

After High School...

Now What?

Preparing for College



School District of Palm Beach County
Department of Multicultural Education
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14th Edition

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Part 1:

*Planning for College
Begins in High School*

Graduation Requirements

	2022-2023 School Year	
Grade Point Average (GPA)	2.0	
Community Service ¹	20 hours	
24 Credits of Required Courses	1 course must be completed through online learning ^{1,2}	
Language Arts	English 1, 2, 3, and 4 ELA regular, honors, Advanced Placement (AP), AICE, IB and dual enrollment courses may satisfy this requirement	
Mathematics ³	4 credits ⁴ (must include Algebra 1 and Geometry) ⁵	
Science	3 credits ⁴ (Biology 1 and two equally rigorous courses, one of which must be in the physical sciences ⁶) ⁷	
Social Studies	3 credits (World History, U.S. History, ½ Economics, ½ U.S. Government)	
Fine/Performing Art	1 credit in fine or performing art, speech, debate, or specified CTE course ⁸	
Physical Education	1 credit (½ PE and ½ Personal Fitness <u>or</u> 1 credit of HOPE)	
Electives ⁹	8 credits	
Florida Assessment of Student Thinking ^{12,*}	Grade 10 FAST ELA (Level 3 or higher) <i>OR any one below</i> ACT English & Reading-average of 18 (17.5 or higher); SAT EBRW-480	
EOC (End-of-Course) Assessments ^{10, 12}	Biology 1 US History Geometry	Algebra 1 (Level 3 or higher) <i>OR</i> Geometry (Level 3 or higher) <i>OR any one below</i> <i>PSAT/NMSQT-430; SAT Math-420; or ACT Math-16</i>
FSAA ^{11, 12} Florida Standards Alternate Assessment	Level 3 or above: Grade 10 ELA FSAA Access Algebra 1 Access Geometry Access Biology 1 Access US History	
Florida Civic Literacy Test	Students are required to take the assessment. Students who earn a passing score on the Civic Literacy assessment will be exempt from the postsecondary Civic Literacy assessment.	

¹ May be waived for students with disabilities as determined by IEP Team.

² Designated Industry Certification courses may fulfill this requirement.

³ Higher-level coursework (Algebra 2 and above) is recommended for admission to a public Florida university.

⁴ A minimum of 3 credits must be earned while the student is enrolled in Grades 9 - 12.

⁵ Designated Industry Certification courses may substitute for up to 2 mathematics credits, not including Algebra 1 and Geometry.

⁶ Physical science courses are identified on the Grades tab in SIS under the Grad Subject column.

⁷ Designated Industry Certification courses or identified equally rigorous computer science courses may substitute for up to 1 science credit.

⁸ Career/Technical Education; eligible courses specified in Course Code Directory (<http://www.fldoe.org/policy/articulation/ccd>).

⁹ A minimum of two years of the same world language is required for admission to a four-year university.

¹⁰ All EOCs will be calculated as 30% of the final course grade.

¹¹ For students with significant cognitive disabilities as determined by IEP Team.

¹² Assessment score may be waived if score is Level 1 or 2 as determined by the IEP team.

*Beginning in SY23, a portfolio assessment option will be available for English Language Learners who have been in the ESOL Program for less than two years and have met all graduation requirements except earning a passing score on the ELA State assessment. See your school counselor for additional details.

Graduation Requirements (cont.)

Diploma Designations - 2022-2023 School Year

Scholar Designation

In addition to meeting the 24-credit standard high school diploma requirements, a student must

- Earn 1 credit in each of the following courses:
 - Algebra 2 or equally rigorous to Algebra 2¹³
 - statistics or equally rigorous mathematics course¹⁴
 - chemistry or physics
 - a course equally rigorous to chemistry or physics
 - an AP, IB, AICE, or a dual enrollment course
- Earn 2 credits in the same world language
- Earn a proficient EOC score for the following subjects:
 - Geometry
 - Biology 1*
 - U.S. History*

*A student is exempt from this requirement if the student is enrolled in an AP, IB, or AICE Biology 1 or U.S. History course and the student takes the respective AP, IB, or AICE assessment AND earns the minimum score to earn college credit.

Merit Designation

Meet the standard high school diploma requirements

- Attain one or more industry certifications from the established list (per s. 1003.492, F.S.)

18 Credit ACCEL Diploma

Minimum 18 credits in the following:

- 4 English Language Arts
- 4 mathematics (must include Algebra 1 and Geometry)
- 3 science (must include Biology 1 and a physical science⁶)
- 3 social studies (World History, U.S. History, ½ Economics, ½ U.S. Government)
- 1 fine or performing art, speech, debate, or approved practical art
- 3 electives

Additional Requirements:

- 2.0 GPA
- 20 hours volunteer community service¹
- Grade 10 ELA Assessment and Algebra 1 EOC¹²

Career and Technical Education Graduation Pathway Option

Minimum 18 credits in the following:

- 4 English
- 4 mathematics
- 3 science
- 3 social studies
- 2 CTE (must result in a program completion and an industry certification)
- 2 work-based learning programs (may substitute up to 2 credits of electives, including 0.5 credit in financial literacy)

Additional Requirements:

- 2.0 GPA
- 20 hours volunteer community service¹
- Grade 10 ELA Assessment and Algebra 1 EOC¹²

¹³ Mathematics courses that fulfill the equally rigorous credit requirement for Algebra 2 are defined by FLDOE.

¹⁴ Mathematics courses that fulfill the equally rigorous credit requirement for statistics are defined by FLDOE.

All graduation, diploma and designation requirements are subject to legislative changes.

How to Get the Most Out of High School

There are many things that you can do to enhance your high school experience. Taking advantage of all that your school has to offer takes careful planning and consideration. Colleges like to see that you challenged yourself during high school. Although having an A average is ideal, it is better for a university to see that you took the most rigorous level of classes that you were able to successfully complete. Taking a challenging curriculum is a heavily weighted part of the admissions process. Consider these different levels of coursework when registering for classes with your school counselor:

Honors

Taking an honors class is a great way to ease into the commitment to take higher-level coursework in high school. Honors classes often require more reading and homework assignments. However, they are also given more weight in your GPA than a regular class. Every student should strive to take at least one honors class in high school.

Advanced Placement, AICE and IB

The AP, AICE and IB programs offer challenging, college-level coursework in many subject areas. Successfully completing these classes requires dedication and commitment. Students are expected to do more reading than in an honors class and the rigor of material is at the college level. At the end of the year, students take an exam and may earn college credits with a passing score. See your school counselor to find out which courses are offered at your school.

Dual Enrollment

Students can earn FREE college credits by taking courses at Palm Beach State College or Florida Atlantic University through the Dual Enrollment program. Eligibility requirements include a minimum cumulative GPA and college-ready scores on the PSAT, ACT, SAT, or PERT. Dual Enrollment classes are offered on the college campus, but some high schools offer Dual Enrollment classes on their campus! If you are interested in this opportunity, speak to your school counselor as soon as possible to get the registration process started.

Career and Technical Education

Students who take Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses in high school learn valuable work-related skills while completing a Program of Study that leads to an Industry Certification. These courses are fun, challenging, and can help you add marketable skills to your resume. Some CTE courses and Industry Certifications transfer as college credit and can help you earn scholarships. See your school counselor to find out which Programs of Study are offered at your high school.

In addition to challenging coursework, colleges are also looking for well-rounded students. Try to participate in extracurricular activities like clubs or sports. Better yet, take on leadership roles in these activities. Volunteer and help an organization you care about. This shows a commitment to your community.

High school can be a fun, exciting time for all students. It is important to remember, however, that you are in high school to reach a greater goal: COLLEGE. Staying focused on your priorities will help you achieve that goal!

Making Successful Transitions

Adapted from "Believing the College Dream" by ECMC Foundation

Here are some suggestions to help you make a successful transition from middle school to high school:

Read, Read, Read!

- On average, you will need to learn 3,000 words each academic year in order to be successful as you move on to the next grade. Reading is the best way to acquire vocabulary and language, and reading often and in progressively larger quantities will prepare you for how difficult school will be in the future.
- Strengthen your study skills.
- You will need to know how to organize information effectively, including how to make outlines, take notes and structure information.

Stay Organized

- You will continue to have a different teacher for each subject.
- You will need to fulfill the expectations of six or more different teachers.

Take Responsibility

- You will need to be more self-motivated to make personal choices and good decisions.

Prepare for Changes

- You will need to consume large amounts of information in an efficient manner.
- You will need to learn to acquire information through listening to lectures and in some cases adapt to the lack of interaction during the class period.
- You will need to complete homework assignments and attend classes with minimal prodding from school staff.

Time Management Tips for High School Students

Adapted from collegeboard.org

Here are some tips for taking control of your time and organizing your life.

1. Make a “To Do” List Every Day

Put things that are most important at the top and do them first. If it’s easier, use a planner to track all of your tasks. And don’t forget to reward yourself for your accomplishments.

2. Use Spare Minutes Wisely

Get some reading done on the bus ride home from school, for example, to take advantage of that time.

3. It’s Okay to Say “No”

If your boss asks you to work on a Thursday night and you have a final exam the next morning, realize that it’s okay to say no. Keep your short-term and long-term priorities in mind.

4. Find the Right Time

You’ll work more efficiently if you figure out when you do your best work. For example, if your brain handles math better in the afternoon, don’t wait to do it until late at night.

5. Review Your Notes Every Day

You’ll reinforce what you’ve learned, so you need less time to study. You’ll also be ready if your teacher calls on you or gives a pop quiz.

6. Get a Good Night’s Sleep

Running on empty makes the day seem longer and your tasks seem more difficult.

7. Communicate Your Schedule to Others

If phone calls are proving to be a distraction, tell your friends that you take social calls from 7-8 p.m. It may sound silly, but it helps.

8. Become a Taskmaster

Figure out how much free time you have each week. Give yourself a time budget and plan your activities accordingly.

9. Don’t Waste Time Agonizing

Have you ever wasted an entire evening by worrying about something that you’re supposed to be doing? Was it worth it? Instead of agonizing and procrastinating, just do it!

10. Keep Things in Perspective

Setting goals that are unrealistic sets you up for failure. While it’s good to set high goals for yourself, be sure not to overdo it. Set goals that are difficult yet attainable.

Consider these tips, but personalize your habits so that they suit you. If you set priorities that fit your lifestyle, you’ll have a better chance of achieving your goals.

Personal Time Management Tool

Adapted from collegeboard.org

How do you spend your time? Fill in this worksheet with what you do in a normal school week. Use the results to figure out where you might have some extra time. See how you can improve your schedule.

How many hours a day do you:	Daily Total		Frequency		Weekly Total
Sleep (yes, include naps)?		X		=	
Spend in school?		X		=	
Study or do homework?		X		=	
Watch TV?		X		=	
Spend online or play games on the computer?		X		=	
Talk on the phone or use social media?		X		=	
Work at a job?		X		=	
Commute to and from work and/or school?		X		=	
Participate in extracurriculars (e.g., sports, clubs)?		X		=	
Prepare and eat meals?		X		=	
		X		=	
		X		=	
		X		=	
TOTAL HOURS					

Are You a Procrastinator?

Adapted from "PERSIST" by ECMC Foundation

A procrastinator is someone who postpones work, especially out of laziness or carelessness. Studies have shown that procrastinators receive lower grades than non-procrastinators. Students who procrastinate believe that the quality of their work is just as good as if they had completed their assignment with time to spare; however, that is generally not the case. Good work takes a lot of time, and students should plan accordingly.

Are you a procrastinator? If you answer yes to one or more of the following, you may need to pay special attention to **goal setting and time management** in order to get your assignments in on time and avoid cramming for exams at the last minute.

Do you:

- Put off starting tasks (like studying, papers, or projects), especially if it is something you are not interested in or don't want to do?
- Put off finishing tasks even if they are important?
- Start assignments and study for tests at the last minute?
- Find ways to waste time, like surfing the internet or playing video games?

Here are some simple techniques you can use to help break the habit of procrastination:

Budget your time. Figure out how long a task will take to complete and then double it. Build in extra time for revisions and review.

Clear your desk. Keep your desk or study area free of distractions. The more orderly you make your workspace, the easier you will find it to concentrate on the tasks at hand.

Set goals. Set weekly or even daily deadlines for yourself to accomplish a portion of a paper or project before it is due. This will help you stay on track and leave time for any tasks you may not have considered.

Remind yourself. Before going to bed, remind yourself what needs to be accomplished the next day. When you wake up, check your schedule and try to keep to it as best you can.

Reward yourself. Everyone works more efficiently when they have incentives. Reward yourself for finishing a project on time.

Get help when you need it. If you are still finding it difficult to keep procrastination at bay, talk to your teachers or school counselor. They will be able to help you stay on track.

A year-by-year guide to making the most of high school... So you can get into a great college!

*Please note these dates are meant to be general guidelines.
They vary from year to year and from school to school.
For specific information, contact your high school guidance office
or college financial aid office.*

9th grade

- » Get involved in extracurricular activities – colleges look for well-rounded students.
- » Explore your interests and develop your leadership skills.
- » Volunteer – you can volunteer at your church, around your neighborhood, and even at your school. See your counselor if you need ideas about places to perform community service. It's a great way to get involved in the community and demonstrate leadership.
- » Start exploring career options – talk to your parents, take a career-planning course or see your school counselor. Explore career options and their earning potential in the Occupational Outlook Handbook at www.bls.gov/ooh, www.mynextmove.org, and www.mycareershines.org.
- » Take your subjects seriously – take classes that challenge you academically while providing you with an opportunity to do well.

10th grade:

- » Continue taking rigorous courses in school. Take honors, Advanced Placement and AICE courses if appropriate.
- » Start researching colleges and universities – explore the website for each prospective college. Attend the School District's annual College and Career Fair. Create a notebook or notes page on your phone to write down thoughts or questions about possible colleges.
- » Explore scholarship opportunities – early scholarship research can lead to more potential funding. But be aware of scholarship scams – avoid services that charge a fee or “guarantee college money.”
- » Take the PSAT in October. Do your best, but don't sweat it. You'll get another chance in your junior year to take the PSAT.
- » Continue community service projects and extracurricular involvement. Colleges want to see well-rounded applicants!

A year-by-year guide to making the most of high school... So you can get into a great college! (cont.)

11th grade:

- » **August – October:** Start the year with a good attitude and **rigorous courses**. Keep working hard! Begin considering what qualities in a college are important to you. Talk to your parents and older relatives about their college experience. Prepare and then take the PSAT in October. Attend the School District’s annual College and Career Fair. Sign up to attend the on-campus presentations by college admissions representatives.
- » **November:** Start your college search online. Continue taking an active role in clubs, athletics, and community organizations.
- » **December – February:** Consider taking an SAT or ACT prep class. Register for a late-Spring and/or summer SAT or ACT. Talk to parents, teachers, older friends and school counselors about colleges. Discuss finances and the college selection process with your parents. Study hard and keep your grades up!
- » **March – April:** Keep doing your research and begin narrowing your list of potential colleges. Consider visiting colleges, while they are in session, and/or make plans to visit during the summer. Take the SAT or ACT, if scheduled. Review your extracurricular activity list and resumé.
- » **May:** Narrow your potential college list. Take the SAT, if scheduled. Work on a rough draft of your extracurricular activity list and resumé (see your counselor with questions or to see samples).
- » **June-July:** Take SAT and/or ACT. Consider college visits if possible. Take virtual college tours online. Fine-tune your list of colleges. Talk to friends about ones they are interested in. Begin work on college essays. Prepare for fall SAT or ACT exams. Don’t forget to find time to relax and recharge!

