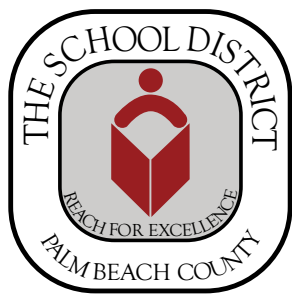




# After High School... *Now What???*

## Preparing for College



7<sup>th</sup> Edition

School District of Palm Beach County  
Department of Multicultural Education  
(561) 434-8620

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*Part 1:*

*Planning for College  
Begins in High School*



# Graduation Requirements

	If you entered 9th grade in:			
	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014, 2014-2015
<b>Grade Point Average (GPA)</b>	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
<b>Community Service</b>	20 hours	20 hours	20 hours	20 hours
<b>24 Credits of Required Courses</b>		1 course must be completed through online learning	1 course must be completed through online learning	1 course must be completed through online learning
<b>Language Arts</b>	English 1, 2, 3, and 4	English 1, 2, 3, and 4	English 1, 2, 3, and 4	English 1, 2, 3, and 4
<b>Mathematics<sup>1</sup></b>	4 credits (must include Algebra 1 and Geometry) <sup>2</sup>	4 credits (must include Algebra 1 and Geometry) <sup>2</sup>	4 credits (must include Algebra 1 and Geometry) <sup>2</sup>	4 credits (must include Algebra 1 and Geometry) <sup>2</sup>
<b>Science</b>	3 credits (Biology 1 and two additional courses, one of which must be a physical science) <sup>3</sup>	3 credits (Biology 1 and two additional courses, one of which must be a physical science) <sup>3</sup>	3 credits (Biology 1 and two additional courses, one of which must be a physical science) <sup>3</sup>	3 credits (Biology 1, and two equally rigorous courses, one of which must be a physical science) <sup>3</sup>
<b>Social Studies</b>	3 credits (World History, U.S. History, ½ Economics, ½ U.S. Government)	3 credits (World History, U.S. History, ½ Economics, ½ U.S. Government)	3 credits (World History, U.S. History, ½ Economics, ½ U.S. Government)	3 credits (World History, U.S. History, ½ Economics with Financial Literacy, ½ U.S. Government)
<b>Fine/Performing Art</b>	1 credit in fine or performing art, speech, debate, or specified CTE course <sup>4</sup>	1 credit in fine or performing art, speech, debate, or specified CTE course <sup>4</sup>	1 credit in fine or performing art, speech, debate, or specified CTE course <sup>4</sup>	1 credit in fine or performing art, speech, debate, or specified CTE course <sup>4</sup>
<b>Physical Education</b>	1 credit (½ PE and ½ personal fitness <u>or</u> 1 credit of HOPE)	1 credit (½ PE and ½ personal fitness <u>or</u> 1 credit of HOPE)	1 credit (½ PE and ½ personal fitness <u>or</u> 1 credit of HOPE)	1 credit (½ PE and ½ personal fitness <u>or</u> 1 credit of HOPE)
<b>Electives<sup>5</sup></b>	8 credits	8 credits	8 credits	8 credits
<b>FCAT 2.0 Florida Standards Assessment</b>	FCAT 2.0 Reading: Level 3 (245 or above) or concordant score (ACT-19; SAT-430) FCAT Math: Not applicable	FCAT 2.0 Reading: Level 3 (245 or above) or concordant score (ACT-19; SAT-430)	FCAT 2.0 Reading: Level 3 (245 or above) or concordant score (ACT-19; SAT-430)	Grade 10 English Language Arts Assessment or concordant score (passing scores to be determined)
<b>NGSSS EOC (End-of-Course) Assessments<sup>6</sup></b>	Not applicable	Algebra 1: Level 3 (399 or above) or PERT Math: 97 to earn a standard diploma  Geometry Biology 1 US History	Algebra 1: Level 3 (399 or above) or PERT Math: 97 to earn a standard diploma  Geometry Biology 1 US History	Algebra 1: Level 3 (399 or above) or PERT Math: 97 to earn a standard diploma  Geometry Biology 1 US History
<b>FSA EOC (End-of-Course) Assessments<sup>6</sup></b>	Not applicable	<b>OR</b>	<b>OR</b>	<b>OR</b>
		Algebra 1 (Proficient score TBD) Geometry Algebra 2	Algebra 1 (Proficient score TBD) Geometry Algebra 2	Algebra 1 (Proficient score TBD) Geometry Algebra 2

# Graduation Requirements (cont.)

<b>Diploma Designations</b>	
<b>Year of Entry into 9th grade</b>	
<b>2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>
<p><u>Scholar Designation</u> In addition to meeting the 24-credit standard high school diploma requirements, a student must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earn 1 credit in:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Algebra 2</li> <li>- statistics or equally rigorous mathematics course<sup>7</sup></li> <li>- chemistry or physics</li> <li>- a course equally rigorous to chemistry or physics</li> <li>- an AP, IB, AICE, or a dual enrollment course</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Earn 2 credits in the same world language</li> <li>• Earn a proficient EOC score for the following subjects:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biology 1*</li> <li>U.S. History*</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>*A student is exempt from the Biology 1 or U.S. History assessment 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.</p>	<p><u>Scholar Designation</u> In addition to meeting the 24-credit standard high school diploma requirements, a student must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earn 1 credit in:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Algebra 2</li> <li>- statistics or equally rigorous mathematics course<sup>7</sup></li> <li>- chemistry or physics</li> <li>- a course equally rigorous to chemistry or physics</li> <li>- an AP, IB, AICE, or a dual enrollment course</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Earn 2 credits in the same world language</li> <li>• Earn a proficient EOC score for the following subjects:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geometry</li> <li>Algebra 2</li> <li>Biology 1*</li> <li>U.S. History*</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pass the ELA Grade 11 statewide assessment</li> </ul> <p>*A student is exempt from the Biology 1 or U.S. History assessment 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.</p>
<p><u>Merit Designation</u> Meet the standard high school diploma requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attain one or more industry certifications from the established list (per s. 1003.492, F.S.)</li> </ul>	<p><u>Merit Designation</u> Meet the standard high school diploma requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attain one or more industry certifications from the established list (per s. 1003.492, F.S.)</li> </ul>

<b>18 Credit ACCEL Diploma</b>
<p>Minimum 18 credits in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 English Language Arts</li> <li>4 mathematics (must include Algebra 1 and Geometry)</li> <li>3 science (must include Biology 1 and a physical science)</li> <li>3 social studies (World History, U.S. History, ½ Economics, ½ U.S. Government)</li> <li>1 fine or performing art, speech, debate, or approved practical art</li> <li>3 electives</li> </ul> <p>Additional Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.0 GPA</li> <li>20 hours volunteer community service</li> <li>Grade 10 ELA Assessment and Algebra 1 EOC</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Higher-level coursework (Algebra 2 and above) is recommended for admission to a public Florida university.

