Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

2026-2027

VERIFICATION OF RECEIPT

This is not the application for the scholarship.

I verify that I have received and read the initial eligibility requirements of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program for the 2026-2027 academic year.

Name (please print)_____

Signature_____

Date_____

Please return this receipt to your school counselor.

SENIOR SEMINAR GUIDE

Today's presentation will cover all the topics listed below. All resources, including the PowerPoint, are posted on the ***Seminars & Resources*** page of the Guidance website – scan the code above.

GRADUATION

- Credit Check
- Standard Diploma Requirements
  - Credits
  - GPA
  - Assessments
- Acceleration Goals
- Diploma Designations
  - EOC Retakes for Designation Eligibility
- Credit Recovery and Grade Forgiveness
- Tutoring and Extended Learning

FINANCIAL AID and SCHOLARSHIPS

- Federal Aid – FAFSA → Opens Oct. 1
  - Grants
  - Loans
  - Work-Study
- State Aid – FFAA → Opens Oct. 1
  - Bright Futures Scholarship Program
    - Florida Academic Scholars (FAS)
    - Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)
    - Florida Gold Seal Vocational (GSV)
    - Florida Gold Seal CAPE (GSC)
  - Other State Grants and Scholarships
- Local Aid – PEFSSA → Opens Sept. 30
- Pinellas County Schools Office of Financial Aid
  - FAFSA Completion Event → Oct. 14
- College Board's BigFuture Scholarship Program

POST-SECONDARY PREPARATION

- Post-Secondary Options
  - FL State University System (SUS)
  - FL College System
  - Independent Colleges and Universities of FL
  - Non-Public Post-Secondary Schools and Colleges
  - Career and Technical Schools and Colleges
  - The Military
- College & Career Center
- College Application Month → Oct.
- Xello and Common App
- College Days / Letters of Recommendation / Secondary School Reports / Transcripts
- Testing
  - SAT – In-School SAT → Oct. 22
    - Khan Academy
  - ACT
    - ACT Prep Resources
  - ASVAB → Dec. 3
- NEXT Magazine

QUESTIONS

- Contact your counselor
  - A-G = Mrs. Nymark nymarkk@pcsb.org
  - H-O = Ms. Jackson jacksontw@pcsb.org
  - M-R = Mrs. Havekotte havekottea@pcsb.org
  - P-Z = Ms. Polizzi polizzie@pcsb.org

COMMON APP MATCHING VIDEO

SPC FREE APP DRIVE
October 5

SCHOLAR DESIGNATION EOC REQUEST
November 17

ASVAB REQUEST

December 3

RESOURCE MENU

Standard Diploma Graduation Requirements

Credit Recovery
Grade Forgiveness
Tutoring
Extended Learning

HOPE Marching Band Waiver

HOPE Sports Waiver

Federal Student Aid YouTube Video Library

Create an FSA ID

FAFSA Form

Florida Student Scholarship and Grant Programs

FFAA Bright Futures Application

Bright Futures Requirements

Bright Futures Paperwork

PEFSSA

PCSB Office of Financial Aid

PCSB Financial Aid Presentation

PCSB FAFSA Completion Events

College Board BigFuture Scholarships

State University System Matrix & Guide

Florida College System

Independent Colleges & Universities of Florida

St. Petersburg College

Pinellas Technical College

Military.com

College & Career Center

College Application Month

Common App and Xello

Completing the Common App Walkthrough

College Day Request Form

Student Resume for Letters of Recommendation

Transcript Request Form

ACT

ASVAB

CLT

PERT

SAT

Test Prep Resources

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) / Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)
2026-27

Initial Eligibility Requirements: (As determined by the Florida Department of Education)

1. Submit the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) no later than August 31 after high school graduation.
2. Graduate from a Florida high school with a standard high school diploma or its equivalent.
3. Complete the 16 college-preparatory courses required for admission to a state university.
4. Achieve the required weighted GPA in the 16 college-preparatory courses per the chart below.
5. Achieve the required composite ACT® score, Overall Score on the Classic Learning Test (CLT®), or combined SAT® score. Tests must be taken on or before August 31 of the student's graduation year (or through January 31 for mid-year graduates), per the chart below.
6. Complete the required number of volunteer service hours, paid work hours, or 100 total combined hours per the chart below.