12th grade

- » **August:** Start the year with a good attitude and **rigorous courses**. Keep working hard! Register and prepare for fall standardized tests, if necessary. Write your application essays. Meet with your counselor. Continue college visits. If you have been unable to visit a college campus in person, consider going online for a virtual tour.
- » **September:** Preview the college’s online application and gather the required information. Ask teachers to write recommendations and provide them with the necessary forms and envelopes. Begin scholarship search and continue this throughout the year. Find out if your high school has a weekly Scholarship Bulletin or applications available in the guidance office.
- » **October:** Finalize list of schools and discuss pros and cons of Early Action and Early Decision with your counselor. Request a copy of your transcript and check it over. Continue distributing teacher recommendation forms. Check and double-check deadlines for admissions, financial aid and housing. Take SATs and/or ACT, if scheduled. File the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Apply for the Bright Futures Scholarship. Finalize college applications with late Fall deadlines.

A year-by-year guide to making the most of high school... So you can get into a great college! (cont.)

- » **November:** Submit applications with December deadlines. Continue distributing teacher recommendation forms. Continue working on applications. Continue searching for scholarship opportunities. Take the SATs, if scheduled.
- » **December:** File applications with January deadlines. Politely check with teachers and counselor to be sure recommendations and transcripts have been sent. If you still need to take the SAT or ACT, this is the last date to do so and still make January and February college application deadlines.
- » **January – February:** Continue to file applications. Send transcripts to colleges. Call Admissions Offices or check online to verify that applications are complete. Send necessary financial aid documentation directly to colleges; do forms well before their deadlines to maximize financial aid. Take SAT and/or ACT, if necessary. If eligible, attend the District’s HBCU/HSI Recruitment Tour.
- » **March – April:** Receive decision letters. Look over financial aid packages with your parents, and call the universities directly if you have any concerns. Talk to your counselor. If you are waitlisted, follow up with an email of continued interest and additional information and/or recommendations. Schedule last-minute visits to colleges where you have been accepted or waitlisted. Many schools have events especially for admitted students; go, if you are able. Begin searching for summer jobs and/or internships. May 1st is the national intent-to-enroll deadline.
- » **May:** Take AP and AICE exams, if scheduled, and send the scores to your final choice college. Write thank you notes to people who wrote recommendations for you. Arrange to have your final transcript sent to your college. **Graduate and take a deep breath! You did it!**

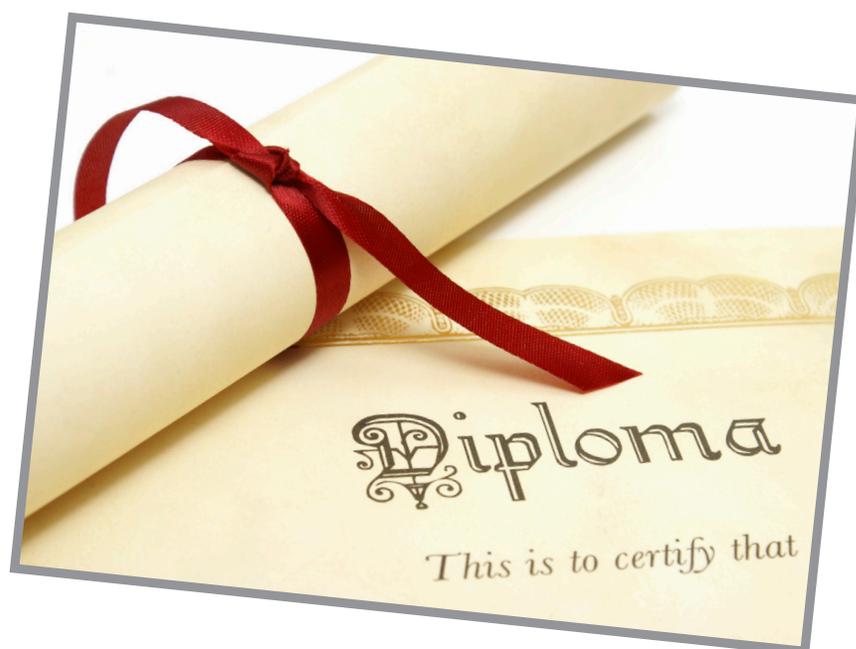


In Danger of Not Getting Your Diploma?

Talk to your counselor about these options

If you will receive a Certificate of Completion...

- » Continue taking the required assessments through Adult Education. Call the Adult Education Center at (561) 616-7800 for registration information. Ask if there is tutoring available.
- » Consider returning to school for another year. Talk to your counselor to see if this is a possibility.
- » Ask your counselor if there will be a tutorial program at your school during the summer.
- » Sign up to take the ACT and/or the SAT. Register at www.actstudent.org for the ACT. Register at www.collegeboard.org for the SAT. When you receive your score report, bring it in to your counselor. If you earned a passing score and have met all other requirements, you can trade in your Certificate of Completion for your Diploma!
- » Register at www.khanacademy.org for an account. Utilize Khan Academy to study for the SAT.
- » Contact Palm Beach State College for information regarding programs available to you. Call (561) 967-7222 or (866) 576-7222 to speak to an Admissions representative.



Vocabulary

Vocabulary you will need to know when applying for college, scholarships, and financial aid.

A.A. Degree

Associate of Arts Degree (can be transferred to a four-year university).

ACT

National college admissions examination that consists of subject area tests in English, Reading, Mathematics, and Science Reasoning.

A.S. Degree

Associate of Science Degree (cannot be transferred to a four-year university).

admission

One must apply for admission to the college through the Admissions Office.

Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE)

A rigorous curriculum from the University of Cambridge that emphasizes critical thinking and research skills. Students must take and pass exams from four different categories to earn an AICE Diploma, which awards college credit and is recognized at universities throughout the world.

Advanced Placement (AP)

Advanced Placement, a type of rigorous, college-level course available in high school in a variety of different subject areas. Each course culminates in a national exam administered by College Board. A score of 3, 4, or 5 is considered passing. Acceptance of scores, specific course codes and the number of credits awarded are determined by each university.

B.A. Degree

Bachelor of Arts Degree.

B.S. Degree

Bachelor of Science Degree.

class rank

A measure of how a student's grade point average compares to others in the graduating class.

College Level Examination Program (CLEP)

College Level Examination Program, a test given to see if a student has sufficient knowledge of certain subjects to be exempt from taking college-level courses.

Co-Op

A cooperative education program in which a student agrees to work for a specific company while in college. The student alternates terms (usually semesters, trimesters, or quarters) working full-time and going to college full-time. The student does this throughout his or her college education.

Vocabulary (cont.)

co-requisite

When enrolling in a particular course, you must also be enrolled in the course listed as a co-requisite during the same term.

course

This is what classes are called in college.

credits

Each course requires a certain number of hours each week. These hours make up the credits for the course. If a course requires you to attend three hours a week, then the class is a three-credit course.

degree

This is what a college student earns when he or she completes all requirements for his or her major plus all required electives.

dormitory

Also called a dorm; a place where students live on campus. The college or university has these available for students. Schools may reserve specific dorms for freshmen.

Early Action (EA)

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date. Early Action decisions are non-binding.

Early Decision (ED)

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted, they agree to enroll and withdraw all other applications. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early. Early Decision acceptances are binding, and the institution who extended the ED offer can rescind it if they find out the student did not withdraw his/her other applications.

electives

Courses that you may choose to take, some elective are required in specific course areas.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

Expected Family Contribution. This is a dollar amount determined by the information you submit on your FAFSA. It is the amount of money you and/or your parents are expected to contribute each year toward the cost of your college expenses.

fees

Additional money paid each semester for university activities and services.

financial aid

Monies that may be awarded as a student loan, work study, scholarships or grant.

Vocabulary (cont.)

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Free Application for Federal Student Aid – this is the application students must complete to find out what financial assistance they may receive. A student is not eligible for financial aid from a university unless he/she has completed a FAFSA. It is submitted after October 1st of the student's senior year of high school, and each year during college if the student will need financial aid for the following year.

freshman

A college student who has acquired up to 29 college credits; a first year college student.

full-time college students

College students taking 12 or more credits or hours per semester.

grade point average (GPA)

A numeric representation of a student's academic performance, usually on a 4.0 scale.

grant

Money awarded for college that does not have to be repaid.

high school record

Your high school grades, academic course selection, total number of high school courses complete or in progress, SAT/ACT test scores, extracurricular activities, awards, honors, recognitions and recommendations

Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI)

Hispanic-Serving Institutions, as designated by the U.S. Department of Education

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)

Historically Black Colleges and Universities, as designated by the U.S. Department of Education

hours

Used interchangeably with credits. If a student is taking 12 hours (credits) per semester, that means that he/she spends 12 hours a week in class.

International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme

A rigorous, academically challenging high school curriculum taken in grades 9-12. When the coursework and exams are successfully completed, the student can earn an IB Diploma, which is internationally recognized and leads to advanced standing in universities throughout the world.

junior

A college student who has between 60 and 89 college credits; a third year college student.

Vocabulary (cont.)

letter of recommendation

Letters written on behalf of the applicant. The writer informs the Office of Admissions as to the ability, character and likelihood of success the applicant will have while attending their college or university.

liberal arts

Generally refers to curriculum in the study of natural science, social science, and humanities.

loan

Money that you borrow from the government or private institutions which will accrue interest and require repayment.

major

Designated field of study in a college or university.

minor

Designated field of study requiring fewer credits than a major field.

part-time college student

A college student taking fewer than 12 hours per semester.

personal statement

A part of the college application. A personal statement is a piece of writing that describes you, your beliefs, your accomplishments, and your interests.

PERT

The Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT) is the placement test Florida colleges use to determine whether students are ready for college-level coursework. The PERT includes three sections: Reading, Writing, and Mathematics.

pre-requisite

A required course that must be taken before other courses can be taken. The pre-requisite class is the foundation of knowledge for subsequent courses.

PSAT

Preliminary SAT, a practice SAT taken during your freshman, sophomore and junior years of high school. The score earned on the junior year PSAT may qualify you for the National Merit Scholarship.

resumé

A summary of activities, experiences, and interests.

Vocabulary (cont.)

room and board

A term used for meals and housing on campus -- this may be a required package that a student must purchase for their freshman year of college.

SAT

One of the standardized tests used as a college entrance exam, testing skills in Reading, Writing & Language, and Math.

scholarship

Money awarded for college that does not have to be repaid.

senior

A college student who has 90 or more hours of college credits; a fourth year college student.

sophomore

A college student who has between 30 and 59 college credits; a second year college student.

study abroad

A college program that allows the student to attend a university in a different country for one or two semesters.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

If your native language is not English, you may be required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language. Each university sets a minimum score as part of the admissions requirements.

transcript

Official document that records all grades earned in high school.

tuition

The cost for your classes. It may not include administrative and student activity fees.

underclassmen

College students in their first and second years; college freshmen and sophomores.

upperclassmen

College students in their third and fourth years; college juniors and college seniors.

waitlisted

This is a position on a waiting list for acceptance. Your acceptance is dependent on other applicants declining acceptance.

Additional vocabulary related to Financial Aid can be found in Section 3.

Post-secondary Standardized Tests

<i>ACT:</i>	<i>National college admissions examination that consists of subject area tests in English, Reading, Mathematics, and Science Reasoning.</i>
<i>AICE:</i>	<i>Advanced International Certificate of Education</i>
<i>AP:</i>	<i>Advanced Placement Test</i>
<i>ASVAB:</i>	<i>Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test</i>
<i>PERT:</i>	<i>Postsecondary Education Readiness Test</i>
<i>PSAT/NMSQT:</i>	<i>Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test</i>
<i>SAT:</i>	<i>National college admissions examination in Reading, Writing & Language, and Math</i>
<i>TOEFL:</i>	<i>Test of English as a Foreign Language</i>

Staying Organized

Having good organizational skills is a habit that will truly benefit you in almost every aspect of your daily life. Start to get into the habit now of keeping your school information organized each year. Keep a folder in your house for your awards, report cards, and important achievements during high school. When it is time to write your resumé, you will be surprised how many things happened in high school that are worth mentioning. Instead of scrambling at the last minute to put your resumé together and risk forgetting an important detail, you will easily be able to gather your information. This habit can be carried over to staying organized with your homework, college work, bills...just about anything! A sample portfolio is shown here.

My Portfolio

Honors and Awards	Description	Dates Involved	Hours per Week
Extracurricular Activity	Description	Years Involved	Hours per Week Weeks per Year
Volunteer Work and Community Service	Description	Years Involved	Hours per Week Weeks per Year
Paid Employment	Responsibilities	Start Date/End Date	Hours per Week

Writing Your Resumé

A resumé is designed to give college admission representatives or prospective employers a summary of your education, achievements, and skills. In one or two pages, your resumé should highlight your positive qualities and accomplishments. As a high school student, you may not feel like you have a lot to list. However, do NOT embellish or falsify your resumé! Your English teacher can help you organize your information so that your resumé will be comprehensive and impressive. An example of information you can include is shown below.

Maria Smith
1718 State Street
West Palm Beach, FL 33409
(561) 474-8888 • firstname.lastname@gmail.com*

Education

- West Palm Beach High School, class of 2023
- Member of the Medical Sciences Academy
 - GPA: 3.75 HPA: 4.39
 - Class Rank: 47 out of 575
 - AICE Diploma curriculum
 - Dual Enrollment courses at Palm Beach State College

Extracurricular Activities

Clubs

- National Honor Society
 - Secretary, 2021-2022
 - President, 2022-2023
- SECME (Science, Engineering, Communication, Mathematics and Enrichment)
 - District winner for mousetrap car competition, 2019
- Student Government
 - Freshman Class Representative
 - Junior Class Treasurer
 - Senior Class Historian

- Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society)

Athletics

- Volleyball Team, Junior Varsity

Volunteer Service

- Beach Clean-Ups, 20 hours
- Habitat for Humanity, 35 hours
- Math tutoring at Sunshine Elementary School, 20 hours
- Community Medical Clinic, 150 hours

Awards and Recognition

- Science Student of the Year, 2019
- Character Counts winner for Integrity, 2020
- Scholarship recipient from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, 2022
- Pathfinder Nominee for Vocational Education, 2023

Work Experience

- Pet Supermarket, 10 hours/week, 2021-present

Special Skills and Certifications

- Proficient in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel
- Fluent in Spanish
- CPR Certified
- Pharmacy Technician Industry Certification

References**

- Mrs. Tina Teacher, Student Government Sponsor (teacher.name@palmbeachschools.org)
- Mr. Sam Service, Volunteer Coordinator at Community Medical Clinic (reference@organization.com)

*If you do not already have an email address that is simple, easy to spell, and professional, now is the time to register for one. You are going to be applying for college, asking for scholarship money, and looking for a job. You want your email address to imply that you are a mature young adult ready to enter the real world.

**Ask permission before listing anyone as a reference.

Help! I Have Senioritis!

Graduation is Near! Stay on Track! Stay Focused!

Some seniors get “senioritis”. It is a common ailment among students in their senior year of high school. After all, you have almost completed thirteen years of school. You have studied hard. You have earned good grades and scored well on your college entrance exams. Surely celebration is in order! Not quite yet . . .

Before you start skipping school and hanging out at the beach, rethink this senioritis state of mind. Many seniors think that college preparation ends after the junior year of high school. Seniors, you are wrong! Colleges are particularly interested in your senior year.

Most colleges and universities require applicants to list the courses they are taking during their senior year of high school, including the level of rigor of the courses. College admission officers are on the alert for seniors who are taking the year off. Many colleges require a mid-year report. This becomes an official part of your application.