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

<sup>3</sup> Designated Industry Certification courses or identified rigorous computer science courses may substitute for up to 1 science credit.

<sup>4</sup> Career/Technical Education; eligible courses specified in Course Code Directory (<http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/CCD/files/PACourses1415.pdf>)

<sup>5</sup> A minimum of two years of the same world language are required for admission to a four-year university.

<sup>6</sup> All EOCs will be calculated as 30% of the final course grade.

<sup>7</sup> Mathematics courses that fulfill the equally rigorous credit requirement for statistics are defined as Level 3 or college, credit-bearing courses.

⇒ Please see the school counselor for graduation requirements if your 9th grade year of entry is prior to 2010-2011.

**All requirements in this document 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 highest 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***

The Advanced Placement program is a nationally-standardized curriculum developed by the Collegeboard. Schools offer AP classes in almost every subject, and some can even be taken in ninth grade. The coursework is highly challenging and requires dedication and commitment. Students are expected to do more reading than in an honors class and the level of material is at the college level. At the end of the year, students take an AP Exam and can earn 3 or 6 FREE college credits with a passing score. For more information on the Advanced Placement program, go to the Collegeboard website: [www.collegeboard.com/apcentral](http://www.collegeboard.com/apcentral) or [www.collegeboard.com/enespanol](http://www.collegeboard.com/enespanol) for more information on the value of the AP program.

## ***Dual Enrollment***

Students can earn FREE college credits by taking courses at Palm Beach State College through the Dual Enrollment program. Eligibility requirements include a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA and college-ready scores on the PERT. Dual enrollment classes are offered on the college campus, but some high schools have the Dual Enrollment class come to the school! Any interested student should speak to his/her school counselor as soon as possible to get the registration process started.

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 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, and you’ll kill two birds with one stone.

## **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- 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 reachable.

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 on the computer?		X		=	
Talk on the phone (or text message)?		X		=	
Work at a job?		X		=	
Commute to and from work and/or school?		X		=	
Participate in extracurriculars (e.g., sports)?		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.*

## **9<sup>th</sup> 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/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco).
- » Take your subjects seriously – Take classes that challenge you academically while providing you with an opportunity to do well.

## **10<sup>th</sup> grade:**

- » Continue taking rigorous courses in school. Take honors and Advanced Placement courses if appropriate.
- » Start researching colleges and universities – Your high school counseling office can help with resources such as college catalogs, videos, and brochures. Use the Internet. Attend college fair days and meet college counselors.
- » Explore scholarship opportunities – Early scholarship research can lead to more potential funding. But be aware of scholarship scams – avoid services that charge high rates or “guarantee college money”.
- » Take your first 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.)

## ***11<sup>th</sup> grade:***

- » **August – October:** Start the year with a good attitude and **rigorous courses**. Keep working hard! Begin research on what your needs and wants are regarding college. Read college guides and search online. Prepare and then take the PSAT in October. Sign up to attend the on-campus presentations by college admissions representatives.
- » **November:** Start your college search online, and through reading guides and directories. Many of these are available in your guidance office. 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 SAT or ACT (April, May, or June). Talk to parents, teachers, old friends and school counselors about colleges. Discuss finances and 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 Reasoning Test or ACT, if scheduled. Review your extracurricular activity list and resume.
- » **May:** Narrow your potential college list. Take any SATs, ACTs, and AP tests. Work on a rough draft of your extracurricular activity list and resume. (See your counselor with questions or to see samples.)
- » **June:** Take SAT Subject Tests and/or ACT. Relax a bit.
- » **July:** 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.

## ***12<sup>th</sup> grade***

- » **August:** Start the year with a good attitude and **rigorous courses**. Keep working hard! 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:** Get application forms from colleges or their websites. Register for October, November and/or December SAT, SAT Subject Tests and/or ACT, if necessary. 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:** Decide on a final list of schools to apply to. Get a copy of your transcript and check it over. Talk with your counselor. Continue distributing teacher recommendation forms. Check and double-check deadlines for admissions, financial aid and housing. Take SATs and/or ACT, if scheduled.
- » **November:** File applications with December deadlines. Continue distributing teacher recommendation forms. Continue working on applications. Continue searching for scholarship opportunities. Take the SATs, if scheduled. November is the only testing date that offers SAT Subject Tests in a foreign language **with the listening portion**.

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

- » **December:** Apply for Bright Futures. File applications with January deadlines. Politely check with teachers and counselor to be sure recommendations and transcripts have been sent. Ask your parents to begin collecting tax information from the year that is ending. 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. File the FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Mail necessary financial aid documentation directly to colleges; do forms well before their deadlines to maximize financial aid. Take final SAT and/or ACT.
- » **March – April:** Receive decision letters. Look over financial aid packages with your parents, and call the schools directly if you have any concerns. Talk to your counselor. If you are wait-listed, follow up with a letter of continued interest and additional information and/or recommendations. Schedule last-minute visits to colleges where you have been accepted or wait-listed. Many schools have events especially for admitted students; go, if you are able. Begin searching for summer jobs and/or internships. May 1<sup>st</sup> is the national intent-to-enroll deadline.
- » **May:** Take AP exams and/or SAT Subject Tests, 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 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](http://www.actstudent.org) for the ACT. Register at [www.collegeboard.org](http://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!!
- » Take the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT) if you need a comparative score for the Algebra 1 EOC.
- » Contact Palm Beach State College for information regarding programs available to you. Call (561) 868-3350 or (866) 576-7222 to speak to an Admissions representative.
- » Consider returning to school for another year. Talk to your counselor to see if this is a possibility.
- » Contact the Adult Education Center at (561) 616-7800 to see if they can assist you with tutoring or classes.





# 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).

### **A.S. Degree**

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

### **accreditation**

To recognize an educational institution that meets specific requirements and standards.

### **ACT**

American College Test, one of the tests used as a college entrance exam.