Type	16 High School College-Preparatory Course Credits[1]	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year (ACT®/CLT®/SAT®)	Volunteer Service Hours[2]	Paid Work Hours[2]
FAS	4 - English (three must include substantial writing) 4 - Mathematics (at or above the Algebra I level) 3 - Natural Science (two must have substantial laboratory) 3 - Social Science 2 - World Language (sequential, in same language)	3.50	2026-27 Graduates: 29/95/1330 2027-28 Graduates: 29/96/1350	100 hours	100 hours
FMS		3.00	2026-27 Graduates: 24/82/1190 2027-28 Graduates: 25/83/1200	75 hours	100 hours

[1] The required coursework aligns with the State University System admission requirements found in Florida Board of Governor's Regulation 6.002. Additional information regarding high school coursework can be found within the Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook.
[2] Students must earn the required volunteer service hours, 100 paid work hours, or a combination that totals a minimum of 100 hours.

Requirements to Receive an Award: (As determined by the postsecondary institution)

1. Be evaluated by the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) as meeting initial eligibility requirements.
2. Be a Florida resident and U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen.
3. Enroll as a degree- or certificate-seeking student at a Florida institution in at least 6 non-remedial semester credit hours.

Renewal Requirements: (As determined by grade and hours submitted by the postsecondary institution)

1. Students must earn the number of credit hours based on the student's enrollment type per term.
2. The renewal cumulative GPA requirements are outlined in the table below.

	Florida Academic Scholars (FAS)	Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)
Minimum Cumulative GPA (unrounded and unweighted)	3.0	2.75

For detailed information, including other ways to qualify, please refer to the Bright Futures Student Handbook.

Eligibility requirements are subject to change with each legislative session.

Students are responsible for tracking their application and award status online and ensuring that funding for an academic year is accurate by contacting their institution's financial aid office.

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV)
2026-27

Initial Eligibility Requirements: (As determined by the Florida Department of Education.)

1. Submit the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) no later than August 31 after high school graduation.
2. Graduate with a standard Florida high school diploma or its equivalent.
3. Achieve the required weighted 3.0 GPA in the non-elective high school courses.
4. Completes at least three (3) full Career and Technical Education credits
5. Achieve the required minimum 3.5 unweighted GPA in Career and Technical Education credits.
6. Complete at least 30 volunteer service hours, 100 paid work hours, or a combination that equals a minimum of 100 total hours. For students entering grade 9 in the 2024-2025 school year and thereafter, 75 hours of volunteer service must be completed.
7. Achieve the required minimum scores on one of the college entrance exams per the chart below on or before August 31 of the year the student graduates from high school.

Exam Type	Sub-test	Required Score
ACT®	Reading	19
	English	17
	Mathematics	19
SAT® (March 1, 2024, and thereafter)	Critical Reading or Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	490
	Mathematics	480
SAT® (Prior to March 1, 2024)	Reading	24
	Writing and Language	25
	Math Test	24
PERT (Only applies to the GSV Scholarship)	Reading	106
	Writing	103
	Mathematics	114

Required test scores follow those established by Rule 6A-10.0315, Florida Administrative Code.

Requirements to Receive an Award: (As determined by your postsecondary institution.)

1. Be evaluated by the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) as meeting initial eligibility requirements.
2. Be a Florida resident and U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen.
3. Enroll as a degree- or certificate-seeking student at a Florida institution in at least six (6) non-remedial semester credit hours.

Scholarship Restrictions:

The GSV award may only be used 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 and not toward the completion of an associate in arts or a baccalaureate degree.

