

Toro Academic Success Guide

Presented by Toco Creek School Counselors

**Your journey starts here:**



## INTRODUCTION:

Welcome Toros! This guide is intended to be the framework for your high school academic experience. We hope you will consider printing it out or saving it as a PDF, so you can gradually complete as you move throughout your high school career. Your school counselors will be visiting you in class and meeting with you individually as you progress through high school to complete a lot of this together, but you will need to take individual responsibility of the tools that we give you. Ultimately, you are the driving factor of your own success. Your school counselors will just help you to know which way to turn the steering wheel!

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## **TOCOI CREEK HIGH SCHOOL**

### **THE VISION OF THE TOCOI CREEK SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT:**

Tocoi Creek High School students will graduate with a strong foundation of personal worth and character, academic confidence, a growth mindset to meet their future career and college goals, and resiliency to navigate obstacles as they choose their path to become contributing members of society and influence future generations.

### **THE MISSION OF THE TOCOI CREEK SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT:**

The mission of the Tocoi Creek School Counseling Department is to inspire all students to be culturally competent lifelong learners. Our comprehensive school counseling program provides students with necessary skills to make sound emotional, social, behavioral, and academic decisions. School counselors will collaborate with parents, guardians, faculty, staff, and administration to advocate for our students so they can achieve their academic and career goals while supporting their personal and social needs.

Your school counseling team is excited to work with you as you prepare for the next chapter of your life after high school. While we hope you will find this handbook to be helpful in your post-secondary journey, it is not a replacement for working with your school counselor. We are here for you and look forward to guiding you throughout your high school career.

### **TOCOI CREEK SCHOOL COUNSELING STAFF**

**PRINCIPAL: JAY WILLETS**

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS: DREW CHIDO & KELLY FOSS**

**REGISTRAR: CHASSITY JOHNSON**

**SECRETARY: KIMBERLY TABALA**

**COMPUTER OPERATOR: MARVIN JENKINS**

**SCHOOL COUNSELORS:**

**9<sup>TH</sup> AND 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:**

**LAST NAMES A-L: ELIZABETH WRIGHT, LAST NAMES M-Z: RACHEL BLOUNT**

**11<sup>TH</sup> AND 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:**

**LAST NAMES: A-L: D'ERICA GIBBS, LAST NAMES M-Z: LINDA SMITH**

## WELCOME TO HIGH SCHOOL!

### TRANSITIONING FROM 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

#### REGISTRATION:

- Counselors will visit middle schools in the spring of 8<sup>th</sup> grade to select courses for 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Students should consider their long-term goals when selecting courses.
- Things to consider in selecting your courses:
  - o You need a performing fine art course to graduate.
  - o You need an on-line class to graduate.
  - o If you are planning to earn the [Bright Futures Scholarship](#) and/or attend a University immediately after high school, you will need two consecutive years of a world language.
  - o Colleges like to see good grades in rigorous courses. Select the hardest classes that you can make A's and B's in.

#### ONLINE COURSEWORK:

- Students can take on-line coursework through St. Johns Virtual School (<https://stjohnsvirtual.com/>) or Florida Virtual School ([www.flvs.net](http://www.flvs.net)). **Students are required to take one full course on-line to graduate, but they can take more.** Students that started virtual courses in middle school should make sure to log in to their accounts and change their school of record to Tocoi Creek during the summer between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Steps to change your virtual school account over to Tocoi:
  1. Login into their FLVS account
  2. Click the Virtual School Administrator link to enter VSA.
  3. Click the menu (3 lines) at the top left of the screen next to FLVS.
  4. Click Student Records then Academic Profile.
  5. Click the dropdown to the right of the Physical School and select the new school.
  6. Scroll to the bottom right and click SAVE.





**TOCOI CREEK  
HIGH SCHOOL  
COMMUNITY SERVICE:**

- Students are not required to have community service hours to graduate, but they do need community service hours to earn the [Bright Futures Scholarship](#).
- Students can start earning community service hours in the summer between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade and continue until graduation day. Community service guidelines can be found here: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/community-service/>

**PREPARING FOR SUCCESS:**

- Transitioning from middle school to high school is a big deal. Students will have a lot more freedom and must take personal responsibility for their academics. Help set your student up for success before the first day of school.
  - o Attend orientation and take advantage of opportunities to pick up your schedule, pick out your locker, get your textbooks, ID, gym clothes, and school supplies list. Look around and find your classes and ease the stress of the first day of school.
  - o Create a schedule for yourself. Plan when you will participate in extra-curricular activities, complete homework, study, and still have time for your hobbies and family obligations. Be prepared to need more homework and study time than you did in middle school.
  - o Get excited and get involved! High school is a memorable and fun time. The more students participate and build relationships through athletics, clubs, and other organizations the more likely they are to be successful in high school and transition to post-secondary success.
- **WE ARE SO EXCITED TO HAVE YOU AS TOROS!!**



## FRESHMAN YEAR CHECKLIST

- Get organized! Use calendar, phone, or planner to keep track of deadlines and to do list.
- Get help if necessary – take advantage of tutoring opportunities offered through peer groups (example: National Honor Society), teachers, and TORO TIME
- **YOU** are your BEST advocate
- Explore extracurricular opportunities – begin your resume by getting involved in the school community
- Begin Community Service folder – community service is NOT required for graduation, but highly recommended for scholarship opportunities and college admittance
  - QUALITY matters; not quantity
  - Keep a copy of all documentation
  - ALL community service **MUST** be conducted with a non-profit or not-for profit organization
  - Additional community service guidelines information can be found [here](#)
- Set an academic goal for freshman year:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Set a social goal for freshman year:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Create a 4-year plan – use the state graduation requirements and school course catalog to create a tentative 4-year plan of classes
- Schedule appointments with your counselor when you need help!

Ms. Blount: <https://calendly.com/rachel-blount>

Ms. Gibbs: <https://calendly.com/derica-gibbs-1>

Ms. Smith: <https://calendly.com/lindamsmith>

Ms. Wright: <https://calendly.com/elizabethwright>

### 4 Year Plan

Course Name (with grad requirements)	Credits Required	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English	4				
Math (Algebra 1, Geometry, 2 additional)	4				
Science (Biology, 2 additional)	3				
SS (World History, US History, Gov/Econ)	3				
Performing Fine Arts	1				
HOPE	1				
Electives (consider optional World Language)	8				
High School Courses Taken in Middle School, Over Summer, Etc					
<b>Credit Totals</b>	24				0

Download an excel version of this plan on Schoology.

~ TRACK YOUR CREDITS ~

~ TESTING AND POST-SECONDARY INFORMATION ~

ENGLISH	Semester 1	Semester 2
1 Stand, Hon		
2 Stand, Hon		
3 Stand, Honors, AP, DE		
4 Stand, Honors, AP, DE		
MATH	Sem 1	Sem 2
ALGEBRA 1		
GEOMETRY		
SCIENCE	Sem 1	Sem 2
BIOLOGY		
SOCIAL STUDIES	Sem 1	Sem 2
WORLD		
US HISTORY		
GOVT/ECON		

ART	Sem 1	Sem 2
HEALTH/PE	Sem 1	Sem 2
HOPE		
ELECTIVES	SEM 1	SEM 2
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
WORLD LANGUAGE		
Year 1		
Year 2		

Total Credits Earned: \_\_\_\_\_

CUM UNWEIGHTED GPA (2.0 req): \_\_\_\_\_

ONLINE COURSE REQUIREMENT?