### **admission**

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

### **alumnus/alumna**

An alumnus (male) or alumna (female) is a graduate of a particular college or university.

### **AP**

Advanced Placement, the designation for a rigorous, college-level course available in high school in a variety of different areas. Each course culminates in a national exam administered by Collegeboard. A score of 3, 4, or 5 is considered passing and colleges give credit for passing scores in that subject area.

### **B.A. Degree**

Bachelor of Arts Degree.

### **B.S. Degree**

Bachelor of Science Degree.

### **catalog**

The college catalog gives important information about the college and its programs, policies, and regulations.

### **class rank**

Your class standing in relation to your GPA-- if you have the highest GPA your rank will be #1—if you have the 35<sup>th</sup> highest GPA your class rank will be #35.

# Vocabulary (cont.)

**CLEP**

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

**CO-OP**

A student agrees to work for a specific company while in college. The student works one semester then goes to college the next semester. The student does this throughout his or her college education.

**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 class 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--usually a minimum of 128 college credits in specific courses.

**dormitory**

Also called dorm—place where students live on campus. The college or university has these available for students. Freshmen get first chance at available dorm space.

**early decision**

Applicant applies knowing if accepted he or she is committed to attending this school.

**electives**

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

**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 towards the cost of your college expenses.

**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 filled out a FAFSA. It is filled out after January 1st of the student's senior year of high school.

# Vocabulary (cont.)

**fees**

The cost of certain things, such as the cost of college courses, lab courses, room and board.

**financial aid**

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

**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 a semester.

**GPA**

Grade Point Average.

**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.

**hours**

Number of hours college students take a week, which makes up the number of hours per semester. If a college student attends class 12 hours a week, he or she is taking 12 hours for that semester.

**junior**

A college student who has between 61 and 89 college credits; a third year college student

**letter of recommendation**

Letters written on behalf of the applicant. The letter 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 federal or state government, colleges or universities, or private institutions, that have interest accrued and require repayment.

**major**

Designated field of study in a college or university.

# Vocabulary (cont.)

**minor**

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

**part-time college student**

A college student taking less than 12 hours a semester. If a college student attends class less than 12 hours a week, he or she is a part-time college student.

**PERT**

Florida's Postsecondary Education Readiness Test.

**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**

PRACTICE Scholastic Aptitude Test, which you can take as a practice during your sophomore year of high school and again during your junior year of high school.

**resume**

A summary of activities, experiences, and interests.

**religious affiliation**

Your choice of religious or spiritual membership.

**room and board**

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

**rush**

The week-long process of meeting members from sororities (women) or fraternities (men) which results in an offer of membership to a particular "house" (the fraternity or sorority). These fraternities and sororities are part of the "Greek system" because their names are all letters of the Greek alphabet (i.e., Alpha Xi Delta or Chi Omega). There are yearly fees to be a member of most houses.

**SAT**

Scholastic Aptitude Test, one of the tests used as a college entrance exam.

**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.

# Vocabulary (cont.)

**senioritis**

A condition that seniors in high school often get that causes them to slack off in their studies and responsibilities in their high school classes.

**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.

**TOEFL**

If your native language is not English, you may be required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language tests--a minimum of 550 is the university requirement; however, some colleges and universities require a higher score.

**transcript**

Official document that records all grades earned in high school.

**tuition**

The cost for your classes. It will usually also include administrative and student activity fees.

**upperclassmen**

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

**underclassmen**

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

**waitlisted**

This is a position on a waitlist for acceptance. Acceptance is dependent on other applicants declining acceptance.

# College Entrance Tests

***ACT:***            *American College Test*

***AP:***             *Advanced Placement Test*

***ASVAB:***        *Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test*

***PERT:***         *Postsecondary Education Readiness Test*

***PSAT:***         *Practice Scholastic Aptitude Test*

***SAT I:***         *Scholastic Aptitude Test—Reasoning Test*

***SAT II:***        *Scholastic Aptitude Test—Subject Test*

***TOEFL:***        *Test of English as a Foreign Language*

# 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 resume, 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 resume together and risk forgetting an important detail, keep a folder and a list throughout your years in high school. 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 Resume

**A resume is where you list important information about yourself. When you write a resume you only want to include positive information. This is your time to sell yourself. Resumes should be one page preferably, and no more than two pages. Your English teacher can assist you in organizing your resume so that it will impress college admissions counselors or prospective employers. A sample resume is shown below:**

Mary Brown  
1718 State Street  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33409  
(561) 474-8888  
mary.brown@yahoo.com\*

Education	West Palm Beach High School (2009-2013) Member of the Medical Sciences Academy
GPA/HPA	3.4/3.8
Class Rank	47 out of 525
Courses You Have Taken	list if you have taken special classes, advanced level classes, or Dual Enrollment
Extracurricular Activities	list clubs, sports, honor societies, offices held
Awards	list all awards and acknowledgments you have received
Volunteer Work	list all volunteer work and your volunteer supervisor's contact information
Employment Experience	list all jobs you have held and the length of employment--with each list all supervisors or managers
Personal References	list teachers, club sponsors, coaches, employers, and anyone who will say positive things about you (names, addresses, and phone numbers)
Special Interests/Skills	list special interests and skills, such as computer skills, languages spoken, and certifications obtained

\*If you do not already have an email address that is simple, easy to spell, and easy to remember, now is the time to register for one. You are going to be conducting business, asking people for money, and telling them that you are a mature young adult ready to enter the real world.



# Help! I Have Senioritis!

## *Graduation is Near. Stay on Track! Stay Focused!*

Some seniors get “senioritis.” It is a common ailment to 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 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 TAKE BACK ACCEPTANCE OFFERS!**

Your senior year is a special year, one full of friends, proms, and senior activities. Enjoy all of these things, but keep them in perspective. If you do not keep up your grades and activities you will still be where you are now and 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 to the family 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 12 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 college or certification grads.

**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 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. College is a great place to meet new people with different lifestyles. 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. Ask them how to write to schools for information. 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. One Idea: 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 are really helpful, and so are tutors.

# Making Successful Transitions

*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 you are interested in.
- Find out how many units 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 teacher’s assistants’ office hours.
- Do not fall behind in your coursework, which can lead to low grades, course incompletes, academic probation and eventual expulsion.

## ***Academic Support***

- Make sure you make 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 (cont.)

