FACTS.org Transcript Information and High School Evaluations

In high school, your child's FACTS account provides more than just the ePEP. After your child transitions to high school, all high school courses taken and those which are "in progress" will also appear in the ePEP. In addition, FACTS will populate the grades earned in any completed course. Students can compare these outcomes to their earlier plans. This information does not serve as an official transcript but is used frequently for planning purposes.

While in high school, FACTS can also provide your child with personalized **High School Evaluations**. These use your child's transcript to create reports which enable you and your child to follow the progress being made toward meeting minimum state requirements for high school graduation, Bright Futures Scholarship Award eligibility and State University System admissions. The Bright Futures Evaluation provides the Bright Futures GPA and also indicates course requirements that have been met and those that have not. Standardized test scores are provided when available. **Encourage your child to check these Evaluations before and after each semester.** This will help a student to determine where they stand, so they can either take corrective action or move forward with their goals.

Middle School Students	High School Students	Finding a College or Program	Paying for College	Applying for College	College Students	Counselors & Educators

Bright Futures Scholarship Eligibility | Academic Competitive Grant (ACG) | State University Course Requirements for Admission | 4-yr/24-Credit Standard HS Diploma | 3-yr/18-Credit College Prep HS Diploma

3-yr/18-Credit Career Prep HS Diploma | Course Summary | ePersonal Education Planner (ePEP)

> Click on the tabs to access Evaluations.
>
> Evaluations provide information on eligibility only. Students must apply for admission to universities and for Bright Futures Scholarship Awards.

Description	Frequently Asked Questions	Printer Friendly

Student Information

Student Name:

Graduation Date:

> This note indicates when the student's transcript was updated.

District/County: ALACHUA

School: 0151 GAINESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Evaluations based on transcript received from District/County on: 02/12/2011

Frequently Asked Questions

How secure is FACTS.org?
FACTS.org is committed to the protection of students and has many levels of security. Information on these features may be found by clicking the "Privacy" link on the bottom of any page of the site. Students should keep their Login ID and password safe.

What can I do if my child forgets their FACTS Login ID or Password?
Click on "Forgot ID or Password" from the FACTS Login screen and enter student's name, school district, school, and birth date. After correctly answering a security question, they can create a new password. Your child's school counselor also has access to all FACTS Login IDs and passwords.

Can I have my own FACTS Login ID and Password to view my child's information?
No, each FACTS account is accessible by only one ID and password.

When will my child's grades appear?
The first time students will have transcript information is in mid October of 9th grade. Grades earned for any high school courses completed in middle school will be included as well as a list of current courses, with the grade IP (in progress).

How often are the grades updated?
New transcript data is received from the school districts and uploaded to FACTS.org three times a year (typically October, January and June). The date the transcript information was updated appears in the top right corner of the ePEP and is noted on each of the high school evaluations.

What if there is a mistake in the grades that appear on FACTS.org?
Transcript information that appears on FACTS reflects the official state database; FACTS cannot correct this information. Errors should be reported to the school/district, and the district will resubmit any corrected information.

Are these official transcripts?
No. The transcript data on the ePEP is accurate, but the "official" transcript comes from the school.

Can 12th graders have a FACTS account even though they aren't required to do so?
Yes, 12th graders can create a FACTS.org account at any time and access the same information.

FACTS.org HELPDESK
facts@admin.usf.edu **or** toll free 1-866-324-2618