Course \_\_\_\_\_

TESTING (MUST PASS)	SCORE
<b>Grade 10 FSA ELA – Level 3</b> <i>Concordant Options:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>480 on SAT EBRW</li> <li>AVERAGED 18 on ACT English and Reading Scores</li> </ul>	<b>FSA:</b> <b>SAT:</b> <b>ACT:</b>
<b>FSA Algebra 1 EOC – Level 3</b> <i>Concordant Options:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>430 on PSAT/NMSQT Math</li> <li>420 on SAT Math</li> <li>16 on ACT Math</li> <li>499 on FSA Geometry EOC</li> </ul>	<b>EOC:</b>
<b>End of Course Exams- 30% (MUST TAKE)</b>	<b>TAKEN</b>
<b>Geometry EOC</b>	
<b>Biology EOC</b>	
<b>US History EOC</b>	
<i>Florida's Scholar Designation has additional course and testing criteria as outlined on the Florida Department of Education's Academic Advisement Flyer available for review at <a href="http://www.fldoe.org">www.fldoe.org</a></i>	

**Bright Futures Requirements**

See complete Bright Futures information at: [www.floridashines.org](http://www.floridashines.org)

**Florida Academic Scholar:** 3.5 GPA in the required 16 academic credits/ 1330 SAT (EBRW+Math only) or 29 ACT (Comp)/ and 100 Community Service Hours

**Florida Medallion Scholar:** 3.0 GPA in the required 16 academic credits/ 1210 SAT (EBRW+Math only) or 25 ACT (Comp)/ and 75 Community Service Hours

**Gold Seal Vocational Scholar:** 3.0 GPA in the required 16 academic credits, 3.5 un-weighted GPA in three Career and Technical credits in one vocational program/ Post-Secondary Readiness Scores on ACT, SAT, or PERT/ and 30 Community Service Hrs

**COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS:**

*\*Service hours are not required for graduation. They ARE REQUIRED for Bright Futures and must be turned in to the guidance desk prior to graduation. Keep a*

**Post-Secondary Readiness Scores**

**ACT:** Read \_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_, English \_\_\_\_\_, Composite \_\_\_\_\_

**Post-Secondary Plans**

**Weighted GPA:**

**Circle:** University State College Tech/Career Military

**My Career Interest:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I plan to apply for:** ☐ Bright Futures (Opens Oct. 1)

☐ FAFSA (Opens Oct. 1)

## UNDERSTANDING GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

**GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA):** Your grade point average (GPA) is the sum of all your high school course grades divided by the total number of credits.

**WEIGHTED (DISTRICT) GPA:** The GPA that includes additional weight for honors (0.5 weight) and Advanced Placement (AP), Dual Enrollment (DE), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses (1.0 weight). This is the GPA that is used when determining class rank.

**UNWEIGHTED (STATE) GPA:** The GPA that is calculated using standard weighting (see Letter Grade GPA Points table below). This is the GPA that is used for graduation and Dual Enrollment eligibility.

**SEMESTER GPA:** The GPA that is calculated using only the high school courses taken in the current semester.

**CUMULATIVE GPA:** The GPA that is calculated using all the high school courses taken.

**BRIGHT FUTURES GPA:** The GPA that is calculated using the 16 high school courses that Bright Futures uses to determine eligibility for the scholarship. See the [Bright Futures Handbook](#) for more specifics on how the Bright Futures GPA is calculated.

**RECALCULATED GPA FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION:** The GPA that some colleges use when making admissions and scholarship decisions. Recalculated GPA's often consist of a weighted GPA that only uses core academic credits.

**Letter Grade GPA Points**

Type of Course	A	B	C	D	F
Standard	4	3	2	1	0
Honors	4.5	3.5	2.5	1.5	0
AP, DE, AICE, IB	5	4	3	2	0



## SOPHOMORE YEAR CHECKLIST

- Get organized! Use calendar, phone, or planner to keep track of deadlines and to do list.
- Set an academic goal for sophomore year:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Revisit/revise your 4-year plan – Are you on task? What changes do you need to make?
- Become familiar with the PSAT and take it in October – the state of Florida pays for all 10<sup>th</sup> graders to take this College board assessment.
  - If a student needs accommodation, please submit the accommodation form to the Testing Coordinator ASAP: <https://accommodations.collegeboard.org/pdf/ssd-consent-form-accommodations.pdf>
  - Additional general information can be found at <https://www.collegeboard.org>
- Continue to pursue volunteer and extracurricular opportunities at school and in the community.
  - Remember QUALITY matters, not quantity.
  - Keep a copy of all documentation.
  - ALL community service **MUST** be conducted with a non or not-for profit organization.
  - Additional community service guidelines information can be found [here](#)
- Create summer plans to enhance college resume – take additional course work (Florida Virtual School, Dual Enrollment, College Enrichment program, etc.), secure internship/shadowing opportunity for an area of interest, or volunteer.
- If you are thinking about Dual Enrollment, take your ACT, SAT, and/or PERT test to work on getting qualifying scores prior to spring registration. (ACT- [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org), SAT- [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org), PERT- <https://www.sjstate.edu/testingcenter.html> )
- Have family conversations about post-secondary plans – begin thinking about college, military, trade school options, financial aid, etc.



**COST: \$63.00 (WITHOUT Writing), \$88.00 (WITH Writing), Late Fee \$36.00**

[WWW.ACTSTUDENT.ORG](http://WWW.ACTSTUDENT.ORG)

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Deadline
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



**COST: \$60, Late Registration \$30**

[WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG](http://WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG)

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Required
August 27, 2022	July 29, 2022	August 16, 2022
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

## WHICH TEST SHOULD I TAKE?

As counselors, we recommend that all students take both tests at least once. Students are often surprised with which test they do best on. Once students have received their scores and have a preferred test, they can continue working on the test that they prefer.

SAT	VS	ACT
Reading: 1, 65-min section; Math: 1, 25-min section (no calculator) & 1, 55-min section (w/ calculator); Writing & Language: 1, 35-min section; Essay: 1, 50-min section (optional; the College Board will no longer offer the essay section after the June 2021 administration of the SAT)	Test Format	English: 1, 45-min section; Math: 1, 60-min section; Reading: 1, 35-min section; Science: 1, 35-min section; Writing: 1, 40-min essay (optional)
Reading, relevant words in context, math, grammar & usage, analytical writing (optional)	Content Covered	Grammar & usage, math, reading, science reasoning, and writing (optional)
Questions are evidence and context-based to focus on real-world situations and multi-step problem-solving	Test Style	Straightforward, questions may be long but are usually less difficult to decipher
Math and Evidence-Based Reading & Writing are each scored on a scale of 200-800. Composite SAT score is the sum of the two section scores and ranges from 400-1600	Scoring	English, Math, Reading, and Science scores range from 1-36. Composite ACT score is the average of your scores on the four sections: ranges from 1-36
Yes – you can choose which set(s) of SAT scores to submit to colleges. However, some colleges require or recommend that students submit all scores. Students should review the score-reporting policy of each college to which they plan to apply.	Score Choice?	Yes – you can choose which set(s) of ACT scores to submit to colleges. However, some colleges require or recommend that students submit all scores. Students should review the score-reporting policy of each college to which they plan to apply.
Math questions generally increase in difficulty level as you move through that question type in a section. Reading passage questions generally progress chronologically through the passage, not by difficulty level. Writing & Language passage questions do not progress by difficulty level.	Difficulty Levels	For the English and Reading sections, the difficulty level of the questions is random. For the Math section, questions generally increase in difficulty as you progress through the section. For the Science section, passages generally increase in difficulty as you progress through the test, and questions generally become more difficult as you progress through a passage.
Arithmetic, problem-solving & data analysis, heart of algebra, geometry, pre-calculus, and trigonometry; <b>formulas provided</b>	Math Levels	Arithmetic, algebra I and II, functions, geometry, trigonometry; <b>no formulas are provided</b>

## STARTING YOUR POST-SECONDARY QUEST

- **WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU WANT TO DO AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?**
  - Use “My Next Move” to research careers that you have an interest in or take a quiz to help figure out what may be a good career for you:  
<https://www.mynextmove.org/>
- **WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU WANT TO GO AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?**
  - Once you have an idea of what you want to do, you can start thinking about where you might want to go to get there.
- Search for schools in Florida: <https://www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/explore-colleges-universities>
- Search for schools out of state: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

## LEARN ABOUT THE OPTIONS:

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### I'M THINKING ABOUT: A TRADE SCHOOL

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**A trade school is a great option for students who:**

- See themselves in a career where they are “hands on” vs “sitting behind a desk”.
  - Know their desired career path.
  - Are hoping to enter the work force in 1-2 years.
- Do not want to spend a long time in school, but still want to have a good career with a good salary.