*Adapted from "Believing the College Dream" by ECMC Foundation*

## ***Financial Aid***

- Make sure to keep copies of all correspondence that is sent to you by the financial aid office.
- Remember, the financial aid office is there to serve you so no matter how frustrating it may become at times, so 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***

- Beware of companies that guarantee scholarships in return for a fee.
- You can get scholarship information from many Web sites, including [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org).
- There are many scholarships that do not require U.S. permanent residency or citizenship. For more information on scholarships for undocumented students, go to [www.finaid.org/otheraid/undocumented.phtml](http://www.finaid.org/otheraid/undocumented.phtml).

## ***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 (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 Get 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, and about career options.

## 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.

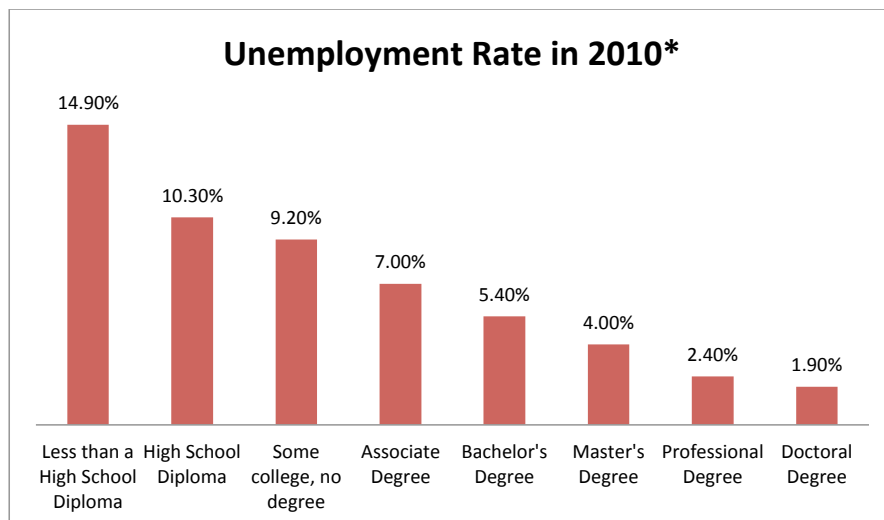
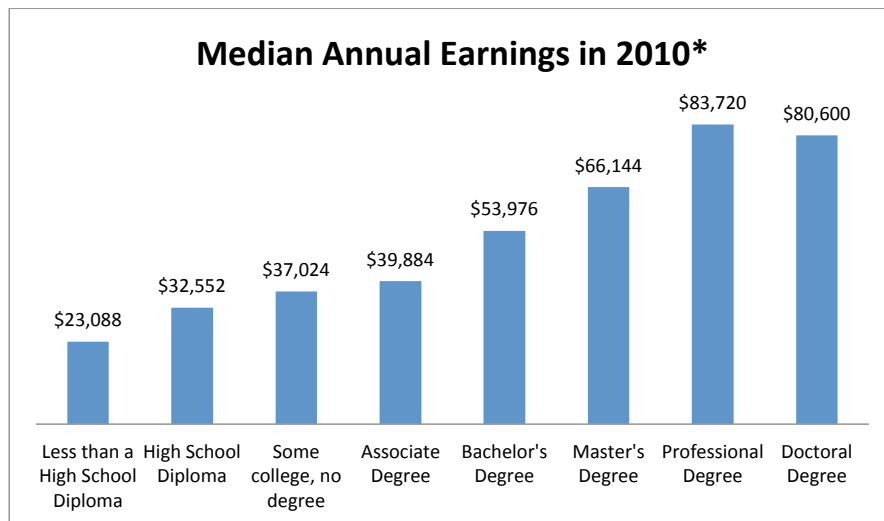
## Financial

- 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 Get 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 received 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.



\*Sources: Bureau of the Census, Bureau of Labor Statistics

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 45) 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 Form:** Colleges prefer (and some require) the application to be submitted online. Most colleges have their own application but some private universities use the Common Application.
- **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:** Visit your school counseling office to fill out a transcript request form. Transcripts are sent electronically to some schools and mailed to others. Most high schools charge a nominal fee to send transcripts. In addition to the transcript you send when you initially apply (in the beginning of your senior year), you should also plan to send a mid-year transcript (after 1st semester grades are posted) as well as a final transcript to the college you will attend. 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:** Most private 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 or 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 community 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 in time.

It is a good idea to confirm that the admission's 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.

# Essay Writing Hints

## ***The Do's***

1. Unite your essay and give it direction with a theme or thesis. The thesis is the main point you want to communicate.
2. Before you begin writing, choose what you want to discuss and the order in which you want to discuss it.
3. Use concrete examples from your life experience to support your thesis and distinguish yourself from other applicants.
4. Write about what interests you, excites you. That's what the admissions staff wants to read.
5. Start your essay with an attention-grabbing lead--an anecdote, quote, question, or engaging description of a scene.
6. End your essay with a conclusion that refers back to the lead and restates your thesis.
7. Revise your essay at least three times.
8. In addition to your editing, ask someone else to critique your essay for you.
9. Proofread your essay by reading it out loud or reading it into a tape recorder and playing back the tape.
10. Write clearly, succinctly.

## ***The Don'ts***

1. Don't include information that doesn't support your thesis.
2. Don't start your essay with "I was born in..." or "My parents came from..."
3. Don't write an autobiography, itinerary, or resume in prose.
4. Don't try to be a clown (but gentle humor is OK).
5. Don't be afraid to start over if the essay just isn't working or doesn't answer the essay question.
6. Don't try to impress your reader with your vocabulary.
7. Don't rely exclusively on your computer to check your spelling.
8. Don't provide a collection of generic statements and platitudes.
9. Don't give mealy-mouthed, weak excuses for your GPA or SAT scores.
10. Don't make things up.

# 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, they appear in order of difficulty. So leave more time for the questions towards the end.
- Answer all non-multiple-choice questions, even if you have to guess. You don't get points taken off your score for a wrong answer on these, and you just might get them right.
- If you have absolutely no idea what the answer is to a multiple-choice question, skip it. But if you can eliminate at least one of the choices, guess away! Probability says your score will improve.
- When several answers seem equally possible to you, go with your gut instinct. However, if you later think you need to change your answer, go ahead. Studies show that students who go back and change answers generally gain more points than they lose.
- 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.
- Make good use of your scrap paper or test booklet.

## **Verbal:**

- 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.
- 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 Taking Tips (cont.)