Most college acceptance letters warn applicants that their admission is contingent upon successful continued performance. **COLLEGES CAN RESCIND ACCEPTANCE OFFERS!**

Your senior year is a special year – one full of friends, fun, and senior activities. Enjoy all of these things, but keep them in perspective. If you do not keep up your grades, you will still be where you are now but your friends will be enjoying what they have worked so hard for . . . COLLEGE!!!



Seven Excuses Not to Go to College

1. “I can’t go to college...nobody in my family has ever gone.”

WRONG! In every family, someone has to be the first. Why not you? True, being first can be hard. For instance, you may have to explain why college is important to you. On the other hand, being first is likely to be a source of pride for you and for your family.

2. “I’ve been in school for 13 years. That’s enough! I just want a good job.”

GIVE COLLEGE A CHANCE! It’s not like high school. In college you pick your major – a subject area that you want to learn about. As for that good job – the best jobs and the best salaries go to those with education beyond high school.

3. “I can’t go to college because I can’t afford it.”

WRONG! Most students get financial aid to help pay for college, and most aid is based on need. This means the less money you have, the more aid you might get.

4. “I can’t go to college...I don’t know what I want to do with my life.”

JOIN THE CROWD! Thousands of college freshmen haven’t decided on a career or a major. That’s how college helps. It exposes you to all sorts of subjects you’ve never heard of before. College is a great place to learn more about prospective careers.

5. “I can’t go to college because I won’t fit in.”

NOT SO! Most colleges have students from many backgrounds. Homesick? Need a hand? Look for people with your interests or your background. Better yet, expand your social circle. College is a great place to meet new people with different ideas. The more people you understand and feel comfortable with, the better prepared you will be for the world after college. Colleges offer mental health counseling, medical care at the campus health center, and many social programs at the Student Union. Don’t be afraid to utilize these resources!

6. “I can’t go because I don’t know how to apply or where I want to go.”

WRONG! Tell your high school counselor you want to go to college fairs, where colleges introduce themselves to students. Research colleges online. Try to visit colleges that interest you. Keep at it! After a while, you’ll get a feel for differences among colleges, and start to know what you want.

7. “College is too hard for me.”

NOT YOU, TOO! Most students worry about being good enough for college, so you’re not alone. In high school, don’t just study – learn *how* to study. Most good students have strategies for studying. Once you learn how to study, chances are you’ll do fine. Still need help? Professors have office hours to answer questions, and all universities have tutoring and academic support centers.

Making Successful Transitions from High School to College

Adapted from “Believing the College Dream” by ECMC Foundation

Here are some suggestions to help you make a successful transition to college:

Academics

- You should research the requirements needed for graduation for both your major and general education.
- Take courses that interest you.
- Find out how many credits you need to be considered a full-time student.
- Take an appropriate course load during your first year. This will help give you time to adjust to all the changes of college life while not being overwhelmed by your studies.
- Attend professors’ and teaching assistants’ office hours.
- Do not fall behind in your coursework, which can lead to low grades, course withdrawals, academic probation and eventual expulsion.

Academic Support

- Conduct a thorough assessment of all of the academic support resources available on the campus.
- Think ahead and know what is available so that you will know exactly what to do when you need help and support.

Credit

- College students have too many opportunities to apply for credit cards from the moment they set foot on campus, so it is important to learn about managing your credit and finances.
- Make sure to learn of the importance of having good credit because how you manage these issues in college will have a long-lasting effect on your abilities to do things you might want to do as you get older, such as buy a car or house.

Making Successful Transitions from High School to College (cont.)

Adapted from "Believing the College Dream" by ECMC Foundation

Financial Aid

- Make sure to keep all correspondence that is mailed to you by the financial aid office. If you have to mail paperwork back, keep a photocopy before you mail it. Create a separate folder in your email to save all correspondence in one place.
- Remember, the financial aid office is there to serve you, no matter how frustrating it may become at times. Be persistent and make sure to get all the aid you need in order to continue your education.
- Get to know at least one financial aid officer on a first-name basis so you have a specific person to go to when you have a problem with your financial aid.
- Undocumented students may not have access to financial aid and laws vary greatly from state to state.

Scholarships

- Avoid companies that guarantee scholarships in return for a fee.
- Begin your scholarship search online. See the pages at the end of this book.
- There are many scholarships that do not require U.S. permanent residency or citizenship. They are sponsored by private organizations and require an application. Apply early for these!

Housing

- Make sure that you are honest with yourself about what kind of living situation you want.
- If you are going to live in the dorms, you will probably be given a questionnaire regarding roommate preferences. You should think not just about what you want, but also about the person you will be living with. (Students who mark that they want to stay up late may find that they don't really want a roommate who regularly is up until 3 a.m.)
- If you look for an apartment, make sure to look early because off-campus housing can be difficult to find, especially in large, urban areas.

Making Successful Transitions from High School to College (cont.)

Adapted from “Believing the College Dream” by ECMC Foundation

Social Life

- College is a wonderful opportunity to grow and experience life as a young adult; however, you need to be careful when engaging in social activities.
- Every campus offers a variety of social events, but using your good judgment is crucial regardless of where you go to school or whether you stay home or go away to college.
- There may be opportunities to continue to participate in activities you did when you were in high school, or you might decide to try something entirely new.
- No matter what you are interested in, participate in activities you feel passionate about and that contribute to continued success on your journey.



Why Earn a College Degree?

Adapted from “Believing the College Dream” and “PERSIST” by ECMC Foundation

The college experience can benefit you in so many ways:

Intellectual

- You will be exposed to exciting new ideas and areas of study.
- You will get to pick your own classes, including the subjects and the time of day.
- You will increase your skills in reading, writing, math and analysis.
- You will have opportunities to work alongside professors doing cutting-edge research.
- You will have the opportunity to increase your knowledge of the world, of different cultures and your own.

Developmental

- You will become more mature and independent because you will have complete responsibility for your own academic career.
- You can live in a dormitory or an apartment.
- You can make lots of new friends.
- You will be exposed to a vast array of cultures, philosophies and ways of life.
- You will experience a wide variety of student activities, including the opportunity to tutor, mentor, and study in another country.
- You will develop skills for successfully transitioning to adulthood and the world of work.

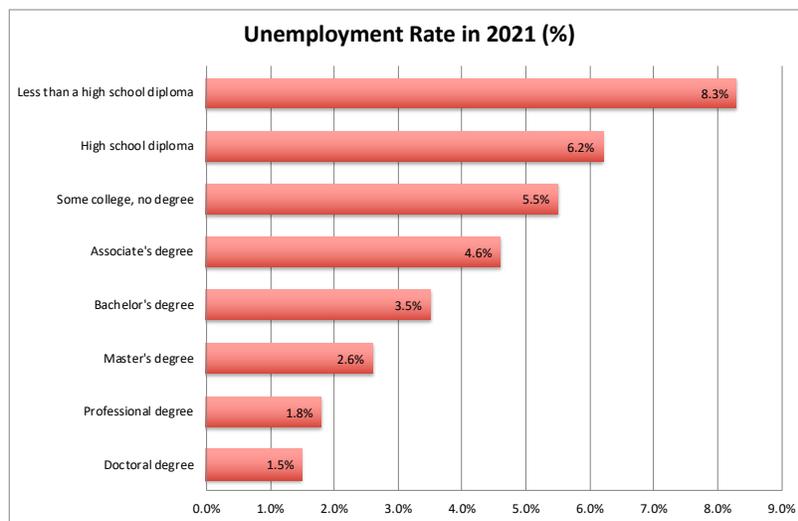
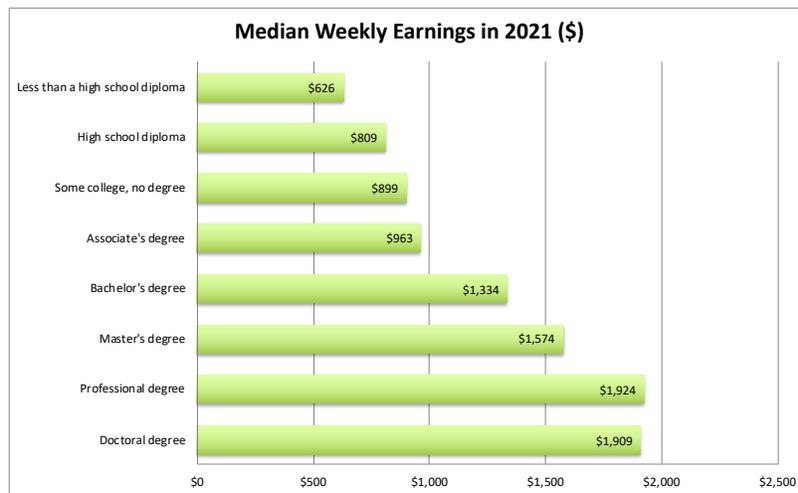
Financial

- You will be exposed to career and life experiences through internships and fellowships.
- You will increase your earning capacity – a four-year college graduate earns almost ***\$1 million more*** than a high school graduate during his/her lifetime.
- You will benefit from better working conditions, including longer job tenure, more on-the-job training opportunities, and more responsibility and promotion opportunities.

Why Earn a College Degree? (cont.)

Adapted from “Believing the College Dream” and “PERSIST” by ECMC Foundation

The following chart will help you understand the link between college completion and employment. Although you could begin a career after high school or continue working rather than enroll in college courses, your potential job earnings would be significantly lower than if you receive a college degree. You will see that the median earnings increase along with the level of education, while the unemployment rates decrease proportionately as the level of education increases.



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
Source: Current Population Survey, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
“Education pays, 2021,” *Career Outlook*, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2022.

This information should keep you motivated to stay in school, even if it means working fewer hours and temporarily earning less money — in the long run, you will make up for any gaps in employment while enrolled. In addition to higher pay, with a college degree you will have a wider variety of jobs to choose from and greater opportunity for promotion, not to mention the knowledge and personal development gained from your years in college.

Part 2:

*The
College Application
Process*

The Parts of a College Application

The beginning of your senior year is the time to start submitting college applications. But, the preparation begins well before that. Stay organized throughout the process by using a checklist (found on page 44) and keeping all papers and correspondence in a file or a separate folder in your email.

College applications will be different, depending upon what kind of institution you are applying to: an in-state public university, a private university, or a specialized school (such as for performing arts). It is very important to follow the college's instructions and adhere to deadlines posted on the website. Generally, however, a college application requires some or all of the following:

- **Application:** Most colleges have their own application, but many also accept (or require) that applicants submit the Coalition Application or the Common Application. The Coalition and Common applications are free, but you still need to pay the college's application fee.
- **Application Fee:** College application fees can vary. They are non-refundable, even if you are not accepted to the school. Low-income families can qualify for an application fee waiver for some colleges. See your counselor for more information or to obtain a fee waiver.
- **High School Transcript:** Transcripts are sent electronically to some schools and mailed to others. Most high schools charge a nominal fee to send transcripts or use an online service like Parchment. Some universities require the applicant to complete the SSAR (Self-Reported Student Academic Record) instead of sending an electronic or paper transcript. Your high school's registrar will send the final transcript after graduation, so be sure to tell your counselor where you will be attending college.
- **Test Scores:** Colleges will use your ACT or SAT scores as part of the criteria for admission. You can request that the scores are sent when you apply to take each test, or you can have them sent after your scores are available. There is no additional charge to send them to colleges when you apply for the test. If you wait until after your scores are available, there is a charge.
- **Letters of Recommendation:** Some universities require one or more letters of recommendation. These letters should come from an adult who knows you well, has a favorable opinion of you, and is familiar with your accomplishments. Many public universities do not require letters of recommendation, and do not even want them submitted. Check the admissions website carefully to see the college's preference. If there is a special circumstance, however, a letter of recommendation may help, even if the school does not require one.
- **Essay:** The essay is sometimes called a "personal statement". If an essay is required, it often plays a critical role in evaluating your overall application. This well-crafted piece of writing should be proofread multiple times and you should seek the help of a teacher or counselor to guide you and provide feedback.

The Parts of a College Application

(cont.)

- **Florida State Residency Requirements:** If you are planning to attend a public university or a state college you **MUST** submit the required state residency documents in order to receive in-state tuition. Follow the directions carefully to ensure that you are not charged incorrectly. If you have questions about your residency status, contact the admissions office at the college.
- **Interview:** Some colleges require an interview as part of the application. This is your chance to make a personal connection with the admissions representative or alumnus.
- **Audition/Portfolio:** Certain programs require an audition or portfolio submission in order to be considered for admission. If you are applying to a college that specializes in your chosen art (music, dance, visual art, design) this may be part of your overall application. However, if you are applying to a limited-access program within a larger college, this may be separate from your general application and have a different deadline than other admissions deadlines. Check the program's website or call to make sure you submit your work on time.

It is a good idea to confirm that the admissions office received all the parts of your application. Check your account periodically and call if you have questions or concerns. It is advisable to wait at least two weeks after information has been sent before you call to check on your status.

Your entire application should create a picture of who you are and what qualities you can bring to the college's campus. Colleges are looking for accomplished, unique students who took advantage of opportunities in high school to showcase their talents and leadership abilities.



Writing a Great Essay

As you submit college and scholarship applications, you may be asked to include an essay (also called a personal statement--these two terms are often used interchangeably). There are usually two types: a general personal statement where you are asked to talk about yourself; or an essay answering a specific question or prompt. This piece of writing will be a crucial part of your overall application and it is imperative that it is your best work. Keep these things in mind when you are writing your essay:

- The goal of your personal statement is to set yourself apart from other applicants. What makes you unique? What experiences have you had that others your age have not?
- Engage the reader...start off with a strong opening that will grab the reader's attention and carry it throughout the piece. Consider using a non-traditional structure (such as diary entries), a literary device or including dialogue--IF it is appropriate and lends itself to the flow of your writing. College essays and personal statements are not intended to be traditional five-paragraph essays.
- Be concise and deliberate with your words. Every single word and sentence should relate back to the prompt (or the theme of your personal statement). Eliminate anything that doesn't further your story.
 - That being said, however, it is ***strongly recommended*** that you write your first draft without regard for conciseness or a word limit. It is important to get everything on paper that you think may make your essay great. During the editing process, you will see what belongs and what you can eliminate.
- Don't immediately choose one prompt. When given the choice of several prompts, brainstorm ideas (or write rough drafts) for all of them. You will begin to see which one becomes your strongest piece of writing, and then you can focus on that specific prompt.
- Whether writing a free-flowing personal statement or answering a specific prompt, avoid whining, complaining, or implying that the reader should take pity on you. Colleges want to know if you've overcome obstacles or have had challenging life-circumstances. Frame these events in a way that show your resiliency and strength. *Be the hero of your own story!*
- Colleges want to know what kind of student you are, but they also want to know what kind of person you are. Do not rehash your resume, grades, or list the classes you've taken (they already have this information). Tell them about you. What are your goals? What are you passionate about? What makes you stand out from your peers? Include concrete examples.
- After you finish your essay, evaluate the content and make sure it answers the question and addresses ALL parts of the prompt. You may have created a fabulous piece of writing, but if it is incomplete it will count against you.
- Don't rely on your computer's spell-check to catch every error. READ, RE-READ, and RE-READ AGAIN. In addition to checking spelling and grammar, ask your counselor or English teacher to read it. Is it clear, concise, and well-structured? Is it a reflection of you? Are there places you need to provide more details, or perhaps parts you should not include? Having an adult read your writing will provide helpful feedback. Be willing to take constructive criticism and use it to make your final piece as polished as possible.

As with all good writing, this process takes time and focus. Do not wait until the last minute to begin working on your essay. In the holistic application review process, your essay or personal statement will weigh heavily in the reader's overall impression of you and could be the deciding factor in the admissions decision. Show them why they should say yes to YOU!