**Getting Started:** Search for trade schools in the area that you are interested in. Follow their “apply now” instructions to get in touch with the admissions office, apply, find out financial aid options, etc. Some programs will require testing or other academic prerequisites that you may need to complete before starting.



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**I'M THINKING ABOUT: A MILITARY CAREER**

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**A military career is a great option for students who:**

- Want to travel.
- Want a specialized career with their education paid for.
- Have an interest in public service and serving their country.
  - Are ready to begin working now.

**Getting Started:** Log on to each branches website to get in touch with a recruiter. They will want to confirm that you are on track to graduate, can pass the military physical, and will want you to take the ASVAB exam.

United States Air Force: <https://www.airforce.com/>

United States Army: <https://www.goarmy.com/>

United States Coast Guard: <https://www.uscg.mil/>

United States Marines: <https://www.marines.com/>

United States Navy: <https://www.navy.mil/>

United States Space Force: <https://www.spaceforce.mil/>





I'M THINKING ABOUT: A STATE COLLEGE

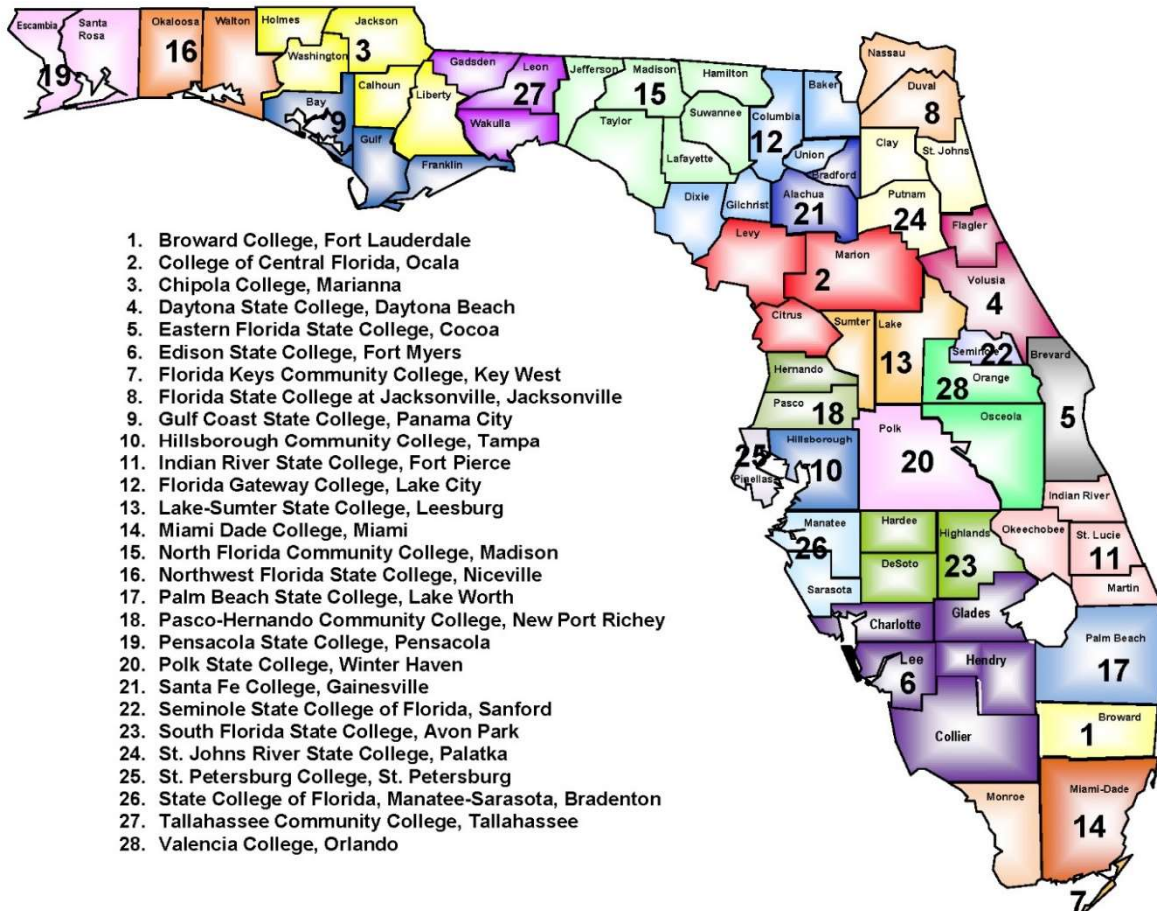
(OTHERWISE KNOWN AS COMMUNITY COLLEGE)

**The state college system is a great option for students who:**

- Would like to live at home and save money to start their college experience.
  - Would like smaller class sizes at a public-school cost.
- Are considering a workforce certificate, technical certificate, an AA or AS degree.
  - Are undecided about their future career or major.
- May not meet the qualifications to get into the University of their choice as a college freshman.

A summary of Florida Statute 1007.23 states that students that graduate with an Associate of Arts from a Florida College System institution must have met all general education requirements and must be granted admission to the upper division of a state university (except for limited access programs, programs requiring an audition, etc)













**THE FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM**















## I'M THINKING ABOUT: A STATE UNIVERSITY

The state university system is a great option for students who:

- Are looking for a 4-year college experience close to home at a subsidized cost.
- Are looking for a traditional college experience that can be funded by Florida Bright Futures, Florida Prepaid, etc.
- Are undecided and looking for a school with broad options and underclassman advising.