## Writing:

- Make an outline of your essay before you begin writing. Then write your introduction first. One of the major things the scorers will notice is how well an essay is structured.
- Be sure to give specific support for any position you take.
- Remember to save time to review and edit your writing.

## ACT and SAT Test Schedule

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

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

<u>SAT Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration Deadline</u>
October 11, 2014	September 12, 2014	September 30, 2014
November 8, 2014	October 9, 2014	October 28, 2014
December 6, 2014	November 6, 2014	November 24, 2014
January 24, 2015	December 29, 2014	January 13, 2015
March 14, 2015	February 13, 2015	March 3, 2015
May 2, 2015	April 6, 2015	April 21, 2015
June 6, 2015	May 8, 2015	May 8, 2015

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

<u>ACT Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration Deadline</u>
September 13, 2014	August 8, 2014	August 22, 2014
October 25, 2014	September 19, 2014	October 3, 2014
December 13, 2014	November 7, 2014	November 21, 2014
February 7, 2015	January 9, 2015	January 16, 2015
April 18, 2015	March 13, 2015	March 27, 2015
June 13, 2015	May 8, 2015	May 22, 2015

# State University System (SUS) Requirements

The minimum requirements are:

- 2.5 high school GPA

AND

- College Entrance Exams:

SAT Reading	460	ACT Reading	19
SAT Math	460	ACT Math	19
SAT Writing	440	ACT English/Writing	18

All students must complete:

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

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

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA INSTITUTIONAL MATRIX AS OF AUGUST 2014**

	<b>FAMU</b> TALLAHASSEE WWW.FAMU.EDU	<b>FAU</b> BOCA RATON WWW.FAU.EDU	<b>FGCU</b> FT. MYERS WWW.FGCU.EDU	<b>FIU</b> MIAMI WWW.FIU.EDU	<b>FLPOLY</b> LAKELAND WWW.FLPOLY.NET	<b>FSU</b> TALLAHASSEE WWW.FSU.EDU	<b>NCF</b> SARASOTA WWW.NCF.EDU	<b>UCF</b> ORLANDO WWW.UCF.EDU	<b>UF</b> GAINESVILLE WWW.UF.EDU	<b>UNF</b> JACKSONVILLE WWW.UNF.EDU	<b>USF</b> TAMPA WWW.USF.EDU	<b>UWF</b> PENSACOLA WWW.UWF.EDU
TOTAL ENROLLMENT	10,734	30,808	14,074	52,980	UNDER 800	41,477	793	59,770	49,878	16,258	41,344	12,679
MIDDLE RANGE GPA ACCEPTED	FALL 3.00-3.49 SUMMER 2.50-2.99	FALL 3.44-4.19 SUMMER 3.28-3.92	FALL 3.11-3.81 SUMMER 3.06-3.65	FALL 3.70-4.30 SUMMER 3.10-3.80	FALL 4.03 SUMMER N/A	FALL 3.8-4.4 SUMMER 3.6-4.1	FALL 3.93-4.56 NO SUMMER	FALL 3.7-4.3 SUMMER 3.6-4.0	FALL 4.2-4.5 SUMMER 4.1-4.4	FALL 3.9 SUMMER 3.49	FALL 3.71-4.33 SUMMER 3.38	FALL 3.69 SUMMER 3.30
QUALITY POINTS ADDED TO GPA FOR AP, AICE, HONORS, DUAL ENROLL (DE)	1.0 OP FOR AP/AICE/DE 0.5 OP FOR HONORS	1.0 OP FOR AP/AICE/DE 0.5 OP FOR HONORS	1.0 OP FOR AP/AICE/DE 0.5 OP FOR HONORS	1.0 OP FOR AP/AICE/DE 0.5 OP FOR HONORS	1.0 OP FOR AP/AICE/DE 0.5 OP FOR HONORS	1.0 OP FOR AP/AICE/DE 0.5 OP FOR HONORS	1.0 OP FOR AP/AICE/DE 0.5 OP FOR HONORS	1.0 OP FOR AP/AICE/DE 0.5 OP FOR HONORS	1.0 OP FOR AP/AICE/DE 0.5 OP FOR HONORS	1.0 OP FOR AP/AICE/DE 0.5 OP FOR HONORS	1.0 OP FOR AP/AICE/DE 0.5 OP FOR HONORS	1.0 OP FOR AP/AICE/DE 0.5 OP FOR HONORS
MIDDLE RANGE SAT ACCEPTED FALL	M: 500-590 R: 500-590 W: 490-580	M: 480-560 R: 580-560 W: 470-550	M: 460-550 R: 470-550 W: 460-550	M: 520-630 R: 530-630 W: 460-520	M: 670 R: 640 W: 600	M: 580-670 R: 590-670 W: 580-670	M: 580-680 R: 620-730 W: 590-700	M: 600 R: 600 W: 600 1600-2000	M: 610-710 R: 600-690 W: 600-700	M: 560-640 R: 570-640 W: 500-590	M: 560-660 R: 550-640 W: 540-630	M: 520 R: 530 W: 510
MIDDLE RANGE SAT ACCEPTED SUMMER	M: 460-540 R: 460-540 W: 460-530	M: 460-550 R: 470-550 W: 460-550	M: 460-550 R: 470-550 W: 460-550	M: 470-520 R: 470-530 W: 460-520	N/A	M: 550-640 R: 550-630 W: 550-630	N/A	M: 560-670 R: 550-660 W: 550-660 1550-1700	M: 560-670 R: 550-660 W: 550-660	M: 520-570 R: 510-570 W: 450-530	M: 520-590 R: 520-580 W: 500-560	M: 490 R: 500 W: 490
MIDDLE RANGE ACT ACCEPTED FALL	COMP: E/W:	COMP: 22-26 E/W: 21-25	COMP: 21-24 E/W: 20-24	COMP: 21-26 E/W: 20-25	COMP: 28 E/W:	COMP: 27-30 E/W: 24-29	COMP: 27-31 E/W: 27-34	COMP: 25-29 E/W:	COMP: 28-32 E/W:	COMP: 24-28 E/W: 24-29	COMP: 25-29 E/W: 23-29	COMP: 24 E/W: 22
MIDDLE RANGE ACT ACCEPTED SUMMER	COMP: E/W:	COMP: 20-23 E/W: 19-23	COMP: 20-23 E/W: 20-24	COMP: 19-21 E/W: 17-21	N/A	COMP: 24-28 E/W: 23-27	N/A	COMP: 23-26 E/W:	COMP: 28-32 E/W:	COMP: 21-23 E/W: 24-28	COMP: 23-26 E/W: 21-24	COMP: 22 E/W: 21
% OF APPLICANTS ACCEPTED FALL OF 2014	56%	47%	54%	46.98%	35	44%	49%	48%	45%	40%	44%	68%
% FALL 2014 FTIC IN TOP 10% OF HS CLASS	15%	19%	11%	23%	N/A	42%	41%	38%	69%	26%	NA	NA
PREFERRED TIME TO APPLY	AUG	FALL	SEPT 1-NOV 15	JUL -NOV 1	FALL	PRIOR TO OCT 16	NOV 1	FALL	SEPT 3-NOV 1	PRIOR TO 12/13/13	PRIOR TO JAN 2	FALL
ADMISSION NOTIFICATION PLAN	ROLLING	ROLLING W/FEB 15 <sup>TH</sup> PRIORITY DEADLINE	ROLLING W/FEB 15 <sup>TH</sup> PRIORITY DEADLINE	ROLLING W/NOV 1 PRIORITY DEADLINE	ROLLING W/DEC 1 PRIORITY	2 NOTIFICATION DATES 12/17 & 3/18	DECISION 4/1 & 4/15	ROLLING	FEB 13	ROLLING	MODIFIED ROLLING	ROLLING W/DEC 1 PRIORITY
TOP 3 MAJORS FOR UNDERGRADUATES	BUSINESS, PHARMACY, CRIMINAL JUSTICE	ACCOUNTING, PSYCHOLOGY, BIOLOGY	MANAGEMENT, BIOLOGY, COMMUNICATIONS	BUSINESS, PSYCH, HOSPITALITY MGMT	N/A	BUSINESS, BIOLOGY, ENGINEERING	PSYCH, BIOLOGY, ANTHROPOLOGY	BUSINESS, PSYCH, ENGINEER	PSYCH, BIO, MECH ENGINEERING	BUSINESS, PSYCH, COMMUN	BUSINESS, PSYCH, BIO, MED	BIOLOGY, PSYCH, EXERCISE SCIENCE
ARE LETTERS OR REC REQUIRED?	YES - 2	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES - 1	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
1 <sup>ST</sup> YEAR RETENTION RATE	82%	75%	76%	84%	N/A	92%	81%	87%	96%	85%	89%	72%
6 YEAR GRADUATION RATE	41%	41%	44%	52%	N/A	77%	66%	67%	85%	49%	63%	42%
2013-2014 TUITION & FEES FOR 30 CREDIT HOURS	\$4553	\$5986	\$6118	\$6506	5029	\$6512	\$6916 FOR 36 HRS	\$6353	\$6310	\$6235	\$6410	\$6356



