



# Senior Application Assistance Workshop

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AICE School Counselor

# Bright Futures

- EVERYONE needs to complete the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) in order to be eligible for the Bright Futures Scholarship
- Application opens on October 1, 2022
- Needs to be completed BEFORE graduation- aim to complete by **Jan. 1st**
- <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/>
  - Click on “State Grants, Scholarships, & Applications” and then “Create a Student Account”
- Keep record of Log-in information so can check status on website later
- Asks for the college you plan to attend- if this changes after you apply to BF, you need to update on your application

# Bright Futures

- EVERYONE needs to have 100 hours of community service documented and turned in
  - Get them in before Winter Break!
- Volunteer forms are located on the SHS Guidance webpage- <https://www.seabreezehigh.org/faculty-staff/school-counselors/volunteering>
- Having a hard time finding a place to volunteer? Check this website for some options- <https://www.volunteermatch.org/>
- All BF Eligibility information: <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/BFHandbookChapter1.pdf>

# Bright Futures

- If you have NOT earned your AICE diploma yet, below is the traditional way to qualify for Bright Futures. Plan on meeting these requirements as a back-up (you will not know if earned AICE Diploma until August 2023)

Type	16 High School Course Credits <sup>1</sup>	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year (ACT <sup>®</sup> /SAT <sup>®</sup> )	Service Hours
FAS	4 - English <i>(three must include substantial writing)</i> 4 - Mathematics <i>(at or above the Algebra I level)</i> 3 - Natural Science <i>(two must have substantial laboratory)</i>	3.50	2021-22 Graduates: 29/1330 2022-23 Graduates: 29/1330	100 hours
FMS	3 - Social Science 2 - World Language <i>(sequential, in same language)</i>	3.00	2021-22 Graduates: 25/1210 2022-23 Graduates: 25/1210	75 hours

# Bright Futures

- Can only use BF money at Florida schools
- FAS- 100% tuition at a FL Public University- what you get with AICE diploma
- FMS- around 75% tuition at a FL Public University
- For Private FL schools, you get a portion of tuition paid. Chart with \$\$ breakdown :
  - <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/BFPrivateAwards.pdf>
- More information on what BF award offers:
  - <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/BFHandbookChapter2.pdf>

# Free Application for Federal Student Financial Aid (FAFSA)

- Overview- what is FAFSA?
  - Video- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUis5lityCQ> (2.5 mins)
- Simple terms- the form you complete to see if you qualify for any financial help from the Government to help pay for college
- Collects personal and financial information from both you and parent(s) and calculates your EFC (Expected Family Contribution)- this number is used to determine how much \$ you qualify for
  - The smaller your EFC, the more \$ you generally qualify for
- Can offer Grants/Scholarships (free money), Loans (pay back), Work-study program

# FAFSA

- Everyone is encouraged to complete a FAFSA
- <https://fafsa.gov>
- Opens October 1, 2022
- FREE to apply
- Best to apply early
- Write down username and password in a safe place!

# FAFSA

- Steps to completing the FAFSA
  - Video- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LK0bbu0y5AM> (3 mins)
- What to have on hand:
  - Student and Parent SSN
  - Student Driver's License number
  - Student Alien registration number (if not USA citizen)
  - Federal Tax Returns for student and parent(s)
  - Records of any untaxed income (ex-retirement withdrawals)
  - Other financial information (ex- savings, investments)

# FAFSA

- Apply for FSA ID for both YOU and PARENT- can do this ahead of time
  - <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- Can ask questions through FAFSA website at any time- use the CHAT feature- they are the Experts
- Can list up to 10 schools applying to
- Check with each school for their deadline to submit FAFSA
  - Ex- FSU recommends FAFSA completed by Dec. 1
- Our College and Career Counselor- Ms. Coy- will be hosting a **Financial Aid Night on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30 PM-**  
[glhousto@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:glhousto@volusia.k12.fl.us) University Fin Aid Officer Will be present