2022 State University System (SUS) Admissions Matrix													
Universities													
Location		Tallahassee	Boca Raton	Ft. Myers	Miami	Lakeland	Tallahassee	Sarasota	Orlando	Gainesville	Jacksonville	Tampa	Pensacola
Undergraduate Enrollment		8,504	23,424	13,935	48,664	1,265	32,500	861	61,456	40,652	14,522	37,027	9,619
Type of Applications Accepted		Institutional Online	Institutional Online, Common App	Institutional Online, Common App	Institutional Online	Institutional Online, Common App	Institutional Online, Common App, Coalition App	Institutional Online, Common App	Institutional Online, Common App	Common App, Coalition App	Institutional Online, Common App	Institutional Online, Common App, Coalition App	Institutional Online, Common App
Middle 50% of Admitted FTIC 2021 (S-Summer) (F-Fall)	GPA	S: 3.27 F: 3.67	S: 3.23-3.81 F: 3.73-4.33	S: 3.44-4.23 F: 3.56-4.33	S: 3.7-4.3 F: 4.2-4.6	S: 3.6-4.4 F: 4.1-4.6	S: 3.8-4.3 F: 4.2-4.6	F: 3.5-4.2	S: 3.77-4.29 F: 3.96-4.49	S: 4.4-4.6 F: 4.4-4.7	S: 3.3-4.0 F: 4.0-4.5	S: 3.57-4.11 F: 3.97-4.48	S: 3.36-4.02 F: 3.61-4.2
	SAT	S: 1060 F: 1100	S: 1000-1200 F: 1110-1270	S: 1050-1180 F: 1090-1230	S: 1040-1160 F: 1200-1350	S: 1130-1200 F: 1250-1400	S: 1190-1300 F: 1250-1400	F: 1113-1320	S: 1170-1280 F: 1250-1370	S: 1260-1420 F: 1350-1480	S: 1000-1150 F: 1100-1260	S: 1090-1170 F: 1230-1370	S: 1020-1180 F: 1060-1240
	ACT	S: 20.2 F: 22.3	S: 19-24 F: 23-29	S: 19-25 F: 22-27	S: 20-25 F: 25-30	S: 23-26 F: 27-31	S: 25-29 F: 28-32	F: 22-29	S: 23-28 F: 26-30	S: 29-32 F: 30-34	S: 20-25 F: 22-28	S: 22-25 F: 26-31	S: 20-24 F: 21-27
Application Waivers Accepted		SAT/ACT Fee Waiver, NACAC Fee Waiver	SAT/ACT Fee Waiver, NACAC Fee Waiver, Email from School Counselor, Written Request from Student, Documentation Demonstrating Participation in Free/Reduced Lunch	SAT/ACT Fee Waiver, NACAC Fee Waiver, Email from School Counselor, Written Request from Student, Documentation Demonstrating Participation in Free/Reduced Lunch	SAT/ACT Fee Waiver, NACAC Fee Waiver, Email from School Counselor, Written Request from Student, Documentation Demonstrating Participation in Free/Reduced Lunch	SAT/ACT Fee Waiver, NACAC Fee Waiver, Documentation Demonstrating Participation in Free/Reduced Lunch	SAT/ACT Fee Waiver, NACAC Fee Waiver, Documentation Demonstrating Participation in Free/Reduced Lunch	Application Fee waived for all students	SAT/ACT Fee Waiver, NACAC Fee Waiver, Documentation Demonstrating Participation in Free/Reduced Lunch	SAT/ACT Fee Waiver, NACAC Fee Waiver, Documentation Demonstrating Participation in Free/Reduced Lunch	SAT/ACT Fee Waiver, NACAC Fee Waiver, Documentation Demonstrating Participation in Free/Reduced Lunch	SAT/ACT Fee Waiver, NACAC Fee Waiver, Email from School Counselor, Written Request from Student, Documentation Demonstrating Participation in Free/Reduced Lunch	SAT/ACT Fee Waiver, NACAC Fee Waiver, Email from School Counselor, Written Request from Student, Documentation Demonstrating Participation in Free/Reduced Lunch
Self-Reported Platform		SSAR	SSAR	Official Transcripts	Official Transcripts	SSAR	SSAR	SSAR	SPARK	SSAR	SSAR		SSAR
Super Score SAT		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Super Score ACT		Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Transfer: 2+2 Enhancement Programs		Ignite Program	Link to FAU	Destination FGCU	Connect-4Success	Polk State College	TCC2FSU	Dual BA in Liberal Arts and Engineering with UF	DirectConnect to UCF	Gator Eng @SF; Gator Eng @SCF; DCP@ SF	SF2UNF; FSCJ/UNF Connect; UNF/SJR State Gateway	FUSE and PATHe	2UWF

Universities												
Summer 2022	Deadlines	1st: 10/30/21 2nd: 1/3/22	3/1/22	3/1/22	1st: 11/1/21 2nd: 4/1/22	1st: 11/1/21 2nd: 3/1/22	1st: 11/1/21 2nd: 3/1/22	3/1/22	1st: 11/1/21 2nd: 3/1/22	1st: 5/23/22 2nd: 6/6/22	1st: 12/1/21 2nd: 1/15/22	1st: 12/1/21 2nd: 5/1/22
	Notification Dates	1/15/22	Rolling	December	Rolling	11/20/21	1st: 2/17/22 2nd: Rolling	Rolling	1st: 2/25/22 2nd: 3/25/22	Rolling	1st: 11/15/21 2nd: Rolling	1st: 10/15/21 2nd: Rolling
	Priority Date for Aid & Scholarships	FAFSA: 3/1/22	FAFSA: 3/1/22 Scholarships: 1/14/22	FAFSA: 1/1/22 Scholarships: 11/1/21	FAFSA: 3/1/22 Scholarships: 11/12/21	FAFSA: 2/1/21 Scholarships: 11/1/21	FAFSA: 12/1/21	FAFSA: 12/1/21	FAFSA: 3/1/22	FAFSA: 11/1/21 Scholarships: 11/1/21	FAFSA: 1/1/22 Scholarships: 1/15/22	FAFSA: 2/15/22 Scholarships: 12/1/21
Fall 2022 Deadlines	Deadlines	5/1/21	4/1/22	1st: 11/1/21 2nd: 3/1/22	1st: 11/1/21 2nd: 4/1/22	1st: 11/1/21 2nd: 3/1/22	1st: 11/1/21 2nd: 3/1/22	1st: 11/1/21 2nd: 2/28/22	5/1/22	1st: 11/1/21 2nd: 3/1/22	1st: 7/1/22 2nd: 7/25/22	1st: 12/1/21 2nd: 6/1/22
	Notification Dates	Rolling	Rolling	Rolling	Rolling	1st: 2/17/22 2nd: Rolling	Rolling	Rolling	1st: 2/25/22 2nd: 3/25/22	Rolling	1st: 11/15/21 2nd: Rolling	1st: 10/15/21 2nd: Rolling
	Priority Date for Aid & Scholarships	FAFSA: 3/1/22	FAFSA: 3/1/22 Scholarships: 1/14/22	FAFSA: 1/1/22 Scholarships: 11/1/21	FAFSA: 3/1/22 Scholarships: 11/12/21	FAFSA: 12/1/21 Scholarships: 11/1/21	FAFSA: 12/1/21	FAFSA: 11/1/21 Scholarships: 2/1/22	FAFSA: 3/1/22	FAFSA: 11/1/21 Scholarships: 11/1/21	FAFSA: 1/1/22 Scholarships: 1/15/22	FAFSA: 2/15/22 Scholarships: 12/1/21

## I'M THINKING ABOUT: A FLORIDA PRIVATE SCHOOL

The Florida Private Colleges and Universities are a great option for students who:

- Are looking for a four-year college experience that is close to home with smaller class sizes.
- Are looking for the support and mentorship that can come from a smaller community.
  - Plan to major in a specialized field offered at a specific private school.
- Are looking for a potentially less competitive four-year college experience.