	<b>BARRY UNIVERSITY</b> <i>www.barry.edu</i>	<b>BEACON COLLEGE</b> <i>www.beaconcollege.edu</i>	<b>ECKERD COLLEGE</b> <i>www.eckerd.edu</i>	<b>EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY</b> <i>www.erau.edu</i>	<b>FLAGLER COLLEGE</b> <i>www.flagler.edu</i>	<b>FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY</b> <i>www.fit.edu</i>	<b>FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE</b> <i>www.fsouthern.edu</i>	<b>JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY</b> <i>www.jvu.edu</i>	<b>JOHNSON &amp; WALES UNIVERSITY</b> <i>www.jwu.edu</i>	<b>LYNN UNIVERSITY</b> <i>www.lynn.edu</i>	<b>NORTHWOOD UNIVERSITY</b> <i>www.northwood.edu</i>
<b>LOCATION</b>	MIAMI SHORES, FL	LEESBURG, FL	ST. PETERSBURG, FL	DAYTONA BEACH, FL	ST. AUGUSTINE, FL	MELBOURNE, FL	LAKELAND, FL	JACKSONVILLE, FL	NORTH MIAMI, FL	BOCA RATON, FL	WEST PALM BEACH, FL
<b>ENROLLMENT</b>	2957	145	1866	4534	2588	2978	2185	3154	2033	1619	800
<b>SPORTS DIVISION</b>	DIV II	NA	DIV II	NA/A	DIV II	DIV II	DIV II	DIV I (AA FOOTBALL)	NA/A	DIV II	NA/A DIV II
<b>ADMISSION DEADLINE</b>	ROLLING	NOV 1 & MAY 1	ROLLING	ROLLING	NOV 1	ROLLING	DEC 1	ROLLING	ROLLING	ROLLING	ROLLING
<b>MIDRANGE GPA</b>	3.03	NA	3.2-3.6	3.4-3.7	3.06-3.8	3.2-3.8	3.2-3.6	3.03-3.87	NA	2.5-3.2	3
<b>MIDRANGE SAT (CR &amp; M, MIDDLE 50%)</b>	920	NA	1015-1225	1100-1200	1050-1180	1040-1280	1020-1160	920-1120	NA	840-990	950-1150
<b>MIDRANGE ACT</b>	20	NA	23-27	25-29	22-26	23-28	22-27	20-25	NA	17-23	18-24
<b>TUITION, FEES, ROOM &amp; BOARD</b>	\$40,050	\$37,000	\$47,506	\$42,294	\$24,960	\$46,340	\$38,090	\$39,930	\$33,216	\$43,500	\$30,745
<b>AVG NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIP/GRAANT AWARD</b>											
<b>AVG NON-NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIP/GRAANT AWARD</b>											
<b>TOP 3 MAJORS</b>	NURSING MANAGEMENT EDUCATION	CIS HUMAN SERVICES LIBERAL STUDIES	MARINE SCIENCE ENV. STUDIES INT'L. BUSINESS	AEROSPACE ENG. AERO SCIENCE BUSINESS	BUSINESS ADMIN. PSYCHOLOGY COMMUNICATION	MECHANICAL ENG. AEROSPACE ENG. MARINE BIOLOGY	BUSINESS ADMIN. NURSING BIOLOGY	NURSING BUSINESS ADMIN. BIOLOGY	CULINARY ARTS SPORTS ENT./MGMT. CRIMINAL JUSTICE	BUSINESS ADMIN. COMMUNICATION PSYCHOLOGY	BUSINESS MGMT. INT'L. BUSINESS SPORTS MGMT.