Test Taking Tips

Adapted from Pearson Education, Inc.

General Tips

- Don't divide your time evenly between all the questions in a section. Even though all the questions are worth the same number of points, if you spend too much time on the hard ones you will not leave enough time to answer the easy ones.
- Answer every question, even if you have to guess. You don't get points taken off your score for a wrong answer, and you just might choose the right answer.
- If you do not know the answer to a difficult question, make sure to eliminate the answer choices you know are incorrect. This will allow you to focus on fewer choices and avoid getting distracted.
- Combine commonalities in answer choices when you don't know the answer and need to guess on a multiple-choice question. Take all the parts of the answer choices and combine them to find the most common answer – chances are that is the correct answer.
- Put a mark next to questions that you'd like to come back to – that way they'll be easy to find if you have extra time at the end.
- Read questions carefully. Missing one important word can make a big difference.

Math

- If you have no idea how to get the correct answer, plug in each of the possible answers to see if it works. Start with choice "C" – it will be the middle number, and once you've calculated it, you'll know whether you need to try a larger or smaller number.
- Use your test booklet instead of scratch paper to do your calculations. If you need to go back to a question, the work you did will be easy to find.

Reading

- For sentence completions with two blanks, work on one blank at a time. You can probably eliminate some answers before you even need to look at the second word. If one part does not make sense in context, then you can eliminate the entire choice from consideration.
- For sentence completions, try to figure out whether the missing word is a good thing or a bad thing. For example: "*The lake was the most _____ thing the parched man had ever seen.*" A thirsty man would probably see a lake in a positive way, so look for choices that have a positive connotation. Even if you don't know precisely what an answer means, you may be able to eliminate possibilities.
- Try to come up with an answer yourself before looking at the choices. If one of them is similar to your own answer, there's a good chance that it's right.
- For the reading comprehension, read the questions before you read the text samples. You'll then be able to focus your reading efforts.

Test Dates

SAT and ACT Test Schedule

Students who qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch can receive a limited number of fee waivers for each test and application fee waivers for some universities. See your counselor to receive the waiver.

SAT

www.sat.collegeboard.org

<u>SAT Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration Deadline</u>
October 1, 2022	September 2, 2022	September 20, 2022
November 5, 2022	October 7, 2022	October 25, 2022
December 3, 2022	November 3, 2022	November 22, 2022
March 11, 2023	February 10, 2023	February 28, 2023
May 6, 2023	April 7, 2023	April 25, 2023
June 3, 2023	May 4, 2023	May 23, 2023
August 26, 2023	TBA	TBA

ACT

www.actstudent.org

<u>ACT Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration Deadline</u>
September 10, 2022	August 5, 2022	August 19, 2022
October 22, 2022	September 16, 2022	September 30, 2022
December 10, 2022	November 4, 2022	November 11, 2022
February 11, 2023	January 6, 2023	January 20, 2023
April 15, 2023	March 10, 2023	March 24, 2023
June 10, 2023	May 5, 2023	May 19, 2023
July 15, 2023	June 16, 2023	June 23, 2023

State University System (SUS) Requirements

The *minimum* requirements are:

- 2.5 *recalculated* high school GPA

AND

- College Entrance Exams:

SAT

Reading	24
Writing and Language	25
Math	24

ACT

Reading	19
English	17
Math	19

All students must complete:

4 credits	English
3 credits	Natural Science (including Biology)
3 credits	Social Science (World History, US History, ½ US Government, ½ Economics)
2 credits	World Language
	Student may demonstrate proficiency for SUS Admission purposes by successfully completing:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the second level of a high school course• the first level of an AP, IB, or AICE course• the second level of a four-credit college course• the third level of a college course, regardless of credit hours
4 credits	Math (Algebra 1 and above)
2 credits	Additional academic credits from the subjects listed above

Keep in mind that these are the *minimum* requirements for admission. Most universities have a selective admissions process based on a competitive pool of applicants.

See your counselor for more information about courses offered in your school that will meet these requirements.

Do You Have What It Takes?

Although the State University System lists the minimum eligibility requirements for admission, the majority of universities look to admit students who have shown that they are serious about their desire to attend a competitive, four-year university. These students have taken challenging courses throughout high school and performed well on the SAT or ACT.

State Universities will recalculate your grades based on the following 18 *academic credits*:

- 4 English
- 4 Math (Algebra 1 and above)
- 3 Social Sciences
- 3 Natural Sciences
- 2 World Languages
- plus additional courses in those academic subject areas

How can you improve your chances of raising your recalculated GPA?

- Focus your study efforts on your core academic classes
- Challenge yourself with Honors, AP, AICE and Dual Enrollment classes
- Seek grade forgiveness for those classes in which you earned a “D” or “F”

How can you improve your chances of earning a high score on the SAT and/or ACT?

- Test early – sign up for one of the Spring tests in your junior year
- Test often – plan to take the test two or three times
- Consider taking the ACT
- Ask your counselor or English teacher for practice tests or online resources

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA INSTITUTIONAL MATRIX AS OF AUGUST 2022



NAME OF INSTITUTION	MIDDLE 50% OF ADMITTED FTIC 2022 (S=SUMMER) (F= FALL)			ADMISSION DEADLINES				SCHOLARSHIPS	
	GPA	SAT	ACT	DEADLINES 1	DEADLINES 2	ROLLING ADMISSION/ FINAL DEADLINE	DECISION RELEASE 1		DECISION RELEASE 2
FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY	S: 3.5 F: 3.7	S: 1020 F: 1110	S: 16 F: 18	11/1	5/1	5/1	9/16	Rolling	11/1
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	S: 3.22-3.60 F: 3.70-4.30	S: 1000-1120 F: 1090-1260	S: 20-23 F: 22-28	11/1		4/1	10/1	Rolling	1/15
FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY	S: 3.56-4.33 F: 3.75-4.52	S: 1010-1170 F: 1090-1240	S: 19-24 F: 21-27	11/1		3/1	12/1	Rolling	11/1
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY	S: 3.9-4.4 F: 4.2-4.7	S: 1070-1170 F: 1250-1390	S: 21-24 F: 26-30	11/1		4/1	Rolling	Rolling	11/15
FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY	S: 3.8-4.5 F: 4.0-4.7	S: 1140-1250 F: 1290-1410	S: 22-27 F: 27-32	11/1		3/1	11/15	Rolling	11/1
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY	S: 4.0-4.4 F: 4.3-4.6	S: 1180-1300 F: 1300-1430	S: 25-29 F: 29-32	10/15		3/1	12/15	2/15	12/1
NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA	F: 3.8-4.4	F: 1110-1320	F: 22-29	11/1		4/1	Rolling	Rolling	2/1
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA	S: 3.9-4.3 F: 3.9-4.4	S: 1150-1270 F: 1250-1370	S: 23-27 F: 26-30			5/1	9/15	Rolling	11/1
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	S: 4.4-4.6 F: 4.4-4.6	S: 1240-1420 F: 1370-1500	S: 28-32 F: 31-34	11/1		3/1	2/24	3/24	11/1
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA	S: 3.37-4.30 F: 3.60-4.39	S: 1110 F: 1135	S: 22 F: 24			5/1	Rolling	Rolling	10/15
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA	S: 3.62-4.12 F: 4.00-4.50	S: 1100-1190 F: 1240-1390	S: 22-25 F: 27-31	11/1		3/1	12/15	Rolling	1/15
UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA	S: 3.4-4.05 F: 3.5-4.18	S: 1050-1170 F: 1050-1220	S: 21-25 F: 21-27	12/1		6/1	10/15	Rolling	12/1

FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY Tallahassee, Florida admissions.famu.edu 904-985-3786 SAT Code 5215 ACT Code 0726	FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY Boca Raton, Florida fau.edu/admissions 561-297-3040 SAT Code 5229 ACT Code 0729	FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY Fort Myers, Florida fgcu.edu/admissionsandaid 239-590-1000 SAT Code 5211 ACT Code 0733	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY Miami, Florida admissions.fiu.edu 305-348-7000 SAT Code 5206 ACT Code 0776	FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY Lakeland, Florida floridapoly.edu/admissions 863-874-4774 SAT Code 7303 ACT Code 2869	FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY Tallahassee, Florida admissions.fsu.edu 850-644-6200 SAT Code 5219 ACT Code 0734
NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA Sarasota, Florida ncf.edu/admissions 941-487-5000 SAT Code 5506 ACT Code 0790	UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA Orlando, Florida admissions.ucf.edu 407-823-3000 SAT Code 5233 ACT Code 0735	UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA Gainesville, FL admissions.ufl.edu 352-392-1365 SAT Code 5812 ACT Code 0758	UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA Lakeshore, FL unf.edu/admissions 904-600-1111 SAT Code 5900 ACT Code 0711	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA Tampa, Florida usf.edu/admissions 813-974-3550 SAT Code 5928 ACT Code 0761	UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA Pensacola, Florida uwf.edu/admissions 850-474-2230 SAT Code 5833 ACT Code 0771

TRANSFER PROGRAMS			IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS			
	NAME OF INSTITUTION	2+2 ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS	ATHLETICS	SERVICES FOR DIFFERING ABILITIES	VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS	HOMELESS/FORMER FOSTER LIAISON
	FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY	Ignite Program	850-561-2168	850-599-3180	850-412-5843	850-599-8513
	FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	Link to FAU	561-297-3199	561-297-3880	561-297-4725	561-297-3542
	FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY	Destination FGCU	239-590-7012	239-590-7956	239-590-7914	239-590-7699
	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY	Connect4Success	305-348-2756	305-348-3850	305-348-2838	305-348-3445
	FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY	Polk State College	863-874-8653	863-874-8770	863-874-4774	863-874-8641
	FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY	Aspire TCC2FSU	850-645-2527	850-644-9566	850-644-9562	850-644-9699
	NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA	NCF Transform: Daytona State, Florida Southwestern State, HCC, Santa Fe, Lake Sumter, State College of Florida	941-487-4250	941-487-4496	941-487-4230	941-487-4635
	UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA	DirectConnect to UCF	407-823-1000	407-823-2371	407-823-2707	407-823-5607
	UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	Gator Engineering@Santa Fe Gator Engineering@State College of FL DCP@Santa Fe	352-375-4683	352-392-8565	352-392-2244	352-294-2273
	UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA	UNF 10/4 Program	904-620-2473	904-620-2769	904-620-5131	904-620-1491
	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA	FUSE	813-974-2125	813-974-4309	813-974-2291	813-974-3350
	UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA	2UWF	850-474-3003	850-474-2387	850-474-2550	850-474-2384

U.S. News & World Report ranks Florida's Higher Education #1 in the country! With 12 members of the State University System and 28 members of the Florida College System. Florida offers a wide range of programs, degrees and experiences. Please visit floridashines.org

The Talented Twenty Program: The Talented Twenty Program is part of the Governor's Equity in Education Plan. The purpose is to guarantee admission to students who succeed in their respective K-12 public schools, and to encourage students to strive for better grades and a rigorous curriculum. The Florida Department of Education and Florida Board of Governors has created a frequently asked questions document to assist public school counselors with navigating the process. Please visit www.fldoe.org/schools/family-community/activities-programs/talented-twenty-program/ for details and step-by-step instructions.

Florida Student Scholarship & Grant Programs: Students must submit a completed Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) to the Office of Student Financial Assistance for programs such as the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, Jose Marti Scholarship and Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans. Please visit floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org

AA degrees for graduating seniors: A high school student earning dual enrollment credit and/or an AA degree in high school is considered a first-time in college student and should submit an application as a first-year student, not as a transfer. Earning the AA while in high school does not guarantee admission into a specific state university.



RESOURCES:

Florida Shines: floridashines.org

Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook: dlss.flvc.org/florida-counseling-for-future-education-handbook

Florida College Access Network: floridacollegeaccess.org



*Asterisk beside institution name reflects data from 2021-22

	ADVENT HEALTH UNIVERSITY*	BARRY UNIVERSITY*	ECKERD COLLEGE	EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY	FLAGLER COLLEGE	FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY*	FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE	JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY	KEISER UNIVERSITY FLAGSHIP CAMPUS	LYNN UNIVERSITY
LOCATION	www.dhu.edu	www.barry.edu	www.eckerd.edu	daytonabeach.ecau.edu	www.flagler.edu	www.ftc.edu	www.fsothern.edu	www.jvu.edu	www.keiseruniversity.edu	www.lynn.edu
UNDERGRADUATE/FULL TIME ENROLLMENT	ORLANDO, FL	MIAMI, FL	ST. PETERSBURG, FL	DAYTONA BEACH, FL	ST. AUGUSTINE, FL	MELBOURNE, FL	LAKELAND, FL	JACKSONVILLE, FL	WEST PALM BEACH, FL	BOCA RATON, FL
PERCENTAGE OF UNDERGRADUATES FROM FLORIDA	1166	2,868	1,970	6,500	2,500	3,459	2,834	2,771	1150	2,252
ADMISSION DEADLINE										
MIDRANGE GPA	80%	65%	20%	38%	55%	40%	60%	55%	45%	36%
MIDRANGE/AVG. SAT (CR&M, MIDDLE 50%)	JUL 1, NOV 1, & MAR 1	ROLLING	NOV 15 EARLY ACT, MAR 1 ROLLING	JAN 15 & ROLLING	NOV 1 (ED) & MARCH 1 (RD)	ROLLING	NOV 1 (ED) & MARCH 1 (RD)	ROLLING	ROLLING	NOV 15 EARLY ACT, MAR 1 ROLLING
MIDRANGE/AVG. ACT (CR&M, MIDDLE 50%)	3.1-3.5	3.38	3.2-3.6	3.89	3.55	3.85	3.6-4.1	3.61	3.0-3.2	3.88
TUITION, FEES, ROOM & BOARD	Test Optional*	960*	1100-1275*	1200-1399*	1150	1150-1340	1170-1310	1060-1230	990	1140
ACCEPTANCE AP/18 DUAL ENROLLMENT (087 ALL)	Test Optional*	18*	24-29*	26-29*	26	25-31	25-30	21-27*	20	24
AVG NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIP/GRAUNT AWARD	\$23,120	\$47,074	\$62,750	\$53,774 in state	\$37,450	\$53,646	\$52,900	\$60,020	\$51,204	\$53,120
AVG NON-NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIP/GRAUNT AWARD	AP, IB, DE	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL
TOP 3 MAJORS	\$7,300	\$7,586	\$28,000	\$16,503	\$12,368	\$10,000	\$26,127	\$26,100	\$6,000	\$6,373
	\$4,000	\$13,421	\$18,000	\$20,024	\$3,808	\$22,000	\$20,872	\$24,097	\$11,000	\$15,366
	NURSING	NURSING	MARINE SCIENCE	AEROSPACE ENG.	BUSINESS ADMIN.	AEROSPACE ENG.	BUSINESS ADMIN.	NURSING	SPORTS MGMT.	INT'L BUSINESS MGMT.
	BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES	PSYCHOLOGY	ENV. STUDIES	AERONAUTICAL SCIENCE	PSYCHOLOGY	MECHANICAL ENG.	NURSING	MARINE SCIENCE	EXERCISE SCIENCE	SPORTS MGMT.
	IMAGING (SONO, RADIO, MED)	BIOLOGY	ANIMAL STUDIES	MECHANICAL ENG.	COASTAL ENV. SCIENCE	COMPUTER SCIENCE	BIOLOGY	AVIATION	BUSINESS ADMIN.	PSYCHOLOGY

	NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY	RINGLING COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN	ROLLINS COLLEGE	SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY	SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY*	STETSON UNIVERSITY*	UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI	THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA	WARNER UNIVERSITY
LOCATION	www.nova.edu	www.ringling.edu	www.rollins.edu	www.saintleo.edu	www.seu.edu	www.stetson.edu	www.miami.edu	www.ut.edu	www.warner.edu
UNDERGRADUATE/FULL TIME ENROLLMENT	FT. LAUDERDALE, FL	SARASOTA, FL	WINTER PARK, FL	SAINT LEO, FL	LAKELAND, FL	DELAND, FL	CORAL GABLES, FL	TAMPA, FL	LAKE WALES, FL
PERCENTAGE OF UNDERGRADUATES FROM FLORIDA	6,300	1,650	2,112	2,282	6,209	3,150	10,736	9,600	1,068
ADMISSION DEADLINE									
MIDRANGE GPA	59%	37%	48%	64%	64%	69%	27%	22%	92%
MIDRANGE/AVG. SAT (CR&M, MIDDLE 50%)	NOV 1 (ED)/FEB 1 (REGULAR)	ROLLING	NOV 1, JAN 5, FEB 1	JAN 15 (Priority), Mar 1 (Regular)	ROLLING	Nov 1 (ED), Nov 15 (ED & RD)	Nov 1 (ED & RD), Jan 1 (ED & RD)	EA: Nov. 15 / Reg. Mar 1	ROLLING
MIDRANGE/AVG. ACT (CR&M, MIDDLE 50%)	402	3.1	3.4	3.1 unweighted	3.32	3.84	3.8-4.0 unweighted	3-49 unweighted	3.25
TUITION, FEES, ROOM & BOARD	1090-1330*	N/A*	1210-1360*	1050-1280	1061*	1120-1300*	1390-1500*	1215*	957*
ACCEPTANCE AP/18 DUAL ENROLLMENT (087 ALL)	24-31*	N/A*	26-30*	19-24	21*	24-30*	31-34	25*	18*
AVG NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIP/GRAUNT AWARD	\$48,833	\$60,374	\$71,690	\$37,960	\$37,900	\$64,040	\$75,280	\$43,438	\$35,160
AVG NON-NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIP/GRAUNT AWARD	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL
TOP 3 MAJORS	not calculated	no data reported	\$35,000	\$7,400	\$18,000	\$38,367	\$33,681	\$12,959	\$9,756
	\$18,500	\$6,000	\$15,000-\$32,000	\$12,000	not calculated	\$28,516	\$23,103	\$8,589	\$12,341
	MARINE BIOLOGY	COMPUTER ANIMATION	BUSINESS MGMT.	BIOLOGY	NURSING	PSYCHOLOGY	BIOLOGY	FINANCE	EXERCISE & SPORT STUDIES
	BIOLOGY (PRE-MED)	ILLUSTRATION	BIOLOGY	CRIMINAL JUSTICE	EDUCATION	FINANCE	HEALTH SCIENCE	BIOLOGY	BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
	PSYCHOLOGY	FILM	PSYCHOLOGY	BUSINESS	PSYCHOLOGY	HEALTH SCIENCE	BUSINESS	MARINE SCIENCE	BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

For more information, please visit our Web site: www.pcuf.net

Florida Colleges & Universities

Utilizing a college or university's website is a great way to become familiar with their programs, admissions requirements, location, extracurricular activities, and financial aid opportunities. Colleges have their complete catalog posted online. Take time to see if your intended course of study is offered.

Public State Universities

Florida A&M University, Tallahassee*	www.famu.edu
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton	www.fau.edu
Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers	www.fgcu.edu
Florida International University, Miami	www.fiu.edu
Florida Polytechnic University, Lakeland	www.floridapoly.edu
Florida State University, Tallahassee	www.fsu.edu
New College of Florida, Sarasota	www.ncf.edu
University of Central Florida, Orlando	www.ucf.edu
University of Florida, Gainesville	www.ufl.edu
University of North Florida, Jacksonville	www.unf.edu
University of South Florida, Tampa	www.usf.edu
University of South Florida St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg	www.usfsp.edu
University of West Florida, Pensacola	www.uwf.edu

Private Colleges and Universities

Barry University, Miami Shores	www.barry.edu
Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach*	www.cookman.edu
Eckerd College, St. Petersburg	www.eckerd.edu
Edward Waters University, Jacksonville*	www.ew.edu
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach	www.erau.edu
Flagler College, St. Augustine	www.flagler.edu
Florida Memorial University, Miami Gardens*	www.fmuniv.edu
Keiser University, West Palm Beach	www.keiseruniversity.edu
Lynn University, Boca Raton	www.lynn.edu
Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale	www.nova.edu
Palm Beach Atlantic University, West Palm Beach	www.pba.edu
Ringling College of Art & Design, Sarasota	www.ringling.edu
Rollins College, Winter Park	www.rollins.edu
Southeastern University, Lakeland	www.seu.edu
Stetson University, DeLand	www.stetson.edu
St. Thomas University, Miami Gardens	www.stu.edu
University of Miami, Coral Gables	www.miami.edu
University of Tampa, Tampa	www.ut.edu

*HBCUs

Florida Colleges & Universities (cont.)

The Florida College System

The Florida College System offers many benefits to students, including lower tuition, flexible hours for those who work, and even bachelor's degrees at some locations. Some vocational certification programs that are advertised at private career colleges are available at a Florida college for a fraction of the cost of the private school. A student who successfully completes an associate's degree from a school in the Florida College System is guaranteed admission to a state university as a transfer student.

Broward College, Fort Lauderdale	www.broward.edu
Chipola College, Marianna	www.chipola.edu
College of Central Florida, Ocala	www.cf.edu
College of the Florida Keys, Key West	www.cfk.edu
Daytona State College, Daytona Beach	www.daytonastate.edu
Eastern Florida State College, Cocoa	www.easternflorida.edu
Florida Gateway College, Lake City	www.fgc.edu
Florida SouthWestern State College, Ft. Myers	www.fsw.edu
Florida State College at Jacksonville, Jacksonville	www.fscj.edu
Gulf Coast State College, Panama City	www.gulfcoast.edu
Hillsborough Community College, Tampa	www.hccfl.edu
Indian River State College, Ft. Pierce	www.irsc.edu
Lake-Sumter State College, Leesburg	www.lssc.edu
Miami Dade College, Miami	www.mdc.edu
North Florida College, Madison	www.nfcc.edu
Northwest Florida State College, Niceville	www.nwfsc.edu
Palm Beach State College, Lake Worth	www.palmbeachstate.edu
Pasco-Hernando State College, New Port Richey	www.phsc.edu
Pensacola State College, Pensacola	www.pensacolastate.edu
Polk State College, Winter Haven	www.polk.edu
Santa Fe College, Gainesville	www.sfcollege.edu
Seminole State College of Florida, Sanford	www.seminolestate.edu
South Florida State College, Avon Park	www.southflorida.edu
St. Johns River State College, Palatka	www.sjrstate.edu
St. Petersburg College, St. Petersburg	www.spcollege.edu
State College of Florida Manatee-Sarasota, Bradenton	www.scf.edu
Tallahassee Community College, Tallahassee	www.tcc.fl.edu
Valencia College, Orlando	www.valenciacollege.edu

For information about out-of-state colleges and universities, conduct a search on the internet or through a college search website. Refer to the websites listed on the "Helpful Websites" page.

Florida Colleges & Universities (cont.)

Which Degree is for Me?

There are many degrees out there, but they are all very specific to the type of career you want. Many careers require a two-year degree or technical certificate. Others require a four-year bachelor's degree. Some professions, like law or medicine, call for an advanced graduate degree, such as a master's or a doctoral degree (the highest degree).

The chart below describes the different types of degrees, but you'll need to do some career exploration to know which one will benefit you the most.

	Typical Time to Earn Degree	Offered By	Degree Types
Technical certificate Specific job training	varies (ranges from a few months to 2 years)	·career-technical centers ·Florida colleges	·Advanced Technical Certificate (ATC) ·Applied Technology Diploma (ATD) ·College Credit Certificate (CCC) ·Career Certificate Program (CCP)
Associate degree Specific job training or transfer to a university for a higher degree	2 years	·Florida colleges	·Associate in Arts (AA) ·Associate in Science (AS)
Undergraduate degree Study within a field that interests you	4 years	·Florida colleges** ·state universities ·private colleges & universities	·Bachelor's (BA, BAS, BS, BFA, BSN)
Graduate degree Considered to be an expert in a field of study	varies (ranges from 1 to 5 years)	·state universities ·private colleges & universities	·Master's (MA or MS) ·Graduate Certificates ·Doctoral (Ph.D., MD, Ed.D., JD)

**Some Florida colleges (previously known as community colleges) offer bachelor degree programs through partnerships with a state university or an accredited private college or university. In addition to these partnerships, several Florida colleges offer their own bachelor's degrees in selected program areas for which there is a high need for employees (i.e., teaching, nursing, and information technology).

Florida Colleges & Universities (cont.)

Attending a Florida College

Starting your higher education at a Florida college may be the right choice for you. It's a popular option for many students and a Florida college offers a wide variety of programs, from career certificates to associate degrees, and some Florida colleges offer bachelor's degrees.

Benefits of a Florida college include:

- **Affordable Tuition:** Florida colleges offer one of the most affordable education in the nation. The low tuition, along with financial aid and scholarships, may make college possible for students of all income levels.
- **Flexibility & Convenience:** Students may choose from day, evening and online classes, as well as full- and part-time study.
- **Enriching Campus Life:** Students have a choice of activities beyond the classroom that include clubs, competitive athletics, student government and cultural events.
- **Options to Start Now:** Many students enroll at a Florida college before they graduate high school through the Dual Enrollment program.

Palm Beach State College

Part of the Florida College System, Palm Beach State College serves 48,000 students annually and offers a wide variety of programs, from career certificates to associate and bachelor's degrees. No matter what your career goals are, PBSC can be your pathway to success.

Consider PBSC if:

- You want to begin your higher education. Most PBSC students are pursuing an **Associate in Arts** degree, which equals the first two years of a bachelor's degree and guarantees you admission to a Florida university.
- You want to start a career. Choose from more than 130 programs in high-skill, high-demand fields, including health care, computers, business, public safety, arts, biotechnology, child care, human services, environmental science, horticulture, electrical power, engineering and skilled trades including welding, machining and cosmetology.
 - ◇ **Career Certificate Programs** offer technical courses that prepare you for immediate employment and are usually a year or less in length.
 - ◇ **College Credit Certificates** award college credit and consist of the technical core of the A.S. degree, allowing you to acquire an employment credential or continue to learn.

Florida Colleges & Universities (cont.)

- ◇ **Associate in Science** degrees are career-oriented programs to prepare you to enter the workforce. The A.S. and most certificates also award college credit that may be put toward the next level in your education.
- You want an affordable, career-focused bachelor’s degree. After completing your A.S. or A.A. degree, you can continue at Palm Beach State and earn a bachelor’s degree designed for career advancement. PBSC offers **Bachelor of Applied Science** degrees in Supervision & Management for those seeking business management roles, and in Information Management for those pursuing computer industry careers.
- PBSC also offers the **Bachelor of Science in Nursing** degree for registered nurses. In addition, the college offers **Bachelor of Science** degrees in Cardiopulmonary Sciences and Human Services.
- Small class size: The average class size is 24. Extensive support services include academic advising, career counseling, tutoring and help for students with accessibility needs.

Advising Office Contact Information

Belle Glade 1977 College Drive Belle Glade, FL 33430 Phone: (561) 996-7222	Boca Raton 801 Palm Beach State College Drive Boca Raton, FL 33431 Phone: (561) 393-7222
Lake Worth 4200 Congress Avenue Lake Worth, FL 33461 Phone: (561) 967-7222	Palm Beach Gardens 3160 PGA Boulevard Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410 Phone: (561) 624-7222
Loxahatchee Groves 15845 Southern Boulevard Loxahatchee, FL 33470 Phone: (561) 790-9000	

Visit www.palmbeachstate.edu/getstarted to request information, attend an information session, schedule a tour, or apply online. To learn about all the programs offered at Palm Beach State College, including support services and financial aid, explore the full website at www.palmbeachstate.edu, or call 561-967-7222 (Toll Free: 866-576-7222).

College Application Checklist

<i>APPLICATION CHECKLIST</i>	College 1	College 2	College 3
Applications			
Review application requirements			
Regular application deadline			
Early application deadline			
Grades			
Send high school transcript or complete SSAR			
Send midyear grade reports			
Test Scores			
Take SAT and/or ACT			
Send SAT and/or ACT scores			
Send AP and AICE scores			
Letters of Recommendation			
Request recommendations			
Send thank-you notes			
Essays			
Write essay(s)			
Proof essay(s) for spelling and grammar			
Have two people read your essay(s)			
Interviews (if applicable)			
Interview at college			
Send thank-you notes to interviewer(s)			
Send and Track Your Application			
Make copies of all application materials, if applicable			
Apply online			
Include application fee			
Confirm receipt of application materials			
Send supplemental material, if needed			
Financial Aid Forms			
Make note of priority financial aid deadline			
Make note of regular financial aid deadline			
Submit FAFSA			
Submit PROFILE, if needed			
Submit college aid form			
Submit FFAA and Bright Futures Scholarship application			
After You Send Your Application			
Receive admission letter			
Receive financial aid award letter			
Send deposit by deadline			
Accept financial aid offer			

College Comparison Worksheet

	College Name:	College Name:
LOCATION » Distance from home		
SIZE » Enrollment » Physical size of campus		
ENVIRONMENT » Type of School (2 yr or 4 yr) » School setting (urban or rural) » Location & size of nearest city » Co-ed, male/female » Religious affiliation		
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS » Deadline » Tests required » Median GPA and test scores » Notification		
ACADEMICS » Is your major offered? » Special requirements » Accreditation » Student-Faculty ratio » Typical class size		
COLLEGE EXPENSES » Tuition, room, board » Estimated total budget » Application fee, deposit		
FINANCIAL AID » Deadline » Required forms » Percent of students receiving aid » Scholarships		
HOUSING » Residence hall requirements » Meal plan		
FACILITIES » Academic » Residential » Recreational » Other		
ACTIVITIES » Clubs, organizations » Greek life » Athletics, intramurals		

Campus Visit Worksheet

College/University	
Visitation Date	
Admissions Contact	
Financial Aid Contact	

1. Try to visit during the week when you will be able to observe normal daily activities. Check when the college vacations occur – they are usually different from ours.
2. If possible, attend a class in the academic area in which you plan to major.
Comments: _____

3. Take a campus tour, if possible, with a student already attending the college. Be sure to see the following: dorms, library, dining hall (eat there), student center, classrooms, and recreational/athletic facilities.
Comments: _____

4. Find out about campus and public transportation if you will not have your own car. Some schools do not allow freshmen to have cars on campus. Are there parking fees?
Comments: _____

5. Ask the questions you need or want answered. Some things to consider:
 - a. Are faculty members easy to reach outside of class?
 - b. Do most people graduate in four years?
 - c. What devices are most commonly used by students in class?
 - d. What do students do for fun?
 - e. Do many people leave campus for the weekends?
 - f. Are there nighttime escort programs on campus or transportation to off-campus apartments?