	ADVENTHEALTH 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
	<a href="http://www.ahu.edu">www.ahu.edu</a>	<a href="http://www.barry.edu">www.barry.edu</a>	<a href="http://www.eckerd.edu">www.eckerd.edu</a>	<a href="http://daytonabeach.erau.edu">daytonabeach.erau.edu</a>	<a href="http://www.flagler.edu">www.flagler.edu</a>	<a href="http://www.fit.edu">www.fit.edu</a>	<a href="http://www.flsouthern.edu">www.flsouthern.edu</a>	<a href="http://www.ju.edu">www.ju.edu</a>	<a href="http://www.keiseruniversity.edu/residential">www.keiseruniversity.edu/residential</a>	<a href="http://www.lynn.edu">www.lynn.edu</a>
LOCATION	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
UNDERGRADUATE/FULL TIME ENROLLMENT	no data reported	3,015	1,970	6,500	2,500	3,456	2,723	2,391	1150	2,218
PERCENTAGE OF UNDERGRADUATES FROM FLORIDA	no data reported	64%	20%	28%	53%	40%	63%	59%	45%	38%
ADMISSION DEADLINE	JUL 1, NOV 1, & MAR 1	ROLLING	NOV 1 EARLY ACT, MAR 15 ROLLING	JAN 15 & ROLLING	NOV 1 (ED) & MARCH 1 (RD)	ROLLING	NOV 1 EARLY ACT, MAR 1 ROLLING	ROLLING	ROLLING	NOV 15 EARLY ACT, MAR 1 ROLLING
MIDRANGE GPA	no data reported	3.4	3.2-3.6	3.81	3.5	3.4-4.1	3.47-4.06	3.58 unweighted	3.0-3.2	3.35
MIDRANGE/AVG. SAT (CR & M, MIDDLE 50%)	no data reported	990	1070-1280	1200-1399	1126	1160-1350	1120-1260	1050-1230	990	1200
MIDRANGE/AVG. ACT (CR & M, MIDDLE 50%)	no data reported	19	23-29	26-29	24	24-30	24-29	21-27	20	24
TUITION, FEES, ROOM & BOARD	no data reported	\$41,074	\$61,186	\$48,700 in state	\$32,580	\$53,646	\$49,500	\$55,210	\$49,248	\$50,800
ACCEPT AEE? AP? IB? DUAL ENROLLMENT (DE)? ALL?	AP, IB, DE	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL
AVG NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIP/GRAUNT AWARD	no data reported	\$9,839	\$28,000	8,000	\$10,444	\$8,000	\$27,359	\$26,581	\$6,000	\$5,916
AVG NON-NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIP/GRAUNT AWARD	no data reported	\$13,318	\$18,000	12,500	\$3,693	\$26,400	\$25,021	\$22,500	\$11,000	\$16,086
TOP 3 MAJORS	NURSING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES	NURSING BIOLOGY PSYCHOLOGY	MARINE SCIENCE ENV. STUDIES ANIMAL STUDIES	AEROSPACE ENG. AERONAUTICAL SCIENCE MECHANICAL ENG.	BUSINESS ADMIN. PSYCHOLOGY EDUCATION	AEROSPACE ENG. MECHANICAL ENG. COMPUTER SCIENCE	BUSINESS ADMIN. NURSING BIOLOGY	NURSING KINESIOLOGY AVIATION	SPORTS MGMT. EXERCISE SCIENCE BUSINESS ADMIN.	INT'L. BUSINESS MGMT. SPORTS MGMT. PSYCHOLOGY
	<b>NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>RINGLING COLLEGE OF ART &amp; DESIGN</b>	<b>ROLLINS COLLEGE</b>	<b>SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>STETSON UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI</b>	<b>THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA</b>	<b>WARNER UNIVERSITY</b>	
	<a href="http://www.nova.edu">www.nova.edu</a>	<a href="http://www.ringling.edu">www.ringling.edu</a>	<a href="http://www.rollins.edu">www.rollins.edu</a>	<a href="http://www.saintleo.edu">www.saintleo.edu</a>	<a href="http://www.seu.edu">www.seu.edu</a>	<a href="http://www.stetson.edu">www.stetson.edu</a>	<a href="http://www.miami.edu">www.miami.edu</a>	<a href="http://www.ut.edu">www.ut.edu</a>	<a href="http://www.warner.edu">www.warner.edu</a>	
LOCATION	FT. LAUDERDALE, FL	SARASOTA, FL	WINTER PARK, FL	SAINT LEO, FL	LAKELAND, FL	DELAND, FL	CORAL GABLES, FL	TAMPA, FL	LAKE WALES, FL	
UNDERGRADUATE/FULL TIME ENROLLMENT	5,700	1,650	2,100	2,282	6,209	3,150	10,908	9,600	1,215	
PERCENTAGE OF UNDERGRADUATES FROM FLORIDA	61%	37%	50%	70%	64%	69%	29%	23%	90%	
ADMISSION DEADLINE	NOV 1 (ED) & FEB 1 REGULAR	ROLLING	NOV 15, JAN 5, FEB 1	Jan 15 Priority Mar 1 Regular ROLLING	ROLLING	Nov 1 (ED), Jan. 15 (ED), Mar 1 (RD)	Nov 1 (ED) & (EA), Jan 1 (ED) & (RD)	EA: NOV. 15 & JAN 15	ROLLING	
MIDRANGE GPA	4.04	3.1	3.4	3.2 unweighted	3.32	3.84	3.8	3.48 unweighted	3.15	
MIDRANGE/AVG. SAT (CR & M, MIDDLE 50%)	1060-1270	N/A	1210-1370	1050-1280	1061	1120-1300	1350-1480	1210	937	
MIDRANGE/AVG. ACT (CR & M, MIDDLE 50%)	21-28	N/A	25-30	19-24	21	24-30	31-34	25.9	18	
TUITION, FEES, ROOM & BOARD	\$44,370	\$60,374	\$68,716	\$36,650	\$37,900	\$64,040	\$73,712	\$42,258	\$33,460	
ACCEPT AEE? AP? IB? DUAL ENROLLMENT (DE)? ALL?	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	
AVG NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIP/GRAUNT AWARD	not calculated	no data reported	\$38,000	\$7,400	\$18,000	\$38,367	\$35,768	\$12,274	\$9,756	
AVG NON-NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIP/GRAUNT AWARD	\$18,500	\$6,000	\$10,000-\$30,000	\$10,000	not calculated	\$28,516	\$18,498	N/A	\$12,341	
TOP 3 MAJORS	MARINE BIOLOGY BIOLOGY (PRE-MED) EXERCISE & SPORT SCIENCE	COMPUTER ANIMATION ILLUSTRATION FILM	BUSINESS MGMT. BIOLOGY PSYCHOLOGY	BIOLOGY CRIMINAL JUSTICE BUSINESS	NURSING EDUCATION PSYCHOLOGY	PSYCHOLOGY FINANCE HEALTH SCIENCE	BUSINESS/MARKETING BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES SOCIAL SCIENCES	BIOLOGY MARINE SCIENCE FINANCE	EDUCATION BUSINESS ADMIN. EXERCISE & SPORT SCIENCES	

For more information, please visit our Web site: [www.pcuf.net](http://www.pcuf.net)



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**I'M THINKING ABOUT: GOING TO A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SCHOOL**

**OUTSIDE OF FLORIDA**

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**Out of state schools are a great option for students who:**

- Are interested in a specific school or program that is not available in Florida.
  - Are looking to see another part of the country.
- Received a scholarship offer for athletics or other opportunities.

**Getting Started:** For many out of state schools, the process will be the same as their Florida counterpart. Students should research the school's website to find out about out of state tuition costs, transfer credits, application procedures, and scholarship offers and deadlines. Keep in mind that many of out state schools will cost more than attending an equivalent school in Florida. You will want to research if they offer any programs for in state tuition for Florida residents as well as their other scholarship programs.



## DUAL ENROLLMENT

St. Johns County Schools offer two types of dual enrollment opportunities – academic and career.

The academic dual enrollment program is an accelerated program where students can take **free** college courses that count for both high school and college credit. These courses are offered through St. Johns River State College (SJRSC).

It is great for mature, motivated students who know what they want to do after high school and plan to remain in the State of Florida. Students considering Dual Enrollment and attending school out of state should do additional research to confirm that the credits that they take through Dual Enrollment will transfer to the school of their choice.

The career dual enrollment program allows students to take technical classes or electives while taking required academic courses at their home high school. These technical classes are offered through First Coast Technical College (FCTC).