	<b>NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY</b> <i>www.nova.edu</i>	<b>PALM BEACH ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY</b> <i>www.pbatu.edu</i>	<b>RINGLING COLLEGE OF ART &amp; DESIGN</b> <i>www.ringling.edu</i>	<b>ROLLINS COLLEGE</b> <i>www.rollins.edu</i>	<b>SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY</b> <i>www.saintleo.edu</i>	<b>SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY</b> <i>www.seu.edu</i>	<b>ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY</b> <i>www.stu.edu</i>	<b>STETSON UNIVERSITY</b> <i>www.stetson.edu</i>	<b>UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI</b> <i>www.miami.edu</i>	<b>UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA</b> <i>www.ut.edu</i>	<b>WARNER UNIVERSITY</b> <i>www.warner.edu</i>
<b>LOCATION</b>	FT. LAUDERDALE, FL	WEST PALM BEACH, FL	SARASOTA, FL	WINTER PARK, FL	SAINT LEO, FL	LAKELAND, FL	MIAMI, FL	DELAND, FL	MIAMI, FL	TAMPA, FL	LAKE WALES, FL
<b>ENROLLMENT</b>	5996	3663	1400	1900	2167	2320	1143	2291	10,000	6179	1150
<b>SPORTS DIVISION</b>	DIV II	DIV II	NA	DIV II	DIV II	NA/A	NA/A	DIV I	NOV 1	DIV II	NA/A DIV II
<b>ADMISSION DEADLINE</b>	ROLLING	ROLLING	ROLLING	NOV 15, JAN 15, FEB 15	JAN 14	ROLLING	ROLLING	ROLLING	NOV 1	NOV 15	ROLLING
<b>MIDRANGE GPA</b>	3.7 (418 dual admission)	3.5	2.95	3.2-4.1	3.45	3.39	2.9-3.1	3.78	4.2	3.3	3.3
<b>MIDRANGE SAT (CR &amp; M, MIDDLE 50%)</b>	1051 (1225 dual admission)	1050	NA	1130-1300	1031	1000	900-1000	1230-1420	1270-1410	1110	920
<b>MIDRANGE ACT</b>	23	23	NA	24-29	22	18-23	18-21	28-32	29-32	25	20
<b>TUITION, FEES, ROOM &amp; BOARD</b>	\$34,150	\$33,500	\$52,485	\$54,410	\$29,600	\$27,202	\$34,770	\$60,906	\$54,792	\$34,888	\$25,286
<b>AVG NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIP/GRAANT AWARD</b>											
<b>AVG NON-NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIP/GRAANT AWARD</b>											
<b>TOP 3 MAJORS</b>	BIOLOGY (PRE-MED) BUSINESS ADMIN. PSYCHOLOGY	BUSINESS ADMIN. BIOLOGY PSYCHOLOGY	COMPUTER ANIMATION ILLUSTRATION GAME ARTS DESIGN	INT'L BUSINESS PSYCHOLOGY ECONOMICS	CRIMINAL JUSTICE BIOLOGY PSYCHOLOGY	BUSINESS ADMIN. EDUCATION PSYCHOLOGY	BIOLOGY CRIMINAL JUSTICE BUSINESS ADMIN.	PREHEM/BIOLOGY BUSINESS ADMIN. PSYCHOLOGY	PREMED BIOLOGY PSYCHOLOGY	BIOLOGY COMMUNICATIONS BUSINESS ADMIN.	BUSINESS ADMIN. COMMUNICATION EDUCATION

# Do You Have What It Takes?

## Middle Range Recalculated Grade Point Average

	Summer 2014 GPA	Fall 2014 GPA
<b>FAMU</b>	2.50 to 2.99	3.0 to 3.49
<b>FAU</b>	3.28 to 3.92	3.44 to 4.19
<b>FGCU</b>	3.06 to 3.65	3.11 to 3.81
<b>FIU</b>	3.10 to 3.80	3.70 to 4.30
<b>FLPOLY</b>	N/A	4.03
<b>FSU</b>	3.60 to 4.10	3.80 to 4.40
<b>NCF</b>	No Summer	3.93 to 4.56
<b>UCF</b>	3.60 to 4.00	3.70 to 4.30
<b>UF</b>	4.10 to 4.40	4.20 to 4.50
<b>UNF</b>	3.49	3.90
<b>USF</b>	3.38	3.71 to 4.33
<b>UWF</b>	3.30	3.69

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

- 4 English
- 3 Math (Algebra 1 & 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 success?**

- Focus your study efforts on your core academic classes
- Challenge yourself with Honors and AP classes
- Seek grade forgiveness in those classes that you earn a “D” or “F” in.
- Know your recalculated GPA by going to [www.FLVC.org](http://www.FLVC.org) > “My Records” > “High School Students” > “Bright Futures Scholarship Eligibility Evaluation”

# Do You Have What It Takes? (cont.)

## Middle Range SAT and ACT Scores

	SAT Summer Midrange	SAT Fall Midrange	ACT Summer Midrange	ACT Fall Midrange
<b>FAMU</b>	M: 400-500 R: 400-500 W: 400-500 <u>1200-1500</u>	M: 400-500 R: 400-500 W: 400-500 <u>1200-1500</u>	17-20	17-20
<b>FAU</b>	M: 460-540 R: 460-540 W: 450-530 <u>1370-1610</u>	M: 500-590 R: 500-590 W: 490-580 <u>1490-1760</u>	20-23	22-26
<b>FGCU</b>	M: 460-550 R: 470-550 W: 460-550 <u>1390-1650</u>	M: 480-560 R: 480-560 W: 470-550 <u>1430-1670</u>	20-23	21-24
<b>FIU</b>	M: 470-520 R: 470-530 W: 460-520 <u>1400-1570</u>	M: 520-630 R: 530-630 W: 460-520 <u>1510-1780</u>	19-21	21-26
<b>FLPOLY</b>	N/A	M: 670 R: 640 W: 600	N/A	28
<b>FSU</b>	M: 550-640 R: 550-630 W: 550-630 <u>1650-1900</u>	M: 580-670 R: 590-670 W: 580-670 <u>1750-2010</u>	24-28	27-30
<b>NCF</b>	N/A	M: 580-680 R: 620-730 W: 590-700 <u>1790-2110</u>	N/A	27-31
<b>UCF</b>	M: 560 R: 550 W: 540 <u>1550-1700</u>	M: 600 R: 600 W: 600 <u>1600-2000</u>	23-26	25-29
<b>UF</b>	M: 560-670 R: 550-660 W: 550-660 <u>1660-1990</u>	M: 610-710 R: 600-690 W: 600-700 <u>1810-2100</u>	23-26	28-32
<b>UNF</b>	M: 520-570 R: 510-570 W: 450-530 <u>1480-1670</u>	M: 560-640 R: 570-640 W: 500-590 <u>1630-1800</u>	21-23	24-28
<b>USF</b>	M: 520-590 R: 520-580 W: 500-560 <u>1540-1730</u>	M: 560-660 R: 550-640 W: 540-630 <u>1650-1930</u>	23-26	25-29
<b>UWF</b>	M: 490 R: 500 W: 490 <u>1480</u>	M: 520 R: 530 W: 510 <u>1560</u>	22	24