Ten Tips for Surviving College

Adapted from “PERSIST” by ECMC Foundation

- 1. Start off on the right foot.** Before classes begin, do a run-through of your class schedule to make sure you know the bus route, or the best place to park if you drive, and the buildings where your classes are located.
- 2. Be prepared.** Come to each class with all the necessary materials and spend some time before class reviewing your notes.
- 3. Get into a routine.** College is work, so approach it like you would any other job: schedule, schedule, schedule!
- 4. Get to know your academic advisor.** The more you meet with your advisor, the more he or she will be able to better help you reach your goal.
- 5. Meet your professors.** Don't be afraid to talk to all of your professors! Take charge of your education and be more than just a number or a seat in a course.
- 6. Be proactive.** Ask for help when you need it! The college staff, administrators, and faculty are there to help you stay in school and reach your goals. There is a lot of help available, but you must take the initiative to seek it out.
- 7. Manage your money wisely.** It may be tempting to take advantage of all those credit card offers you get in the mail, but you should shred them instead.
- 8. Stay healthy.** Eat right, exercise, and get enough sleep. This will help you fight stress and depression and stay active and engaged in class.
- 9. Get involved.** Make your way to the student union and explore clubs and organizations that interest you. Be open to new cultures and people different from you.
- 10. Be yourself.** Sign up for the classes and activities that interest YOU, not the ones you think you “should” be involved with because of external expectations or perceptions.

Joining the Military

Adapted from www.todaymilitary.com and www.usa.gov

Have you considered joining the United States Armed Services after high school? Enlisting in the military can be for as few as four years, or can become a person's career until retirement. People join the military for many reasons. Some feel a sense of gratitude and commitment to their country. Some people may want to face a challenging but rewarding experience. Others may be enticed by the opportunity to travel, or they may see it as a way to pay for college.



Whatever the reason, enlisting in the military is a big decision. If you are considering this as your post-secondary path, make an appointment to speak with your school counselor. Each branch of the military has a recruiter that comes to visit high school campuses and answer questions. Find out when the recruiter is available for the specific branch in which you are interested.

The US Military has six branches: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Space Force. Each branch adheres to the same basic entrance requirements, but may also have additional requirements specific to that branch. Enlistees must:

- Be a US citizen or hold a Green Card
- Be at least 18 years old (branches allow enlistees to be 17 with parental permission)
- Pass the physical exam and health requirements (branch-specific)
- Possess a High School Diploma (a GED is only acceptable in certain circumstances in some branches)
- Take the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) examination

Becoming a member of the Armed Services can be a lifelong commitment that comes with health insurance, benefits, retirement pension, discounts, college tuition reimbursement, and opportunities for travel. And, of course, the honor of serving your country and fellow citizens.

In addition to the option to serve in one of the six branches full-time, there are also part-time options in each of the branches. A recruiter can fully explain the enlistment process, requirements and benefits.

Part 3:

The

Financial Aid

Process

Myths About Financial Aid

Adapted from “Realizing the College Dream” by ECMC Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education

1. MYTH: *My parents make too much money, so I won’t qualify for aid.*

FACT: There is no income cut-off to qualify for financial aid. Many factors are taken into consideration, including the size of your family, the age of your older parent, and other household debts. You should not assume you won’t qualify for aid. The FAFSA is used for federal aid, but also shared with your college. So, you may qualify for state or institution aid even if you do not qualify for federal aid.

2. MYTH: *Only students with good grades get financial aid.*

FACT: This is not true. Financial aid is based on need, not merit. You are awarded aid based on your family’s ability to pay for college.

3. MYTH: *The cost of a college degree just isn’t worth it.*

FACT: The truth is that people with a college degree earn almost two times more than a person with a high school diploma! The value of a college degree increases over time — it is a worthwhile investment.

4. MYTH: *Since I haven’t saved any money, I should start out at a community college.*

FACT: You should start at a community college if that is the right choice for you — not because you think you can’t afford to go to a university. Your financial aid package is offered based on the estimated yearly cost of attending a particular institution. So, you might find that your expected family contribution is reasonable.

5. MYTH: *I don’t need to apply for financial aid. I can just pay a company to find money for me.*

FACT: STOP! Do NOT pay a company to fill out your FAFSA form or find scholarships for you. All of this is FREE. The FAFSA is a free form (www.fafsa.gov) and help is available from the Department of Education, the college you are attending, or your school counselor. Searching the internet for scholarships is also FREE. Why pay someone to do something you can (and should) do yourself?

How to Apply for Financial Aid

Adapted from “PERSIST” by ECMC Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education

Most people need financial assistance to go to college. There are several ways that you can get money to pay for college. Some money is need-based (such as financial aid) and some is merit-based (most scholarships including Bright Futures).

ALL financial aid possibilities begin with the FAFSA. The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. You should submit your FAFSA application as quickly as possible to ensure the best chances of receiving financial aid. Federal aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. So, even if you may be eligible, you won't get anything if your application is submitted too late!

These are some important terms and information to become familiar with as you begin the financial aid application process:

Types of Aid

- **Grants** – A grant is a form of financial aid that does not need to be paid back. Grants are available from the Federal Government, states, institutions, and private corporations. Grants awarded from institutions are almost always based on financial need. Grants from other sources may have different criteria.
- **Scholarships** – Scholarships, like grants, do not need to be paid back. Scholarships, however, may be based on need or talent – whether academic, artistic, or athletic. Scholarships are typically provided by states, institutions, and private organizations.
- **Loans** – A loan is a form of financial aid that must be paid back, either to the government or to a private lender. In addition to the amount of the loan, you must pay interest within a certain amount of time.
- **Work-study** – Work-study is financial aid in the form of a paycheck, typically from working at a part-time job on campus.
- **Need-based aid** – Need-based aid is awarded to students who cannot afford to pay for college without assistance. Need-based aid can be awarded at any time to students of any age, and good grades are not required.
- **Merit-based aid** – Merit-based aid is awarded to high-achieving students; usually this is based on their grades in high school.

The Application Process

- **How to apply** – Students who wish to apply for federal student aid must complete the FAFSA:
 - Online at www.fafsa.gov
 - A PDF version can be downloaded at www.fafsa.gov
- **When to apply** – To receive aid in the fall (whether you are renewing your aid or applying for the first time), you may apply beginning October 1st, and must apply by May 15th for colleges in Florida. The federal deadline is June 30th. However, you are encouraged to apply early in order to receive the maximum amount of aid.

How to Apply for Financial Aid (cont.)

Adapted from “PERSIST” by ECMC Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education

- **Who may apply** – Any American citizen or eligible non-citizen with a high school diploma or GED, who has shown ability to benefit or who plans to graduate from high school, may apply for federal aid.
- **How to get help** – Visit www.studentaid.gov for tips on completing the FAFSA. The FAFSA is free, and there is no charge to apply for financial aid. Do NOT pay a person or company to help you complete the FAFSA or submit the FAFSA on your behalf!

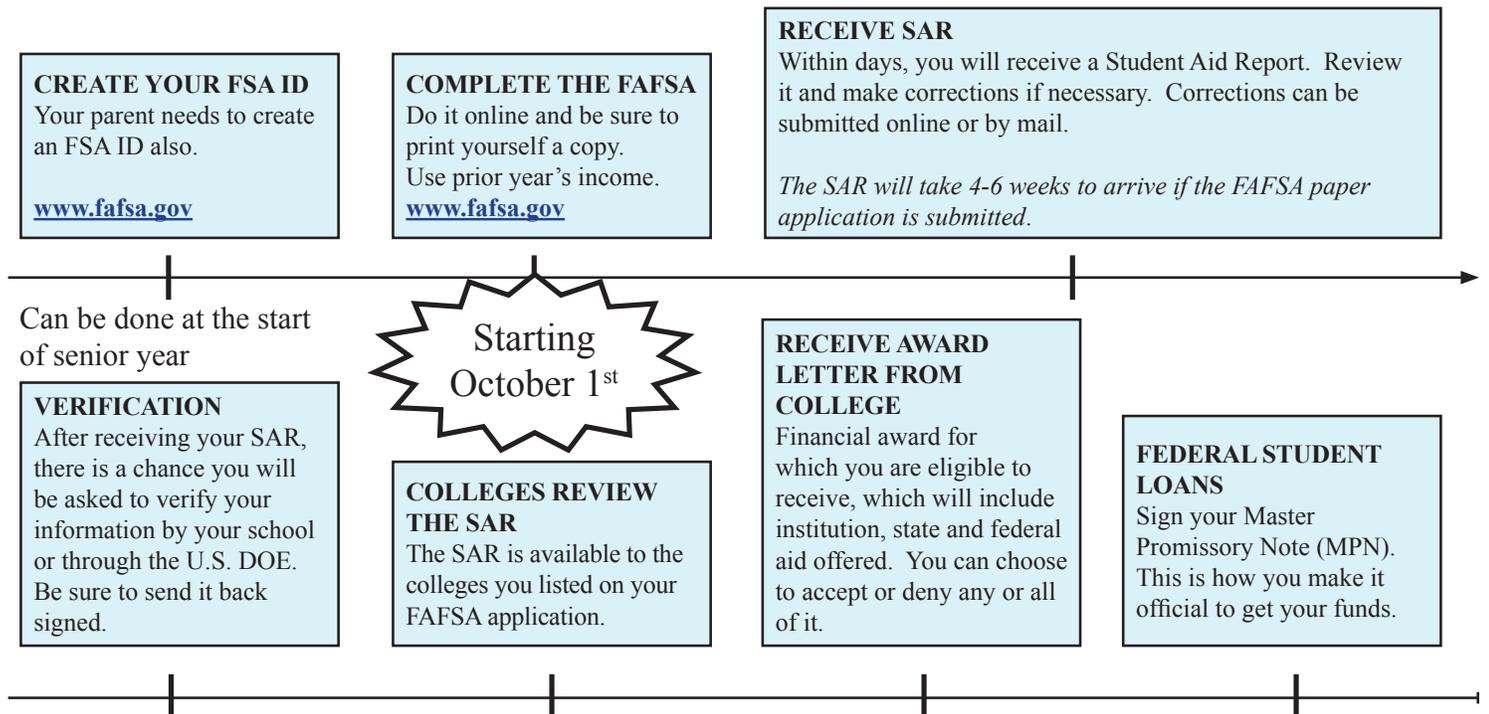
Refer to www.studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out for detailed information of each part of the FAFSA application.

If you have questions about the application process or eligibility requirements, contact the U.S. Department of Education at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or go to www.studentaid.gov.

Questions regarding special circumstances should be directed to the school counselor. Do not call the Hotline phone number.

FAFSA Timeline

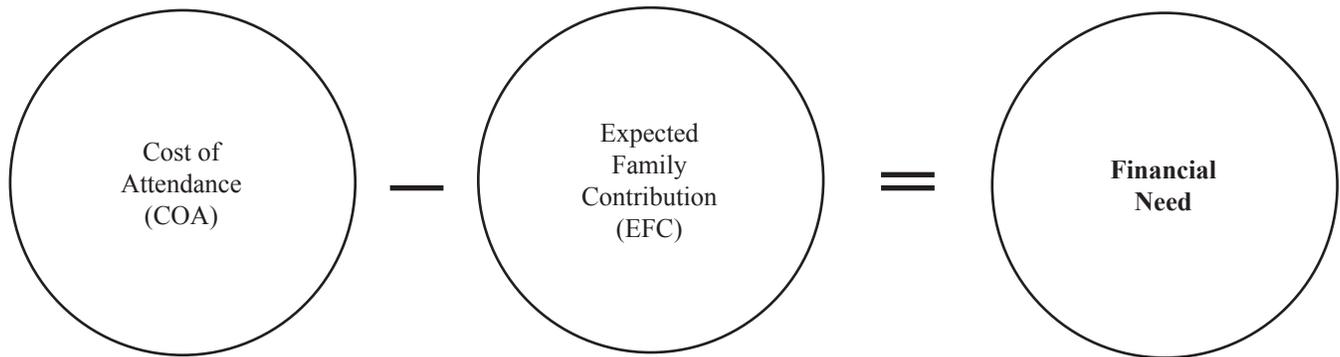
Remember to renew your application each year



How to Apply for Financial Aid (cont.)

Adapted from “PERSIST” by ECMC Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education

The amount that will be covered by financial aid (**financial need**) is determined by the formula below:



Cost of Attendance (COA) – This varies by institution. It includes tuition, room and board, and other living expenses for a full-time student. Community colleges will have a lower COA than universities.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC) – The FAFSA will automatically calculate your EFC, which determines how much of the COA your family will be expected to pay. The EFC takes into account all of your family’s income, assets, and benefits, as well as the number of people in the household who currently attend college.

Any college or university that you wish to attend will not award you financial aid unless they have received your financial aid information. The Federal Government must first declare that you are eligible for financial aid and then the individual college will put together your “financial aid package.”

Sometimes the formula used by the government to determine need is not an accurate reflection of the reality of your family’s financial situation. If your parents are unable to pay the amount of money assigned in the EFC, you should contact the Financial Aid Administrator (FAA) at your college to explain any special circumstances. Sometimes the Financial Aid Administrator can provide information on other options.

There are several ways to acquire additional funding. The best chance for additional funding lies in the possibility of private and merit-based scholarships. There is more information about scholarships in this section.

Your parents can also borrow money through private institutions. These “parent loans” may have low interest rates, but the interest begins to accrue immediately and the term of repayment is often soon after the money is borrowed.

Whether the loan is through the Federal Government or a private lending institution, be cautious when looking at borrowing money for college. It may seem like “easy money” at the time, but this loan will follow you for the next 20+ years. Failure to pay it back in a timely manner can affect your credit rating and future opportunities to purchase a car or house.

Completing the FAFSA

Adapted from “Realizing the College Dream” by ECMC Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education

Documents You Will Need to Complete the FAFSA

- » Your Social Security number
- » Your parents’ Social Security Numbers if you are providing parent information
- » Your driver’s license number if you have one
- » Your Alien Registration Number if you are not a U.S. Citizen
- » Federal tax information or tax returns including a W-2 for you and your parents
- » Untaxed income records: Social Security, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, welfare or veterans’ benefit records
- » Current bank statements
- » Business and farm records
- » Records of stocks, bonds, and other investments

FAFSA Hotline

- » For questions about the application process or eligibility requirements:
 - 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)
 - **www.studentaid.gov**
 - Questions regarding special circumstances should be directed to the school counselor.
Do not call the Hotline phone number.
- » Visit **www.studentaid.gov/coronavirus** if your family has been negatively impacted financially by COVID-19 in ways that may affect financial aid outcomes.

When to apply

- » Apply for financial aid no earlier than October 1st of the senior year in high school.
- » Some schools have priority filing deadlines (check with the colleges where you are applying for admission).
- » Students can still complete the FAFSA past the priority filing date, but may miss out on major aid programs.
- » You do not have to be admitted to a college to apply for financial aid.
- » For parents of younger students who want to prepare and get an idea of what college will cost, you can fill out the Federal Student Aid Estimator. This is a great tool to use to estimate how much you may need to pay out of pocket for college expenses. The Aid Estimator is sponsored by the US Department of Education. You can find the Aid Estimator at www.studentaid.gov/aid-estimator.

Completing the FAFSA (cont.)

Adapted from “Realizing the College Dream” by ECMC Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education

Who is a “Parent” (for financial aid purposes)?

- » Considered a Parent:
 - Biological parent(s)
 - Adoptive parent(s)
 - Stepparent
 - If parents are unmarried but live in the same household, income information for both parents needs to be submitted.
 - If parents are divorced or separated, answer the questions about the parent (and stepparent if applicable) who you have lived with more during the past 12 months. If time was equally split, provide information for the parent who provided more financial support.
- » Not considered Parent (unless they have legally adopted you):
 - Foster parent(s)
 - Legal guardian(s)
 - Grandparent(s), siblings, or other relatives
 - Widowed stepparent

Go to www.studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/parent-info for more information.