### SJR ELIGIBILITY

Requires students to have a 3.0 unweighted GPA and qualifying test scores for specific coursework.

Dual Enrollment classes are offered at TCHS and at any of the St. Johns River State College campuses. Students are responsible for their own transportation to classes on the college campus.

### FCTC ELIGIBILITY

Requires students to have a 2.0 unweighted GPA, have good school attendance and discipline record.

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT DUAL ENROLLMENT PAGE:**

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/dual-enrollment/>



**QUALIFYING PLACEMENT TEST SCORES**  
to enroll in English and Math - Effective Date: Spring 2017

ENGLISH - COMPOSITION I (ENC 1101)	
ACT: READING - 19	ENGLISH - 17
SAT: READING - 24	WRITING & LANGUAGE - 25
CPT: READING - 83	SENTENCE SKILLS - 83
PERT: READING - 106	ENGLISH - 103

\*Need qualifying Reading and English/Sentence Skills/Writing & Language scores unless you have the SAT Critical Reading score

MATH - INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA (MAT 1033) (Elective Credit)	
ACT: MATH - 19	
SAT: MATH - 24	
CPT: ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA - 72	
PERT: MATH - 114	

MATH - COLLEGE ALGEBRA (MAC 1105) (Math Credit)	
ACT: MATH - 21	
SAT: MATH - 25	
CPT: ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA - 85	
PERT: MATH - 123	



## JUNIOR YEAR CHECKLIST

### FALL

- ☐ Get organized! Use calendar, phone, or planner to keep track of deadlines and to do list.
- ☐ Utilize various study strategies to earn the best grades possible. Remember these are the last grades colleges will see when you apply to college in the Fall!!
- ☐ Take PSAT in October to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship – additional information can be found at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/scholarships-and-recognition>
- ☐ Potential Collegiate Student-Athletes - Register for the NCAA Eligibility Center. <https://eligibilitycenter.org>
- ☐ Register to take the SAT ([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)) and/or ACT ([www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)) in the **winter & spring** – always utilize the free preparation tools offered through each site prior to sitting for the test.
  - If a student needs testing accommodation, please submit the accommodation form to the Testing Coordinator ASAP – [SAT](#) or [ACT](#)
  - Students on free or reduced lunch can request a fee waiver from the testing coordinator.

### WINTER

- ☐ Begin your post-secondary notebook– keep all your information (college information, military options, trade schools, financial aid information, scholarships, resume, etc.) together.
- ☐ Define college criteria - what do you need in a college to be successful? Location, student/professor ratio, major, etc.
- ☐ Begin College list
  - 10-15 schools to begin – schools should meet personal college criteria. write down all pertinent information (tuition, admission requirements, deadlines, etc.). Utilize virtual tours.
  - Prospective student athletes should create two lists – non-athletic school options vs. athletic school options
- ☐ Prepare for Advanced Placement (AP) assessments (if applicable)
  - If a student needs accommodation, please submit the accommodation form to the Testing Coordinator ASAP - [SAT](#)

## **SPRING**

- ☐ Attend the Tocoi Creek Career Events when they are offered.
- ☐ Visit local colleges - public (University of North Florida), private (Flagler, Jacksonville University), or technical (First Coast Technical).
  - Create a pro and con list about the experience – this may help narrow what characteristics are important to YOU
- ☐ Begin family discussions regarding Financial Aid – will your parent/guardian be able to contribute to your post-secondary plans? How much? Etc.
- ☐ Begin searching scholarship and grant opportunities – St. Johns County District website, Naviance Scholarship Page, Goingmerry.com, Fastweb.com, Collegeboard’s Scholarship Search
- ☐ Organize summer campus tours and admission visits with prospective schools. Make sure to speak with as many people as possible – students, professors, admission office personnel.

## **SUMMER**

- ☐ Begin working on college applications. Keep track of application deadlines.
- ☐ Look at the scholarship opportunities at the schools that you are applying to. See if they require a separate application or if you are automatically considered with your application.
- ☐ Consider additional enrichment opportunities: community service, internships, special programs at the post-secondary institution of your choice, etc and apply for them if necessary.
- ☐ Work on your resume. This should include school activities, community service, sports, awards, hobbies, and work experience.



**TOCOI CREEK**  
HIGH SCHOOL



**INDIVIDUAL PLANNING**



Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Evaluating  
Myself**

What kind of student am I?

1<sup>st</sup> Meeting Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting Date: \_\_\_\_\_

	Fall Junior Year	Spring Junior Year
GPA		
PSAT		
ACT		
SAT		

Register for ACT: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

Register for SAT: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

**Evaluating My  
Plans**

What do I want to do?

- What do I want to do (career)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 • Not sure yet? Use: <https://www.mynextmove.org/> or [careeronestop.org](http://careeronestop.org) or Naviance Career Inventories
- How much education am I willing to do after high school? (none, 2 years, 4 years, 6 years, etc) \_\_\_\_\_  
 • How does this compare to what is required for my career? (circle) I'm good I should reevaluate  
 • If I need to reevaluate- is there something else that is like what I want to do and requires less education?  
 Check out: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>
- What setting do I picture myself in? (circle) Military University State College Technical College  
 • Does my setting match my career plan? (circle) I'm good I should reevaluate  
 • If I need to reevaluate:  
 • Research Florida Schools here: <https://www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/explore-colleges-universities>  
 and National Schools here: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

**Where does  
that leave me?**

What are my next steps?

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_

1. Take Career Interest Inventory?
2. Research Careers?
3. Research Schools?
4. Take SAT/ACT/ASVAB?
5. Contact recruiter?
6. Start Applications?
7. Submit Applications?
8. Apply for Scholarships?
9. Complete community service?



**TOCOI CREEK**  
HIGH SCHOOL

**STARTING THE APPLICATION PROCESS:**

<b>INDIVIDUAL PLANNING</b>	Student Name: _____ Counselor Name: _____
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<p style="text-align: center; color: #C00000;"><b><u>My Top Career Choices:</u></b></p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>3. _____</p> <p>4. _____</p> <p>5. _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: #C00000;"><b><u>Education Required for Each Career Choice:</u></b></p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>3. _____</p> <p>4. _____</p> <p>5. _____</p>
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**Junior Year Planning:**

My Top Post-Secondary Choices	Application Deadline	Average Accepted GPA	Average Accepted ACT/SAT
1.			ACT: SAT:
2.			ACT: SAT:
3.			ACT: SAT:
4.			ACT: SAT:
5.			ACT: SAT:

**Senior Year Organization:**

My Top Post-Secondary Choices	Application Submitted	Transcript/ Self Report Submitted	Application Portal Tasks Complete
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

**Paying for College Checklist:**

1. Discuss family finances (Florida Prepaid, 529, savings, etc.)
2. Create accounts at [scholarships.com](http://scholarships.com), [scholarshipexperts.com](http://scholarshipexperts.com), [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com), etc. (optional)
3. Complete FAFSA ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)) after October 1<sup>st</sup> of senior year
4. Complete Bright Futures Application (<https://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/>) after Oct. 1
5. Apply for Institutional Scholarships

**Completed:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN NARROWING DOWN YOUR LIST OF SCHOOLS:

**Eligibility:** Where does your academic eligibility stand against the admissions profile? Is this a stretch school, a good fit school, or a backup school? Make sure that you have all three types of schools on your final list.

**Size:** Are you looking for a big or a small school? Do you picture yourself spending Saturdays in a large football stadium with thousands of your closest friends? Do you want to be in classes of several hundred students where no one will notice if you aren't in class that day or do you prefer a smaller more intimate setting where your presence will be noticed? Large schools tend to have more opportunities to be involved on campus, but they tend to be more competitive to get. The smaller schools may not have all the same programs, but it will be easier to build relationships and stand out.