# FAFSA

- What happens after completing my FAFSA?
  - Video- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1c1gNefSw78> (3 mins)
- You will receive financial aid packages from each of the schools that you listed and got accepted to- YOU choose what you accept
- Can contact the Financial Aid office at any school for questions- They are the Experts
- More detailed video on FAFSA to watch later if needed
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8nfk5ApcQ4> (12:15 mins)

# College Applications

## 3 Things:

- Application
- Transcript
- Test Scores

# College Applications

- Be ORGANIZED- create a [chart/spreadsheet](#) for yourself with information about each college applying to
- List Deadlines
  - When is application due?
  - When are SAT/ACT scores due?
  - When are transcripts/SSAR's due?
- Example- UF
  - Application Deadline- Nov. 1
  - SSAR Deadline- Nov. 15
  - Test Score Deadline- Dec. 1

# College Applications

- What application Platform does each school use?
  - Institutional application- on school's website (ex-FIU, FAMU)
  - \*\*\*Common App- <https://www.commonapp.org/>
- If numerous schools use one particular platform, it is beneficial and will save time to use that platform

[CHART](#)

# College Applications

- What Admissions option should I choose? Some schools give an option- 4 most used:
  - Regular Decision
    - Most common option and sometimes the only option
    - Application Due on a specific date and get Decision on a specific date (Ex-UF-Nov.1, Feb.25)
    - Non-binding
  - Early Decision (some private schools offer this option- example- Flagler College)
    - Binding decision
    - Can only apply ED to one school
    - If you get accepted, you **MUST** attend this school and withdraw other college applications
    - Only use if you are absolutely **CERTAIN** that want to go to a particular school
    - Earlier application deadline and earlier notification date
  - Early Action (some private schools offer this option- example- University of Miami)
    - Non-binding
    - Shows a school that you are very interested in them
    - Earlier application deadline and earlier notification date for decision-making

# College Applications

- Rolling Admissions
  - Not a specific deadline listed (Ex: UCF, USF...)- get app in early though!
  - Make admissions decisions as they receive your application- can get decision quickly
  - The longer you wait, the less spots they will have

[CHART](#)

# College Applications

- How does each school want my Transcript?
  - [SSAR \(Self-reported Academic Report\)](#) 8 of the 12 FL SUS schools use this
    - Request a current copy of your Transcript from Registrar- fafrank1@volusia.k12.fl.us- Type «Transcript» in subject line of email (Unofficial)
    - Be accurate- college will verify with Final Transcript
    - **How to Video from FSU- currently updating from last year**
    - Asks for Semester grades. For year long grades (ex-Alg 1, Geom, Bio)- enter final grade twice
    - List Senior classes as “In Progress”
    - Be sure to link SSAR to each college application (college will provide instructions on using your SSAR ID)
    - If you change a class senior year, you HAVE to update SSAR and/or contact college. Best NOT to change Senior year classes

# College Applications

- How does each school want my Transcript? (continued)
  - SPARK form (new at UCF only)- similar to SSAR
  - Sent by Registrar at SHS- Traditional way (FGCU, FIU- don't use SSAR)
    - Email Registrar with College name and she will send it- Fafrank1@volusia.k12.fl.us
      - Type «Transcript» in subject line of email
    - Official copy sent either Electronically or by Mail

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# College Applications

- How does each school want my SAT/ACT scores?
  - Most schools want them sent directly from College Board and/or ACT
    - Can request to send before take test during Registration process (4 schools free)
    - OR after take test, Log into your SAT/ACT account and select colleges
    - Fee applies (after window has passed)
  - Some schools will accept self-reported SAT/ACT scores and then verify them later (Be accurate when report) Example- FSU, UF
- [Test dates and deadlines](#)
- Check the latest test date can use for each college applying to

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# College Applications

- Does school require a letter of Recommendation?
  - Give Recommender PLENTY of time (at least 2 weeks or more)
  - Choose someone who knows you well and can highlight your strengths
  - Provide a resume
  - Follow up if needed
- Does school require an Essay? Supplemental Writing Questions?