Renewal Requirements: (As determined by grade and hours submitted by your postsecondary institution.)

1. Students must earn the number of credit hours based on the student's enrollment type per term.
2. Students must maintain a minimum cumulative 2.75 GPA (unrounded and unweighted).

For detailed information, please refer to the Bright Futures Student Handbook.

Eligibility requirements are subject to change with each legislative session.

Students are responsible for tracking their application and award status online and ensuring that funding for an academic year is accurate by contacting their institution's financial aid office.

Last updated: August 2026

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars (GSC)
2026-27

Initial Eligibility Requirements: (As determined by the Florida Department of Education.)

1. Submit the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) no later than August 31 after high school graduation.
2. Graduate with a standard high school diploma or its equivalent.
3. Earn a minimum of five (5) postsecondary credit hours through CAPE industry certifications that articulate for college credit.
4. Complete at least 30 volunteer service hours, 100 paid work hours, or a combination that equals a minimum of 100 total hours. For students entering grade 9 in the 2024-2025 school year and thereafter, 75 hours of volunteer service must be completed.

Eligible CAPE Certifications:
Bright Futures Course Table

Requirements to Receive an Award: (As determined by your postsecondary institution.)

1. Be evaluated by the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) as meeting initial eligibility requirements.
2. Be a Florida resident and U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen.
3. Enroll as a degree- or certificate-seeking student at a Florida institution in at least six (6) non-remedial semester credit hours.

Scholarship Restrictions:

Until a student has earned an eligible associate degree, Gold Seal CAPE (GSC) scholarships may only be used 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.

Upon completion of an eligible associate degree program, a GSC Scholar may also receive an award for a maximum of 60 credit hours toward an eligible baccalaureate degree.

Renewal Requirements: (As determined by grade and hours submitted by your postsecondary institution.)

1. Students must earn the number of credit hours based on the student's enrollment type per term.
2. Students must maintain a minimum cumulative 2.75 GPA (unrounded and unweighted).

For detailed information, please refer to the Bright Futures Student Handbook.

Eligibility requirements are subject to change with each legislative session.

Students are responsible for tracking their application and award status online and ensuring that funding for an academic year is accurate by contacting their institution's financial aid office.

Earning Bright Futures with the AP Capstone Diploma



Why does it matter for Florida students?

Earning the **AP Capstone Diploma** is now recognized as one of the eligibility pathways for Florida's Bright Futures Scholarship, one of the state's most significant sources of financial support for students pursuing higher education, covering a substantial portion, or in some cases, nearly all, of college tuition and fees at Florida's public universities and colleges.

For students graduating in 2026, 2027, or 2028

may earn the FAS award by:

Completing 100 Hours

Students must earn the required volunteer service, paid work hours, or a combination of both, equal to 100 total hours

Receiving an AP Capstone Diploma, in which students must:

- Earn a score of 3 or higher on both AP Seminar and AP Research examinations, and
- Earn a score of 3 or higher on any four additional AP examinations of their choosing

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

AP Capstone™ CollegeBoard

For students graduating in 2029

may earn the FAS award by:

Completing 100 Hours

Students must earn the required volunteer service, paid work hours, or a combination of both, equal to 100 total hours

Receiving an AP Capstone Diploma, in which students must:

- Earn a score of 3 or higher on BOTH AP Seminar and AP Research examinations, and
- Earn a score of 3 or higher on:
  - THREE AP courses in Math, Science, English, or Social Studies that satisfy graduation requirements.*
  - ONE AP subject of the student's choice.

Contact your school counselor, AP teacher, or Office of Advanced Studies for more information

*Florida acknowledges AP Computer Science courses as a math credit for graduation, but Bright Futures does not. These courses will count toward the "student choice" subject.