**Weather:** How important is the climate to you? Do you need to be able to wear flip flops year-round? How do you feel about driving in snow and ice? The type of weather may also impact the type of campus that you are willing to experience- weather it is one where you can walk and use campus shuttles or one where you need to bring your car.

**Location:** Do you want to be able to drive home every weekend or do you prefer a little more distance between mom and dad? Do you want a big city with lots of things to do off campus or something more rural and isolated?

**Programs:** Are you looking for a specialized program that only exists in a few places or something broad that most schools have?

**Campus Lifestyle:** Do you want to be able to live on campus? Do you want a school that seems empty when class is not on session or that always has something going on? Are you looking to enjoy Greek life? Do you have a religious preference? What rules does the campus have in place for students?

## PLANNING YOUR COLLEGE TOUR:

**Take advantage of virtual tours:** Take advantage of the virtual tours on the college website first. This can help you narrow schools down before you even go and prioritize places that you want to make sure to see in person.

**Schedule your tour in advance:** Schedule your tour through the admissions office so that you can make sure that you get an official tour. You should also try and sign up for a financial aid and housing presentation.

**Eat on campus:** Many schools require that freshman purchase a meal plan which means that you will be eating on campus A LOT. Check out the variety of options and make sure that you could see yourself eating there.

**Picture yourself living there:** Look at the dress of the students, look at how they are spending their time. Do the students look friendly? Do you see places where you could easily step in and engage? Can you picture yourself studying in the library or in the grassy field? What would it be like living in the dorms and walking/biking/skateboarding to class?



## SENIOR YEAR CHECKLIST

### FALL

- ☐ Request letters of recommendation (as needed) at least 2 weeks before deadline through Naviance. If you are requesting a letter of recommendation, make sure that you provide a resume.
- ☐ Create your college application account (Common App, Coalition, etc)
- ☐ Complete and submit your college applications.
- ☐ Send transcript through Naviance or complete academic self-report and submit to colleges.
- ☐ Apply for Bright Futures and FAFSA after October 1<sup>st</sup>
- ☐ Complete scholarship applications

### WINTER

- ☐ Submit all your community service hours to your counselor prior to Christmas break.
- ☐ Meet with military recruiter (if applicable)
- ☐ Request mid-year transcripts as needed.

### SPRING

- ☐ Pay admissions and housing deposits as applicable.
- ☐ View checklists from post-secondary institutions and complete assigned tasks.
- ☐ Log-in to Bright Futures and confirm your school of attendance.

### SUMMER

- ☐ Log-in to Bright Futures website and confirm eligibility.

## COLLEGE ADMISSIONS VOCABULARY:

**EARLY DECISION:** Early Decision is a binding decision. As an early decision applicant, you are agreeing that if you are admitted, you will withdraw all your other applications. You must be 100% sure that you want to attend a school that you apply Early Decision for.

**EARLY ACTION:** Like Early Decision, applicants could get an admissions decision sooner than if they applied regular admission. Unlike early decision, this decision is not binding, and students can apply and consider other schools.

**REGULAR DECISION:** Students applying to schools as a regular decision applicant must apply by the application deadline to be considered and all applicants will find out on the same day whether they were admitted.

**ROLLING ADMISSIONS:** Schools that use rolling admissions review applications as they come in. In most cases, an admissions decision is made within 4-6 weeks of all the documentation being received. If a student is applying rolling admissions, then it is very important to apply as quickly as possible as the applicant pool becomes more selective as the remaining seats in the freshman class become limited. In these cases, it is better to apply early (even if you are not happy with your academic profile) and get deferred, then to wait until you get better test scores, etc.

**OPEN ADMISSIONS:** Open admissions schools accept every student that applies and have very late or non-existent deadlines. This is a good type of school for students to have as their backup option. Our state colleges are open admissions schools.



## STARTING THE APPLICATION PROCESS:

- Decide how you want to apply and create your account(s).
  - Coalition: <https://mycoalition.org/>
  - Common Application: <https://www.commonapp.org/>
  - Directly through the Institution: School website, click on their version of “apply now”.
- Log into your account and move through the questions asked.
  - Take your time and make sure that you are using correct spelling and punctuation. Ask someone to proofread your responses.
  - Reference your resume so that you do not forget to include any activities or awards.
  - Emphasize the things that make you a “whole” student beyond your academic profile.
- Send academic records in the requested format. If you are self-reporting your grades, make sure that you use HAC as a reference or request a hard copy of your transcript, so you do not make a mistake.
  - Transcripts: Request a hard copy [here](#). Electronic transcripts should be requested through Naviance.
  - SSAR (UF, FSU, FAMU, FGCU, UNF, FAU, FI Poly): <https://ssar.selfreportedtranscript.com/Login.aspx>
  - Self-Report through Common App (USF): <https://www.commonapp.org/>
  - Spark (UCF): <https://www.ucf.edu/admissions/undergraduate/spark/>
- Send your test scores.
  - Keep in mind that many schools are going “test optional”. Find out if the schools that you are applying to require test scores. If the scores are optional, determine if sending your scores are in your best interest.
  - Note that some schools will use the score from your high school transcript whereas others will require the score to come directly from the testing agency.
  - **PLAN AHEAD:** If you elect to send your scores at the time of your test registration, you can send up to four score reports for free. Afterwards, you will need to pay for each score report.
- Log into your institution account and confirm that all documentation has been received.
  - Pay any application fees (students who use a SAT fee waiver can download 4 college fee waivers from their college board account). If you did not use a fee waiver for your SAT, see your counselor if you think you may be eligible for college application fee waivers.
  - Upload residency documentation.
  - Apply for housing, scholarships, etc.
- **CHECK YOUR EMAIL:** Schools may email you asking for supplemental information, missing documents, additional opportunities, etc. DO NOT let your application get cancelled because you do not check your email regularly.
- Log back into your account to check your admissions status.
  - Most schools are posting admissions decisions on their web portals now. Do not count on mail to arrive to inform you of your admissions decisions.
- Differed? Denied?
  - If you were differed or denied, you can find out what additional information may assist you in changing your admissions decision and submit it as soon as possible. Alternatively, it may be time to consider a plan B if you haven’t already.
- Accepted?
  - Let the school know if you plan to attend or not. If you plan to attend, pay the admissions deposit.
  - Confirm that your financial aid information is on file with the financial aid office. Confirm your amount of aid and determine how much you will need to contribute and plan for that.
  - Schedule orientation.
  - If you are attending a Florida school and plan to receive Bright Futures, log back into your Bright Futures account and confirm the school that you plan to attend.

## PAYING FOR COLLEGE:

Paying for college can be one of the most stressful aspects of college for students and families. The good news is that there are a lot of options available for funding a college education. There are two main categories of student funding- Need Based or Merit Based.

**NEED BASED:** Is based on your family's financial need. Families with lower incomes or with multiple students in college will typically qualify for more funding than a student coming from a wealthy family with fewer students in college.

**MERIT BASED:** Merit based is based on something that you did to earn the scholarship. This could be through athletics, good grades & test scores, an essay that you wrote, etc. Everyone has the potential to be eligible for merit-based scholarships if they put the work in to earn them.

## NEED BASED: FAFSA

The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and is typically how "need based" scholarships determine a family's financial need. The application opens each year on October 1<sup>st</sup> for students to complete and is based on a family's income from the prior tax year. Money comes in the form of grants (don't have to be paid back), loans (do have to be paid back), and work study programs. Learn more about it and complete the application here:

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

- The [FAFSA4caster](#) is an online tool offered by the U.S. Department of Education that can help you understand your options for paying for college.