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# College Applications

- Do not assume that something is turned in- Double & Triple check that all parts of your Application have been submitted
  - It is YOUR responsibility to have a Completed Application
  - Letter of Rec not showing as turned in? FOLLOW UP with Teacher
  - Transcript not showing as submitted? FOLLOW UP with Registrar/check SSAR
  - School Report on Common App not showing as submitted? FOLLOW UP with Counselor
  - SAT/ACT scores not in? FOLLOW UP with Testing Agency

# College Applications

- Prepare a [Document/Resume](#) for yourself with Information that will be used often across applications so you have everything in one place
  - Activities: Volunteer work, jobs, clubs, sports, hobbies
    - Years of participation
    - Hours per week and weeks per year
    - Position/Leadership role held
    - Brief description of responsibilities
  - Academic Awards/Honors
    - Title of Award
    - When received it
    - Level of Recognition (State, Regional, National)

# College Applications

- Prepare an [Organizational Spreadsheet](#) to keep track of all dates and deadlines:

WHAT you need

HOW you need it

WHEN you need it

# College Applications

- Florida State University System (SUS) [Information Chart](#)
  - Given out last year at Junior College Night- updated for this school year
  - Chart will be available on AICE website- also emailed to you
  - Contains lots of useful information about college admissions

# Common App Overview

- Application Guide for First-Time Students- Video (4:52)  
<https://www.commonapp.org/apply/first-year-students> (very bottom of page)
- 1- Gather materials
  - See Slide 21 (resume, activities, awards)
  - Get copy of your transcript
- 2- Create account and complete General “[Common App](#)” Tab
  - Show on sample student log-in
  - General Info is sent to all Colleges

# Common App Overview

- 3- Add Colleges
  - Shows any additional things individual colleges may need from you
- 4- Engage Supporters
  - Colleges need things like official school forms and/or letters of Recommendation
  - Need to invite people to submit things on your behalf
  - Make sure you invite the correct people- each college tells you what they require
  - School Report required for all colleges- Counselor has to complete- make sure to invite me as the counselor 😊 [cmvillaf@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:cmvillaf@volusia.k12.fl.us)

# Common App Overview

- 5- Understand requirements
  - Keep track of what sections each college requires
  - Activities section is important!
    - Quality, not quantity- put your most meaningful activities first (Can list up to 10)
    - Be as detailed as possible (there is a word limit)
    - Include Leadership/Impact

# Common App Overview

- 6- Plan Essays
  - Mrs. Paul/Kepner
- 7- Submit Application
  - Each college submitted individually
  - Request fee waiver on Common App only if you have applied for and receive Free/Reduced Lunch at school- need to show F/R lunch letter
    - Located under Profile section

# Scholarships

- See what scholarships the college itself offers on their website
- My Florida Shines-  
<https://www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college>
- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- Seabreeze has a Scholarship section on Guidance Website-  
<https://www.seabreezehigh.org/faculty-staff/school-counselors/financial-aid-scholarships>
- Also, the “Red Book” in Guidance Lobby
- Mrs. Coy <glhousto@volusia.k12.fl.us>



# Honors Colleges

- Within some colleges, you can apply separately to their Honors College
  - Worth your while!
  - Usually have some smaller classes
  - Special seminars
  - May have special housing options
  - Usually perk of registering for classes early
  - Special advisors
  - Check for requirements at different schools

# Honors Colleges

## Example- UF

- 11,337 applicants to Honors College
- 1,508 admitted
- GPA: 4.6-4.7 (middle 50%)
- ACT: 34-35 (middle 50%)
- SAT: 1490-1550 (middle 50%)
- 2 additional essays to apply

## Example- FSU

- GPA: 4.4-4.66 (middle 50%)
- ACT: 32-34 (middle 50%)
- SAT: 1440-1520 (middle 50%)

Questions???

Common App Help  
Night- Oct. 6 @  
6:00pm in Media

Thank

Thank you for joining!

Best

Best of luck on your college application journey!

Email

Email with any questions

- [cmvillaf@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:cmvillaf@volusia.k12.fl.us)
- Also use Ms. Coy as a resource-  
[glhousto@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:glhousto@volusia.k12.fl.us)