PCS PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

Office of Advanced Studies

727-588-6595

graziano@pcsb.org
jerryt@pcsb.org

xello

Common App and Xello

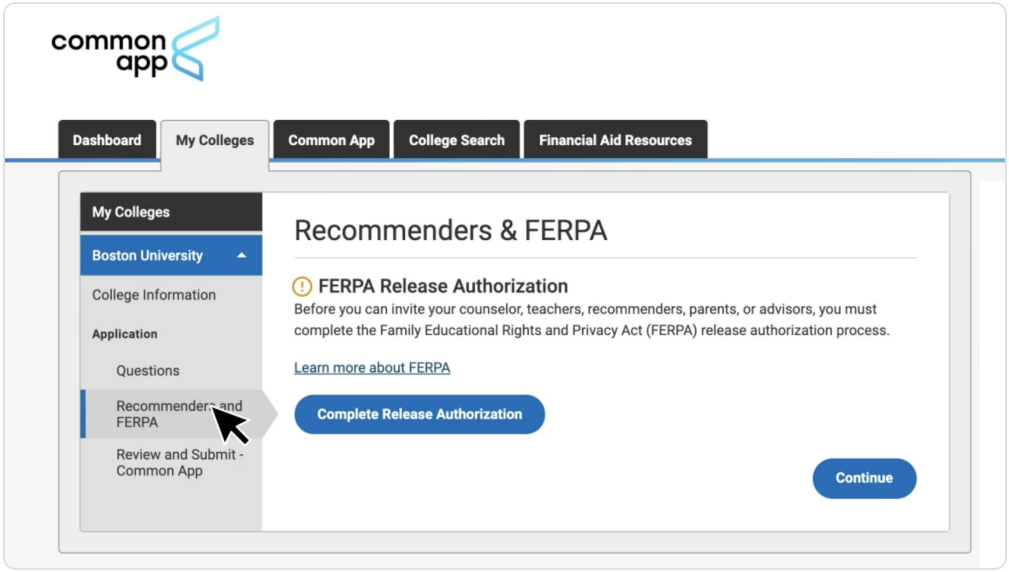
Your school is integrating Xello with Common App. This means beginning August 1, you can link your Common App account with Xello to request forms from your counselor and recommendations from your teachers. Make sure you follow the steps below to link your accounts.

Note: If you started working in Common App in your junior year, some of your data may have been deleted over the summer.

Before linking Common App with Xello

You'll need to complete a few steps in Common App before you can begin working in Xello. After signing in to your Common App account:

1. Click the **Common App** tab. From the left menu, open **Profile** and then **Education** to complete the required fields.
2. Click the **College Search** tab, and add at least one college you plan to apply to.
3. Click the **My Colleges** tab and open one of your saved colleges.
4. In the left menu of the college profile, click **Questions** and fill out your **Preferred Start Term**.
5. Again from the left menu, click **Recommenders and FERPA**. Read and complete the **FERPA Release Authorization form**.



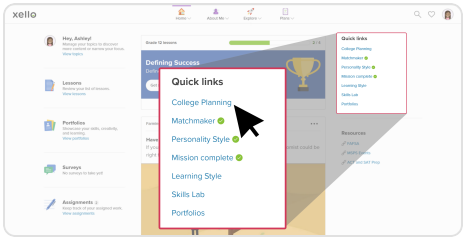
Link your Common App account with Xello

Once you've signed the **FERPA Release Authorization** form, you'll connect your Xello account to Common App. Connecting the two accounts means you can begin submitting requests for Common App documents and recommenders in Xello.

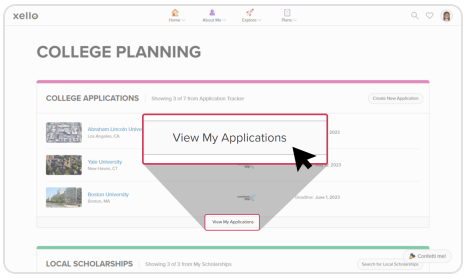
Watch the video: Linking Common App to Xello

To link your Common App account with Xello:

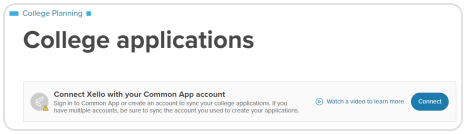
1. Sign in to Xello.
2. Under **Quick links**, select **College Planning**.