Dependent vs. Independent Status

If you can answer YES to any of the following questions you are considered INDEPENDENT for financial aid purposes:

- » Are you married, or separated but not divorced?
- » Do you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you?
- » At any time since age 13, were both your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
- » Has it been determined by a court in your state of residence that you are an emancipated minor or that someone other than your parent or stepparent has legal guardianship of you? (Answer “no” if the court papers say custody rather than guardianship).
- » In the past year, were you determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless, or were self-supporting or at risk of being homeless, as determined by (a) your high school or district homeless liaison, (b) the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or (c) the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program?

If you answered NO to every question above then you are considered DEPENDENT for financial aid purposes. You must use your parents’ financial information when completing the FAFSA.

Go to www.studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/dependency for more information.

Completing the FAFSA (cont.)

Adapted from “Realizing the College Dream” by ECMC Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education

Parents’ Information

- » The financial information must be for the parent(s) who are completing the FAFSA form.
- » If student does not provide the SSN of his/her parent(s) the FAFSA will be rejected.
 - Enter SSN as “000-00-0000” if parent lives in a different country or does not have a SSN.
- » If parents are divorced or separated:
 - Provide information of the parent the student lived with most over the last 12 months.
 - Provide information of the parent that provided most of the student’s support.

Go to www.studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/parent-info#special-circumstances for more information.

Schools to Receive Information

- » List up to 10 colleges who will receive your SAR.
- » Federal school codes available at www.fafsa.gov.
- » Select the housing plan that best describes where the student expects to live while attending that particular college.
- » Enrollment status
 - If you’re not sure, report full time.

Signature Section

- » Don’t forget the signature page or e-signature (FSA ID)
 - Parents have to apply for their own FSA ID.
- » If completed by a dependent student, the student and one parent must sign.
- » If filed by an independent student, only the student must sign.

What happens after you apply?

- » The federal FAFSA processor sends a Student Aid Report (SAR) to the student.
- » The federal processor sends a SAR to the colleges and universities you specified.
- » Colleges use the information from the SAR to award financial aid in the form of grants, loans, scholarships, or work-study.
- » Colleges send students preliminary or official financial aid offer letters.



Completing the FAFSA (cont.)

Adapted from “Realizing the College Dream” by ECMC Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education

How to create an FSA ID

Step 1: Log on to www.studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch.

Step 2: Click “Get Started”. You will need your Social Security Number and your own email address (not a parent’s email address).

Step 3: Provide personal information, such as your full legal name and date of birth.

Step 4: Continue to complete the profile information.

Step 5: Answer security questions.

Step 6: Once the security questions are completed, you will be sent a secure code to the email address you have provided in your profile information. This will verify your email account.

Step 7: Certify that you have read and accept the terms and conditions of creating the FSA ID.

Please note: Your username does not expire, but your FSA ID password will expire every 18 months unless you change it.

Parents of dependent students must also create their own FSA ID following the same steps above. Parents will use their Social Security Number and email address.

Did you know???

District high schools offer FAFSA workshops every year. Ask your counselor when your school is hosting one.

Palm Beach State College offers FREE Financial Aid workshops and will help you complete your FAFSA.

Check the website for available workshops on all of their campuses.

www.palmbeachstate.edu/financialaid/FAFSA-workshops.aspx



Federal Aid Comparison

Adapted from the U.S. Department of Education

The following chart summarizes common federal student aid programs, including general guidelines and award sizes.

Student Aid Program	Details	Award Amounts (subject to change)
Federal Pell Grant	For undergraduates with financial need who have not earned a bachelor's degree. This money does not have to be repaid.	For current award amount, visit www.studentaid.gov/pell-grant .
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	For undergraduates with exceptional financial need; priority is given to Federal Pell Grant recipients; funds depend on availability at school.	Up to \$4,000 For details and updates, visit www.studentaid.gov/fseog .
Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH)	For those who plan to become a teacher; recipient must sign Agreement to Serve saying he or she will teach full-time in a high-need field for four complete academic years at a school or educational agency that serves children from low-income families.	Up to \$4,000 For details and updates, visit www.studentaid.gov/teach .
Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant	For students whose parent or guardian was a member of the US armed forces and died as a result of performing military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11.	For other criteria and award eligibility details, visit www.studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/iraq-afghanistan-service .
Work-Study	For undergraduate and graduate students; jobs can be on or off campus; students are paid at least federal minimum wage.	No annual minimum or maximum award amounts. For details and updates, visit www.studentaid.gov/workstudy .
Direct Subsidized Loan	Subsidized: Department of Education pays interest while borrower is in school and during grace and deferment periods; must be at least a half-time student and have financial need.	Visit www.studentaid.gov/sub-unsuf for borrowing limits and current interest rates.
Direct Unsubsidized Loan	Unsubsidized: Borrower is responsible for interest during life of the loan; must be at least a half-time student; financial need is not a requirement.	Visit www.studentaid.gov/sub-unsuf for borrowing limits and current interest rates.
Direct PLUS Loan	Available to parents of dependent undergraduate students who are enrolled at least half-time; borrower is responsible for all interest; financial need is not required.	Maximum amount is cost of attendance minus any other financial aid the student receives. For details and updates, visit www.studentaid.gov/plus .
American Opportunity Tax Credit (IRS)	For students enrolled at least half-time; can be claimed for up to four years; note income limits.	Up to \$2,500 tax credit per student per tax return. Visit www.irs.gov/Individuals/AOTC for updated information.
Lifetime Learning Tax Credit (IRS)	Part-time students also qualify; unlimited number of years; note income limits.	Up to \$2,000 tax credit per student per tax return. Visit www.irs.gov/Individuals/LLC for updated information.
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs education programs	Many benefits are available to advance the education and skills of Veterans, Service members, and their family members.	Visit www.benefits.va.gov/gibill for information on programs and eligibility requirements.
529 College Savings Plan	Plans vary by state; most income levels can participate; the 529 Plan is tax exempt.	See www.collegesavings.org .

Financial Aid Terms

Adapted from bigfuture.collegeboard.org

award letter

The document you receive from a college that explains the terms of the financial aid that the college is offering you. The information includes the types and amounts of financial aid offered, what you're expected to do to keep the award and a deadline for accepting the award.

bursar

The college official responsible for handling billing and payments for tuition, fees, housing and other related expenses.

Cost of Attendance (COA)

The total amount of college expenses before financial aid. Cost of attendance includes money spent on tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and living expenses.

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®

A financial aid application used by more than 300 colleges, universities and private scholarship programs to award their financial aid funds.

demonstrated need

The difference between your expected family contribution (EFC) and the total cost of attendance for a particular college.

enrollment status

A classification based on the number of credit-hours you're taking; for example, your enrollment status may be full-time or half-time. Some loans or aid may be available only to students with a certain enrollment status, usually half-time or more.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

A measure of your family's financial strength. States and colleges use this number to help determine your financial aid award. The EFC is calculated using information you supply about your family's financial circumstances.

financial aid office

A college office that serves as a resource for students who need help paying for college costs. Financial aid officers can help you to apply for and receive grants, loans, scholarships and work-study employment. The financial aid office may also offer programs to help you manage your money.

financial aid officer

College employees trained to help students and families apply for and receive grants, loans, scholarships and work-study employment. They can answer questions about ways to make college more affordable.

Financial Aid Terms (cont.)

Adapted from bigfuture.collegeboard.org

529 Savings Plans

State-sponsored investment plans — officially called qualified tuition programs (QTP) — that help families save money for college. The plans have tax benefits so your savings can grow faster. The money in the accounts can be used only for education expenses.

grant

A kind of “gift aid” — financial aid that doesn’t have to be paid back. Grants are usually awarded based on need.

loan

Money you borrow from the government, a bank or another source. Loans need to be paid back, usually over an agreed period of time. You will most likely also have to pay interest on a loan — a fee for borrowing the money.

merit aid

Financial aid given to students based on their personal achievements. Most scholarships are considered merit aid, as they are generally awarded for success in school, the arts, athletics or another area.

need-based financial aid

Financial aid (grants, scholarships, loans and work-study opportunities) given to students because they and their families are not able to pay the full cost of attending a certain college. This is the most common type of financial aid.

need-blind admission

A policy of making college admission decisions without looking at applicants’ financial circumstances. Colleges that use this policy may not offer enough financial aid to meet a student’s full need.

net price

Net price is the true amount a student will pay for a year of college, after all financial aid is factored in.

net price calculator

An online tool that gives you a personalized estimate of what it will cost to attend a specific college. Most colleges are required by law to post a net price calculator on their websites, and sometimes call them a “college cost estimator” or “financial aid estimator”.

outside scholarship

Also called a “private scholarship”. A scholarship offered by a private organization — not the government or a college. Outside scholarships are offered by all kinds of groups, individuals, corporations and nonprofit organizations.

Financial Aid Terms (cont.)

Adapted from bigfuture.collegeboard.org

priority date

The date by which your application – whether it’s for college admission, student housing or financial aid – must be received to be given the strongest consideration. Since financial aid is often limited, meeting the priority date is important to be eligible to receive funds.

residency requirements

The amount of time a student has to live in a state before he or she is eligible for in-state tuition prices and state aid.

Student Aid Report (SAR)

The report sent to your family after you submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that tells you what your expected family contribution (EFC) is.

transcript

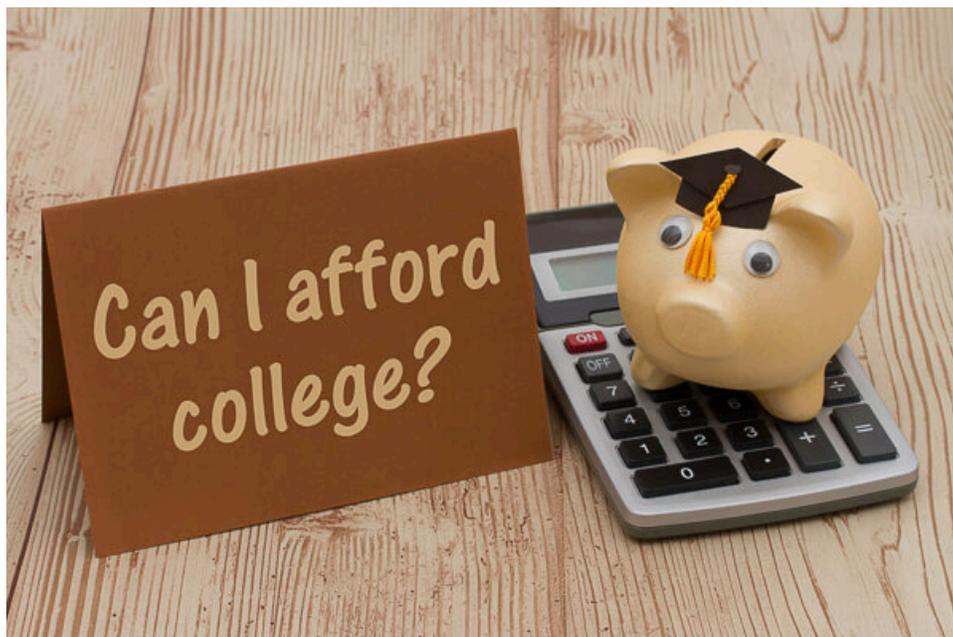
The official record of your course work at a school or college. Your high school transcript is usually required as part of your college application and for some financial aid packages.

undergraduate

A college student working toward an associate degree or a bachelor’s degree.

work-study

A program that allows students to take a part-time campus job as part of their financial aid package. To qualify for the Federal Work-Study Program, which is funded by the government, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Some colleges have their own work-study programs.



Common Financial Aid-Related Abbreviations

Adapted from “PERSIST” by ECMC Foundation

AFROTC: Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps

CPS: Central Processing System

DHS: U.S. Department of Homeland Security

DRN: Data Release Number

ED: U.S. Department of Education/Department of Education

EFC: Expected Family Contribution

FAA: Financial Aid Administrator

FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid

FSAIC: Federal Student Aid Information Center

FSEOG: Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant

FTC: Federal Trade Commission

FWS: Federal Work-Study

GAO: U.S. Government Accountability Office

GEAR UP: Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

GED: General Education Development [certificate]

HHS: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

IADT: Initial Active Duty for Training

IRS: Internal Revenue Service

ISIR: Institutional Student Information Record

LEAP: Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership

NROTC: Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps

NSLDS: National Student Loan Data System

PIN: Personal Identification Number

PSAT/NMSQT: Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

ROTC: Army Reserve Officer Training Corps

SAP: Satisfactory Academic Progress

SAR: Student Aid Report

SSA: Social Security Administration

SSN: Social Security number

TTY: Teletype

VA: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

WIA: Workforce Investment Act

All abbreviations are from the U.S. Department of Education

Scholarships

In addition to need-based financial aid, students can also qualify for private scholarships. Scholarship awards have many different qualifications. All types of students are eligible for a variety of scholarships. If you can imagine it, there is a scholarship for it! Scholarship applications are available throughout the year, and have specific submission deadlines that applicants must meet. The money is out there but if you do not take the time to complete the applications, you will not get it!

Who awards scholarships?

Scholarships are available from many organizations, including philanthropies, community and civic organizations, and religious groups. Your employer or your parents' employer may even offer a scholarship. Some scholarships are for those who demonstrate financial need, and some do not take financial need into account--they are awarded based on accomplishments or talents.

Where can I find scholarships?

Most private scholarships are found online, and it can be quite overwhelming to exhaustively search the numerous websites that have links to literally thousands of scholarships. In order to narrow down the search results, you may want to search by certain keywords, like your interests, talents, or ethnic background. Set aside time each week to see if new scholarships are available in the guidance office or on your school's website. Most schools post scholarship bulletins on their website throughout the year.

How do I submit scholarship applications?

While most scholarships can be found online, some applications can only be submitted online. Some applications will need to be printed out and mailed, or printed out, completed, and then scanned and emailed. If you do not have access to a printer you can use one in your school's media center or the public library.

Scholarship applications **MUST** be submitted on time. Remember to give people enough time to write letters of recommendation, and request a transcript if necessary. It is extremely important to stay organized so that each scholarship application is filled out completely, correctly, and includes the required information and documents. Make a spreadsheet to keep track of application deadlines and supplemental information required (such as essays, letters or recommendation and transcripts). It is also recommended to make copies of applications prior to mailing them, or print out online applications before submitting.

What information do I need to provide?

Scholarship applications will vary based on the information requested, but for the most part, you will be asked for the following:

- **Essay or personal statement.** Many scholarships require an essay or personal statement, perhaps similar to the type required as part of your college application. Do not recycle previous essays in their entirety. Instead, tailor each essay to the specific scholarship for which you are applying. You may choose to use

Scholarships (cont.)

certain parts of other essays, but make sure that your submission is not generic. **MOST IMPORTANTLY**, have someone proofread your essay. It is not acceptable to submit a scholarship application riddled with grammatical and spelling errors.

- **Letter(s) of recommendation.** If you need letters of recommendation as part of a scholarship application, **DO NOT WAIT** until the last minute to ask teachers, your counselor, religious clergy, or employer to write one for you! When asking someone to write a letter on your behalf, do the following:
 - Give each person your resumé, so they can have a complete list of all of your accomplishments.
 - Provide submission information. Does it need to be emailed to a specific person? Should it be given back to you in a sealed envelope? Is it supposed to be mailed separately from your application? If so, provide a stamped, addressed envelope.
 - Be clear on the date you need the letter to be ready for submission. It is preferable to give someone at least two weeks to write a letter of recommendation.
 - Send *handwritten* thank you notes to those who took time to write letters on your behalf.
- **Transcript.** You may be asked to upload an unofficial transcript, and/or send an official transcript (sealed and sent directly to the scholarship organization from your school or Parchment).