## MERIT BASED: SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships come from many different places and in many different forms. The next few pages will tell you more about the more popular scholarship opportunities for our students.

## BRIGHT FUTURES

Bright Futures is a scholarship paid for by the state of Florida. The state legislature reviews the scholarship and makes changes during their legislative session each year. Stay up to date by reviewing the Bright Futures website:

<https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPBFMAIN/SAPBFMAIN>

Students work towards earning the requirements throughout their 4 years at high school and can use the scholarship at institutions in the state of Florida.

Students should apply for Bright Futures after October 1<sup>st</sup> of their senior year.

### Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program Florida Academic Scholarship (FAS) / Florida Medallion Scholarship (FMS) 2020-21

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

1. Submit the [Florida Financial Aid Application \(FFAA\)](#) no later than August 31 after high school graduation,
2. Complete the 16 college-preparatory courses required for admission to a state university,
3. Achieve the required weighted GPA in the 16 college-preparatory courses per chart below,
4. Complete the required number of service hours per chart below, and
5. Achieve the required composite ACT<sup>®</sup> or combined SAT<sup>®</sup> score per chart below.

Type	16 High School Course Credits <sup>1</sup>	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year (ACT <sup>®</sup> /SAT <sup>®</sup> )	Service Hours
FAS	4 - English <i>(three must include substantial writing)</i>	3.50	2020-21 Graduates: 29/1330	100 hours
	4 - Mathematics <i>(at or above the Algebra 1 level)</i>		2021-22 Graduates: 29/1330	
	3 - Natural Science <i>(two must have substantial laboratory)</i>			
FMS	3 - Social Science	3.00	2020-21 Graduates: 25/1210	75 hours
	2 - World Language <i>(sequential, in same language)</i>		2021-22 Graduates: 25/1210	

<sup>1</sup> 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](#).

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

1. Evaluated by Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) as meeting the initial eligibility requirements
2. Graduated with a standard high school diploma or its equivalent
3. Be a Florida resident and U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen
4. 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, and
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](#).

**These eligibility requirements are subject to change with each legislative session.**

The student is responsible for tracking 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: 9/3/2020



**Bright Futures Application Helpful Hints – St. Johns County Public School Students  
Graduating Class of 2021**

Students must submit a completed Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) to OSFA for programs denoted by an asterisk (\*). In order to apply for State Scholarship & Grant Programs, a student must first **Create a Student Account/Profile** at the following link: <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/>. Click on State Grants, Scholarships & Applications. Click on **Create a Student Account**. Students will receive an email with their User ID and temporary password. After creating a **Profile**, students will have the option to continue directly to the FFAA.

Applications are available October 1, 2020.

1. **Social Security Number** – needs to match school records.
2. **FLE ID** – You can skip this question
3. **First Name** – needs to match school records
4. **Middle Initial**
5. **Last Name** – needs to match school records
6. **Date of Birth** – 4-digit number
7. **High School Graduation Date** – 06/10/2021
8. **Gender** – male or female
9. **Ethnicity** – choose Hispanic or Non-Hispanic
10. **Race** – select one
11. **Street Address** - # and street name (no commas or hyphens)
12. **Apartment** – skip is none
13. **City** – Spell out the entire city name (Example – Ponte Vedra)
14. **State** – Florida
15. **Zip Code** – 5-digit zip code
16. **Phone Number** – (at least one phone number is required)
17. **Email Address** - \*REQUIRED\* this is the only way you will be able to reset your username and password
18. **VERIFY THAT YOU HAVE TYPED EVERYTHING IN CORRECTLY**
19. **Press Submit**
20. **Press Close**
21. **Write down or take a picture of your User ID and Password**
22. **Click to continue to complete your Florida Financial Aid Application**
23. **Verify demographic information is correct**
24. **Is Florida your state of legal residence?** - Yes
25. **Citizenship Status** – Do you have a green card? You are an Eligible Non-Citizen
26. **Guilty of a felony charge** - SAY NO UNLESS YOU WERE CONVICTED OF AN ADULT FELONY
27. **Dependent child or spouse of a veteran who has been classified as deceased or 100% disabled, POW or MIA** – you will need the veteran's information if answered yes
28. **Family affected Rosewood incident** – you will need information on that ancestor if answered yes
29. **Hispanic American** – you will need information about country of Hispanic origin if answered yes
30. **Farmworker** – you will need information on eligibility if answered yes
31. **Click next**
32. **Will you graduate or have graduated from a Florida high school, Home School, or with a GED?** – Yes
33. **Select your Florida high school graduation option** – Public
34. **Identify the Florida county where you attended school** – St. John's
35. **Select the Florida high school you attended** – use drop down menu to select your high school
36. **Have you or will you have earned a baccalaureate degree prior to the fall term of the 2021-2022 academic year?** – no
37. **What is the location and name of the primary postsecondary institution you are planning to attend?** – Please select school within the State of Florida (even if you think you're going out of state)
38. **Select the Postsecondary location and institution you plan to attend** – using the 5 drop down menus, put any state school you're interested in right now, but make sure to update by June to reflect where you will go – this will where they will send the \$\$\$.
39. **Press Next**
40. **If you answered YES to any of the Veteran, Rosewood, Hispanic American, or Farmworker questions, you would need to enter more information in this section. If you answered no, this does not apply to you**
41. **Read the information carefully**
42. **Click SUBMIT**
43. **Press Close**

- **INSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS:** Post-secondary programs and the military offer incentives to recruit students through the form of institutional scholarships. Some organizations consider students automatically when they apply, and others require a separate application. Check out the website of the institution to learn about their process and deadlines.
- **LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS:** There are several organizations locally that offer scholarships for our students. Students can learn about the ones that counselors know about by visiting the scholarships section of our Schoology page. Students should also check with organizations that they are a part of (place of employment, religious organizations, community organizations) for additional opportunities.
- **OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS:** There are many scholarship search engines that students can use to find scholarship opportunities. Here are some of them:

[www.raise.me/](http://www.raise.me/): This is a new site where students are awarded scholarship money from colleges each time they demonstrate success in high school. Goals such as receiving an A or a B in a class, participating in a school club, or spending a few hours volunteering in your community could earn a young person money for college.

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com): Was the first online scholarship matching service and the first free national scholarship matching service.

<https://www.Goingmerry.com/>: A free online scholarship and financial aid personalized matching platform.

[www.CollegeNet.com](http://www.CollegeNet.com): Operates a scholarship search engine and social network where students create topics, participate in discussions, and vote on scholarship winners.

[www.Scholarships.com](http://www.Scholarships.com): Claims to be the largest free and independent scholarship search and financial aid information resource on the Internet.

[www.scholarshipmonkey.com](http://www.scholarshipmonkey.com): Scholarship search free of charge.

[www.studentscholarships.org](http://www.studentscholarships.org): Great scholarship search engine

[www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams](http://www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams): Watch out for phony scholarship search offers by checking out this site first

[www.scholarshipamerica.org](http://www.scholarshipamerica.org): Great scholarship and college resource

[www.scholarships4students.com](http://www.scholarships4students.com): Great resource for scholarships available to high school students and college students

[www.findtuition.com](http://www.findtuition.com): Great scholarship search engine

[www.scholarshipexperts.com](http://www.scholarshipexperts.com): Great website for scholarships and college info

[www.zinch.com](http://www.zinch.com): Great website for scholarships and college info

[www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com): Great website for college and financial aid planning, and scholarship connector.

[www.bigfuture.org](http://www.bigfuture.org): Great website for college and financial aid planning, and scholarship connector.

[www.tuitionfundingsources.com](http://www.tuitionfundingsources.com): Great resource for college scholarship and career info.