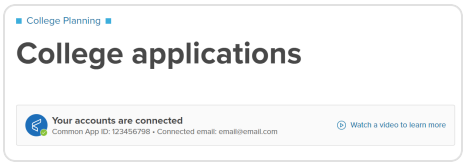
3. Click **View my applications** to see the full list of colleges you're tracking.



4. In the banner with the Common App logo, click **Connect** to open the Common App sign in page.
   - A pop-up will first let you know you may need to redo tasks you've already completed. This could include assigning a counselor or requesting a Teacher Evaluation. This will only apply to colleges associated with Common App.



5. Sign in to Common App.
   - Once you've logged into Common App, you're redirected back to the page you left in Xello.
   - The banner at the top of the page now states the accounts are connected.



Once the accounts are connected, the colleges in your **My colleges** list in Common App are synced to your **Application tracker** in Xello. You can easily identify which colleges in Xello are linked to Common App by the badge next to the college name.

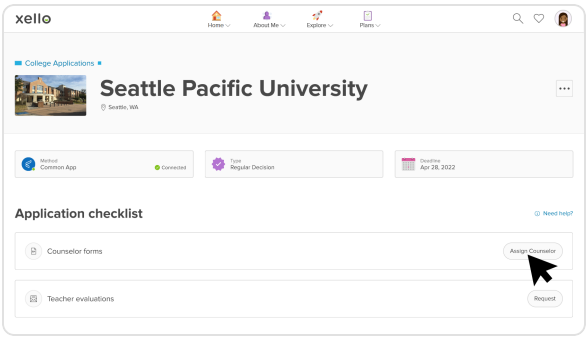
Assign a counselor to send forms

Next, you'll need to assign a counselor at your school to send the necessary forms for your application to Common App colleges.

Watch the video: Requesting your documents for Common App schools

To assign a counselor to send your forms to Common App colleges:

1. Click on a college with the Common App logo.
2. Next to **Counselor forms**, click **Assign counselor**.
3. Choose the counselor at your school in charge of your transcript and Common App forms. Click **Select**.
    - You'll only need to assign a counselor once. Selecting a counselor means that they'll send all the necessary forms to all the schools saved in your **My colleges** list in Common App.

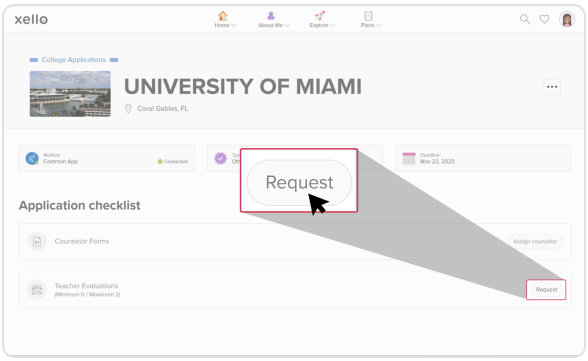


4. Click **Send** to return to the college page.
    - A banner at the top of the page indicates success.

Request teacher evaluations for Common App colleges

You'll use Xello to request a teacher write and send a Teacher Evaluation to colleges on your behalf. To send a request:

1. Click on a college with the Common App logo.
2. Next to **Teacher evaluations**, click **Request** to open the list of teacher recommenders available at your school in Xello.
    - You can also search for teachers at other schools in you district who also use Xello with Common App enabled. This search is useful if you've transferred schools or if the teacher you want as a recommender has changed schools.