Just like your college applications, do not embellish or state untruths on scholarship applications. Be honest, answer questions completely, and accentuate your accomplishments. It is OK to brag -- you have done great things and the way you earn scholarships is by making your application stand out and highlighting why **YOU** deserve the money!

A few more things to keep in mind...

As many college admissions offices do, scholarship selection committees may choose to look at your online presence and social media usage. Google yourself and see what comes up. Even deleted posts and accounts can resurface online. Organizations that award money to students feel that the student is a representation of the values and mission of that organization. They will not risk being associated with someone who has questionable posts and pictures online.

In addition, this is a good time to create a professional email address, such as `firstname.lastname@gmail.com`.

Apply for as many scholarships as you can. It should be like having a part-time job. Apply for scholarships and essay contests that are for smaller amounts of money. Not as many people tend to apply for those, but little sums of money can add up quickly!



Bright Futures Scholarship Program

The Bright Futures Scholarship Program is a merit-based scholarship awarded by the State of Florida to high-achieving graduates. There are four different levels of the scholarship: Academic Scholars, Medallion Scholars, Gold Seal Vocational Scholars, and Gold Seal CAPE Scholars.

In order to qualify for one of the scholarships, students **MUST** apply during the window for their graduation year. The application window is October 1st – August 31st. Students should apply even if they have not met all of the requirements by graduation. Test scores can be submitted through June 30th. Your counselor will assist you with the online application, and tell you what requirements you are missing.

General Requirements

- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen, as determined by the student’s postsecondary institution.
- Complete the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) no later than August 31st after high school graduation.
- Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its equivalent from a Florida public high school or a registered Florida Department of Education private high school.
- Not have been found guilty of, or pled nolo contendere to, a felony charge, unless the student has been granted clemency by the Governor and Cabinet sitting as the Executive Office of Clemency.
- Be accepted by, and enroll in a degree or certificate program at, an eligible Florida public or independent postsecondary institution.
- Be enrolled for at least 6 non-remedial semester credit hours (or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours) per term.
- If not funded in the academic year immediately following high school graduation, apply within five years of high school graduation to have your award reinstated.

Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) and Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) requirements*

Type	16 High School Course Credits	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exam (ACT/SAT)	Additional Requirements
FAS	4 - English <i>(three must include substantial writing)</i> 4 - Mathematics <i>(at or above the Algebra 1 level)</i>	3.50	2022-2023 graduates: 29/1330	100 service hours or 100 hours of paid work
FMS	3 - Natural Science <i>(two must have substantial laboratory)</i> 3 - Social Science 2 - World Language <i>(sequential, in same language)</i>	3.00	2022-2023 graduates: 25/1210	75 service hours or 100 hours of paid work

*FAS and FMS can also be awarded by earning an IB or AICE diploma. See your counselor for specific requirements.

Bright Futures Scholarship Program (cont.)

Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) requirements

The GSV Scholarship may be funded at postsecondary institutions that offer an applied technology diploma, technical degree education program (associate in applied science or associate in science), or a career certificate program.

- Earn a minimum 3.0 weighted GPA in non-elective high school courses.
- Take at least three (3) full credits in a single Career and Technical Education program.
- Earn a minimum 3.5 unweighted GPA in career education courses.
- Earn required minimum test scores (see chart below).
- Complete at least 30 service hours or 100 hours of paid work.

Exam Type	Sub-Test	Required Score
ACT	Reading	19
	English	17
	Mathematics	19
SAT	Reading Test	24
	Writing and Language Test	25
	Math Test	24
<i>P.E.R.T.</i> (Only applies to the GSV Scholarship)	Reading	106
	Writing	103
	Mathematics	114

Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars (GSC) requirements

The Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award (GSC) may be funded if a student is enrolled in a career education or certificate program. Upon completion of an associate in science degree program that articulates to a Bachelor of Science degree, a GSC Scholar may also receive an award for a maximum of 60 credit hours toward a Bachelor of Science degree program. Upon completion of an associate in applied science program, a GSC Scholar may also receive an award for a maximum of 60 credit hours toward a bachelor of applied science degree program.

- Earn a minimum of 5 postsecondary credit hours through CAPE industry certifications which articulate for college credit; and
- Complete 30 service hours or 100 hours of paid work.

Bright Futures website: www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPBFMAIN/SAPBFMAIN

Bright Futures Student Handbook (Chapter 1 explains eligibility requirements):

www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/BFHandbookChapter1.pdf

Office of Student Financial Assistance website: www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org

Toll-free: 1-888-827-2004

Email: OSFA@fldoe.org

Requesting Information

You may be sending email as you conduct your search for money to attend college.

Now is the time to set up an email account that will be dedicated to your college and financial aid search. You can set up a free email account through Google. If you do not have internet access at home you can check your email in the school's media center, on your phone, or at the public library.

Use good judgment when choosing your username for your email. Use your name, initials, and/or numbers. Do not include any personal identifiable information, such as your birthdate. Make sure it is easy to read and pronounce, as you may be giving it to someone over the phone. Examples of some appropriate usernames are firstnamelastname@gmail.com, fmlastname@gmail.com, or lastname@gmail.com. If you have a common first or last name, consider using an underscore, period, or numbers as well (i.e., firstname.lastname@gmail.com, f_lastname@gmail.com, firstnamelastname808@gmail.com).

Present yourself as an excellent candidate. You should always sound mature and professional. Always have someone proofread your writing for grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors. Many scholarship organizations have all of their information online. Before contacting the organization, you should check their website.

Below is a template that you may use when sending an email to request a scholarship application or information about the requirements.

Dear _____ (try to send it to a specific person; if not, use Sir or Madam):

I am a student at _____ High School and will graduate in _____ (month), 20____. I am currently trying to earn scholarship money to attend college. Please send me an application for _____ (name of specific scholarship) and the information I will need to complete the application.

I plan to enroll in college at _____ (name of college you will attend) in the (fall, winter, summer) term of 20____. I plan to major in _____ (intended major).

I can be reached at (XXX) XXX-XXXX if you would like to speak with me. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Type your full name (don't use nicknames)

Scholarship Websites

The following sites are just a few of the many scholarships sites on the internet. There are many more! Invest the time to search online for college scholarships. Be sure to apply early! Keep in mind that some website addresses may change after publication of this manual.

Federal Aid

www.studentaid.gov Free information from the U.S. Department of Education on preparing for and funding education beyond high school

www.ed.gov/students U.S. Department of Education's website for students — offers information about loans, grants, scholarships, and college applications

www.studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/military Grants and scholarships available to family members of military personnel, veterans, or those interested in military service

State and Local Aid

www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org State of Florida Office of Student Financial Assistance

www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPBFMAIN/SAPBFMAIN Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome A list of programs offered by the OSFA — click on each link for a fact sheet stating qualifications and application procedures. Scholarships with an asterisk require the student to complete the FFAA (Florida Financial Aid Application). Click on *Create a Student Account* under “First Time Applicants” to create a login and password.

www.palmbeachstate.edu/financialaid/ Financial aid information for students attending Palm Beach State College, including FAFSA support, scholarships, and important deadlines

www.yourcommunityfoundation.org/Grants-Scholarships The Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin County has over 80 scholarships to award to high school seniors who demonstrate financial need. The online directory is a list of all of the available scholarships. Begin your search by identifying which scholarships you may be eligible for.

www.palmbeachschools.org/students_parents/scholarships_and_financial_aid Scholarship and financial aid information listed on the SDPBC website

Scholarship Gateway Sites

www.finaid.org Financial aid, loans, scholarships, military aid

www.free-4u.com Scholarships, fellowships, internships, religious scholarships, minority scholarships

www.financialaidfinder.com Scholarship links and student loan information

www.fastweb.com Scholarship application guidebook

www.collegescholarships.org Comprehensive website with scholarships for all racial, ethnic, and gender groups, information on financial aid, loans, and grants

www.scholarships.com Search over 3.7 million scholarships and grants

Scholarship Websites (cont.)

www.collegescholarships.com Search scholarships by category, college search tool, and financial aid resources

www.college-scholarships.com/scholarship-information/free-scholarship-searches/ Gateway to scholarship search websites

www.scholarshiphunter.com Scholarship search gateway

www.iefaf.org International Education Financial Aid -- resources for financial aid, college scholarships, and grants for U.S. and international students wishing to study abroad

raise.me Microscholarships offered by select universities. Students can create an account and begin earning money in ninth grade.

www.chegg.com/scholarships Scholarship search gateway

www.salliemae.com/college-planning Scholarship and financial aid information from Sallie Mae

www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx Scholarship search sponsored by the US Department of Labor

www.cappex.com Register for a free account and CAPPEX will help you search for scholarships and colleges that meet your criteria

www.scholarships360.org Scholarship search gateway

www.supercollege.com Scholarship application tips, 10-step guides, college search tools, and scholarship database

www.studentscholarships.org Gateway to scholarship searches, career and salary information, and college majors

www.scholarshipamerica.org/students/browse-scholarships/ Financial aid and scholarship information

www.goingmerry.com Scholarship search gateway and scholarship application platform

Culture-Specific Scholarships

www.heaofpalmbeach.com The Haitian Educators Association awards scholarships to Palm Beach County students of Haitian descent to pursue their goal of higher education.

www.tmcf.org The Thurgood Marshall College Fund offers scholarships, networking opportunities, and internships for students attending HBCUs

www.hsf.net and www.latinocollegedollars.org Hispanic Scholarship Fund

www.lnesc.org LULAC National Educational Service Center — scholarships for Hispanic students

www.uncf.org United Negro College Fund scholarships

www.hispanicheritage.org Hispanic Heritage Foundation

www.maldef.org/resources/scholarship-resources/ Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund downloadable scholarship resource guide

Scholarship Websites (cont.)

www.kasf.org Korean American Scholarship Foundation

www.jacl.org Japanese American Citizens League scholarships

www.aaiusa.org/scholarships Scholarships and information from the Arab American Institute

www.alliancescholars.org The Alliance Scholars Fund for Hispanic students

www.islamic scholarship fund.org Scholarships for American Muslim students

www.immigrantsrising.org/resources/applying-for-scholarships/ Link to download the Scholarship List and Guide for Undocumented Students, and other resources for undocumented students

www.apiascholars.org Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholars Program

www.nativeforward.org Native Forward Scholars Fund for Native Students

[www.ca-core.org/que llueva cafe scholarship program](http://www.ca-core.org/que_llueva_cafe_scholarship_program) Chicano Organizing & Research in Education (CORE) scholarships for undocumented students

www.thedream.us Scholarships for highly motivated DREAMers who demonstrate financial need

www.jackierobinson.org/apply/ Jackie Robinson Foundation

www.goldendoorscholars.org/future-scholars Scholarship opportunities for undocumented students

www.niacouncil.org/resources Scholarships available to Iranian American students

www.dreamersroadmap.org DREAMer's Roadmap is an app to help undocumented students find scholarship opportunities.

www.scholarshipsaz.org/scholarships Month-by-month listings of scholarships available to DACA and undocumented students

Corporate-Sponsored and Subject-Specific Scholarships

www.gmsp.org Gates Millennium Scholars Program

www.coca-colascholars.org Two-year college scholarships sponsored by Coca-Cola

www.nabjonline.org/student-services/scholarships/ National Association of Black Journalists scholarships

www.alliancescholars.org/scholarships.html Click on "I'm a high school senior" to view or download a scholarship guide for students interested in science and engineering

apply.nacme.org Scholarships compiled by the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering

www.acs.org/content/acs/en/funding/scholarships-fellowships.html A scholarship for students who intend to major in a chemistry-related science and pursue a career in that field.

AVOID SCAMS! Be cautious of companies who offer to do the searching for you if you pay them a fee. Follow this rule: **You never pay money to get money!** Only *you* can fill out the applications using your personal information.

Helpful Websites

There are many websites that will be helpful to you while you are exploring colleges, careers, financial assistance, and life after high school. The following is a list of a few helpful websites that you should explore. There are many more. Invest the time to search online for additional information.

Financial Aid Information

www.fafsa.gov The FAFSA form. You MUST fill this out in order to find out if you are eligible for need-based financial aid.

www.fastweb.com Fastweb provides information about scholarships, internships and student loans

www.ed.gov Federal Student Aid gateway from the U.S. Department of Education

www.finaid.ucsb.edu/fafsasimplification/ “7 Easy Steps to the FAFSA” tutorial

College and College Affordability Information

www.nacacfairs.org Student and parent resources from the National Association for College Admission Counseling

www.eCampusTours.com Information on college admissions, virtual campus tours, financial aid, etc

www.collegemajors101.com Information about academic expectations and career prospects for most college majors

collegescorecard.ed.gov U.S. Department of Education’s website for information about getting in to college and paying for it

www.collegedata.com A free college planning website that offers information about colleges, application preparation tips, and a scholarship search database

www.bigfuture.org The College Board’s college, career, and financial aid website

www.accreditedschoolsonline.org Information about online colleges and degree programs, including vocational and trade schools

www.nitrocollege.com Comprehensive website to assist families in planning and paying for college responsibly

www.mosaiec.org A public service website dedicated to helping college students find the best ways to pay for their education and graduate with the lowest amount of student debt possible

www.road2college.com Comprehensive college planning website

www.collegeraptor.com College planning website that offers side-by-side comparisons of financial aid packages

www.thehundred-seven.org Searchable database of academic programs offered by Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)

www.edexcelencia.org/research/institutions Searchable database of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and Emerging HSIs

www.unigo.com College reviews; information about college, scholarships, and internships

Helpful Websites (cont.)

Test Information and Prep

www.collegeboard.org Online resource for college-bound students. Register for the SAT. Find PSAT and SAT practice questions and information about AP exams.

www.actstudent.org Information and registration for the ACT

www.4tests.com Free test prep for the ACT, SAT, ASVAB, TOEFL, and select AP exams

www.asvabprogram.com ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) test information, career exploration, and skills assessment

www.march2success.com Site sponsored by the U.S. Army that provides an online study program to help students prepare for standardized tests, improve school work, and review materials

www.khanacademy.org Tutorials for all academic subjects and free test prep; also available in Spanish, French, and Portuguese

More Websites of Interest

www.aspiraf1.org Florida chapter of ASPIRA for Latino youth

www.floridashines.org Provides information to Florida's residents about colleges and careers

www.floridanext.com "Florida Trend's Next" website specifically for students in Florida that has information about high school, college, careers, and money management

www.AIE.org Adventures in Education -- explore college options, scholarships, money management, and career options

www.ncaa.org Information for Student-Athletes about the NCAA and eligibility requirements

www.knowhow2go.org Help for anyone who wants to go to college, with a focus on first-generation college students and veterans

www.getsschooled.com Articles, quizzes, and tools about college prep, career exploration, student success, and life skills

www.mappingyourfuture.org Resources for college planning, financial aid, and financial literacy

www.mynextmove.org U.S. Department of Labor's career exploration site; also available in Spanish

www.collegeunmazed.com Website and online magazine specifically for teens and families who are applying to colleges in Florida

www.ed.gov/veterans-and-military-families/information Educational benefits and resources for military families and veterans

www.potentialmagazine.com Comprehensive site offering information about scholarships, college and career exploration, test preparation, and real-world skills to be successful in college and beyond

www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/plan-for-college/own-your-future/6-things-undocumented-students-need-to-know-about-college Links and information for undocumented students about applying to and paying for college

www.mydocumentedlife.org/high-school-students Resources and important information about navigating high school while undocumented and preparing for life after graduation. Links to scholarships for undocumented students.

Contact Information

Still have questions?

Make an appointment to see your High School Counselor

or

Contact the Department of Multicultural Education

(561) 434-8620

After High School...Now What? and translations in Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Portuguese are available.

Ask your School Counselor



We can help!