3. Choose the teacher you'd like and click **Select** .
4. Click **Send** to return to the college page.

	NAME OF INSTITUTION	SUMMER SEMESTER						FALL SEMESTER								
		Total Enrollment	Total Undergraduate Enrollment (2025)	Anticipated class size	Average or middle 50% FTIC GPA	Middle 50% Admit FTIC SAT	Middle 50% Admit FTIC ACT	Middle 50% FTIC CLT	Anticipated class size	Average or middle 50% FTIC GPA	Middle 50% Admit FTIC SAT	Middle 50% Admit FTIC ACT	Middle 50% FTIC CLT	STARS/SPARK	Self-Reported Test Scores	2+2 Program
FAMU	FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY	8,739	7,372	400	3.0 – 3.7	1010 – 1110	18 – 23	57-68	1600	3.6 – 4.2	1090 – 1240	22 – 26	60 – 74	NO	NO	IGNITE
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	32,248	24,484	1,300	3.32 – 3.93	1020 – 1190	20 – 25	62 – 82	3,500	3.78 – 4.35	1110 – 1300	23 – 29	66 – 82	YES	YES	Link2FAU
Florida Gulf Coast University	FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY	16,734	13,864	300	4.02	1135	23	60	2,150	4.22	1170	24	67	NO	NO	Destination FGCU
FIU	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY	55,673	46,050	3,200	3.9 – 4.4	1100 – 1200	22 – 25	70 – 83	2,200	4.1 – 4.7	1250 – 1380	27 – 32	84 – 95	NO	NO	Connect4Success
FLORIDA POLY	FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY	1,901	1,746	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	750	3.8 – 4.5	1160 – 1360	24 – 31	64 – 96	YES	YES	Polk State to Florida Poly
FSU	FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY	45,744	34,271	2,400	4.1 – 4.5	1300 – 1370	28 – 31	86 – 98	3,600	4.3 – 4.6	1380 – 1480	31 – 34	102 – 105	YES	YES	TSC Aspire Transfer Program
New College of Florida	NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA	919	869	30	3.27 – 3.83	1040 – 1120	18.8 – 22.5	60.5 – 67	220	3.8 – 4.38	1030 – 1320	23 – 29	64 – 79	YES	YES	Guaranteed Admission Program
UCF	UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA	70,658	60,070	3,450	3.90 – 4.38	1190 – 1240	24 – 26	82 – 88	4,830	4.11 – 4.57	1310 – 1420	28 – 32	91 – 101	YES	NO	Direct Connect to UCF
UF	UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	63,302	39,860	1,250	4.4 – 4.7	1380 – 1460	30 – 34	N/A too few	6,250	4.5 – 4.7	1430 – 1520	32 – 35	N/A too few	YES	YES	Going Gator
UNF	UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA	17,041	14,415	1,800	3.24 – 3.70	940 – 1110	18 – 24	47 – 62	1,900	3.96 – 4.51	1090 – 1280	23 – 29	55 – 83	YES	YES	Transfer2UNF
USF	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA	47,814	37,479	3,000	3.71 – 4.29	1140 – 1230	72 – 84	N/A	3,850	4.13 – 4.58	1290 – 1420	28 – 32	92 – 100	YES	NO	FUSE
UWF	UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA	15,442	10,315	60	3.50 – 4.04	970 – 1170	18 – 24	46 – 68	1,340	3.63 – 4.23	1020 – 1230	20 – 27	47 – 63	YES	NO	2UWF

This matrix was produced by Florida International University.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TEST DATES 26-27

SAT

www.collegeboard.org

SAT Fee: $68
***Late Fee: + $38**

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Deadline*
Aug 22, 2026	Aug 7, 2026	Aug 11, 2026
Sep 12, 2026	Aug 28, 2026	Sep 1, 2026
Oct 3, 2026	Sep 18, 2026	Sep 22, 2026
Nov 7, 2026	Oct 23, 2026	Oct 27, 2026
Dec 5, 2026	Nov 20, 2026	Nov 24, 2026
Mar 6, 2027	Feb 19, 2027	Feb 23, 2027
May 1, 2027	Apr 16, 2027	Apr 20. 2027
Jun 5, 2027	May 21, 2027	May 25, 2027

Recommended Prep Resources: CollegeBoard's Bluebook app and free practice tests; Khan Academy SAT Prep; various resources offered by PCS – consult your College and Career Center.

ACT

www.act.org

ACT EMR Fee: $70
***Late Fee: + $42**

NOTE: Most students should register for the standard ACT which includes EMR (English, Math, Reading). The Optional Science and Essay sections are no longer required for Bright Futures or most universities and cost extra. (Check university requirements.)

Test Date	Registration Deadline	*Late Deadline
Sep 19, 2026	Aug 14, 2026	Sep 1, 2026
Oct 17, 2026	Sep 11, 2026	Sep 29, 2026
Dec 12, 2026	Nov 6, 2026	Nov 29, 2026
Feb 27, 2027	Jan 22, 2027	Feb 9, 2027
Apr 10, 2027	Mar 5, 2027	Mar 23, 2027
Jun 12, 2027	May 7, 2027	May 25, 2027
Jul 10, 2020	Jun 4, 2027	Jun 22, 2027

Recommended Prep Resources: ACT free practice tests; various resources offered by PCS – consult your College and Career Center.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TEST DATES 26-27

CLT — www.cltexam.com — Cost: $112

The CLT is accepted for Bright Futures and for admissions consideration at Florida public universities, as well as a number of Florida private universities.
For a list of institutions accepting the CLT, please visit www.cltexam.com/colleges/

Remote Proctoring Exam dates listed below.
The **CLT may also be offered in school**, speak with your counselor for dates, eligibility and signup info.

Test Date	Registration Deadline		Test Date	Registration Deadline
Aug 22, 2026	Aug 13, 2026		**Jan 23, 2027**	Jan 14, 2027
Sep 17, 2026	Sep 10, 2026		**Feb 18, 2027**	Feb 11, 2027
Oct 17, 2026	Oct 8, 2026		**Mar 20, 2027**	Mar 11, 2027
Nov 14, 2024	Nov 5, 2026		**Apr 17, 2027**	Apr 8, 2027
Dec 8, 2026	Dec 3, 2026		**May 22, 2027**	May 13, 2027
			Jun 17, 2027	Jun 10. 2027

October is College Application Month!

APPLY YOURSELF! FLORIDA

OFHS is offering a variety of workshops to assist you with your post-secondary planning!

Thursday & Friday, October 1-2 **Common Application Assistance** **College & Career Center**

Continuing from September, the College & Career Center invites you to stop by and work on your Common Application. We are open daily for drop-in assistance until 3:00 p.m.

Scan to Sign Up

Monday, October 5 **St. Petersburg College Free Application Drive** **Media Center**

Here's your opportunity to apply to SPC for FREE! You'll need to have the following information on hand:

- Your Social Security Number
- Your SPC ID number (if you already have one)
- Your parent's driver's license number
- Your parent's voter registration or car registration

Scan to Sign Up

SPC academic advisors will be available to help you complete a free application!

Tuesday, October 6 **FFAA Support & FSA ID Creation** **College & Career Center**

The College & Career Center welcomes students to stop by for assistance with submitting the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) for Bright Futures and creating an FSA ID for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students should bring their Social Security Number. We are open daily for drop-in assistance until 3:00 p.m.

Scan to Sign Up

Wednesday, October 14 @ 5:30pm **FAFSA Completion Night** **Media Center**

The FAFSA is an application that can help you secure scholarships, grants and loans to pay for college. Pinellas County Schools is here to help you complete your FAFSA and answer any questions you may have at FAFSA Completion Night!

Monday, October 19 **PEFSSA Support** **College & Career Center**

Ready to apply for scholarships? Visit the College & Career Center to set up your account for the Pinellas Education Foundation Senior Scholarship Application (PEFSSA). We are open daily for drop-in assistance
until 3:00 p.m.

Scan to Sign Up