### How can you improve your chances of success?

- Test Early
- Test Often
- Consider taking the ACT
- Ask your counselor or English teacher for practice tests or online resources

# 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. Most 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	<a href="http://www.famu.edu">www.famu.edu</a>
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton	<a href="http://www.fau.edu">www.fau.edu</a>
Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers	<a href="http://www.fgcu.edu">www.fgcu.edu</a>
Florida International University, Miami	<a href="http://www.fiu.edu">www.fiu.edu</a>
Florida Polytechnic University, Lakeland	<a href="http://www.floridapolytechnic.org">www.floridapolytechnic.org</a>
Florida State University, Tallahassee	<a href="http://www.fsu.edu">www.fsu.edu</a>
New College of Florida, Sarasota	<a href="http://www.ncf.edu">www.ncf.edu</a>
University of Central Florida, Orlando	<a href="http://www.ucf.edu">www.ucf.edu</a>
University of Florida, Gainesville	<a href="http://www.ufl.edu">www.ufl.edu</a>
University of North Florida, Jacksonville	<a href="http://www.unf.edu">www.unf.edu</a>
University of South Florida, Tampa	<a href="http://www.usf.edu">www.usf.edu</a>
University of South Florida St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg	<a href="http://www.usfsp.edu">www.usfsp.edu</a>
University of West Florida, Pensacola	<a href="http://www.uwf.edu">www.uwf.edu</a>

## *Private Colleges and Universities*

Art Institute of Ft. Lauderdale, Ft. Lauderdale	<a href="http://www.aifl.edu">www.aifl.edu</a>
Barry University, Miami Shores	<a href="http://www.barry.edu">www.barry.edu</a>
Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach	<a href="http://www.cookman.edu">www.cookman.edu</a>
Eckerd College, St. Petersburg	<a href="http://www.eckerd.edu">www.eckerd.edu</a>
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach	<a href="http://www.erau.edu">www.erau.edu</a>
Flagler College, St. Augustine	<a href="http://www.flagler.edu">www.flagler.edu</a>
Florida Memorial University, Miami Gardens	<a href="http://www.fmuniv.edu">www.fmuniv.edu</a>
Full Sail University, Winter Park	<a href="http://www.fullsail.edu">www.fullsail.edu</a>
Johnson & Wales University, North, Miami	<a href="http://www.jwu.edu">www.jwu.edu</a>
Keiser University, West Palm Beach	<a href="http://www.keiseruniversity.edu">www.keiseruniversity.edu</a>
Lynn University, Boca Raton	<a href="http://www.lynn.edu">www.lynn.edu</a>
Northwood University, West Palm Beach	<a href="http://www.northwood.edu">www.northwood.edu</a>
Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale	<a href="http://www.nova.edu">www.nova.edu</a>
Palm Beach Atlantic University, West Palm Beach	<a href="http://www.pba.edu">www.pba.edu</a>
Ringling College of Art & Design, Sarasota	<a href="http://www.ringling.edu">www.ringling.edu</a>
Rollins College, Winter Park	<a href="http://www.rollins.edu">www.rollins.edu</a>
South University, West Palm Beach	<a href="http://www.southuniversity.edu">www.southuniversity.edu</a>
Southeastern University, Lakeland	<a href="http://www.seu.edu">www.seu.edu</a>

# Florida Colleges & Universities (cont.)

Stetson University, DeLand	<a href="http://www.stetson.edu">www.stetson.edu</a>
St. Thomas University, Miami Gardens	<a href="http://www.stu.edu">www.stu.edu</a>
Trinity International University, Davie	<a href="http://www.tiu.edu/florida">www.tiu.edu/florida</a>
University of Miami, Coral Gables	<a href="http://www.miami.edu">www.miami.edu</a>
University of Tampa, Tampa	<a href="http://www.ut.edu">www.ut.edu</a>

## *The Florida College System*

**Florida Colleges (formerly known as Community Colleges) offer 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 (like Palm Beach State College) for a fraction of the cost of the private school. A student who successfully completes his/her AA degree with at least a 3.0 GPA from a school in the Florida College System is guaranteed admission to a state university as a transfer student.**

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

# Florida Colleges & Universities (cont.)

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.

## *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 2-year degree or technical certificate. Others require a 4-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 following section describes the different types of degrees, but you’ll need to do some career exploration to know which one will benefit you the most.

	<b>Typical Time to Degree</b>	<b>Offered By</b>	<b>Degree Types</b>
<b>Technical certificate</b> Specific job training	varies (ranges from a few months to 2 years)	·career-technical centers ·Florida colleges	·Advanced Technology Certificate (ATC) ·Applied Technology Diploma (ATD) ·College Credit Certificate (CCC) ·Vocational Certificate (VC)
<b>Associate degree</b> Specific job training or transfer to a university for a higher degree	2 years	·Florida colleges	·Associate in Arts (AA) ·Associate in Science (AS) ·Associate in Applied Science (AAS)
<b>Undergraduate degree</b> Study within a field that interests you	4 years	·Florida colleges** ·state universities ·private colleges & universities	·Bachelor’s (BA, BAS, BS, BFA, BSN)
<b>Graduate degree</b> 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 (PhD, MD, EdD, JD)

\*\*Some Florida colleges (previously known as community colleges) offer Bachelor programs through partnerships with the state universities 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).

# Palm Beach State College

Starting your college classes at Palm Beach State College may be the right choice for you. In fact, the classes you take in the first two years are the same required classes that students take at a four-year university. These classes are called “General Education” classes. While at a state college, you will work toward your Associate’s Degree in Arts or Science. You will apply to a university as a transfer student to continue your college education and eventually earn your Bachelor’s Degree. A Bachelor’s Degree from a university is the same whether the student went to the university for four years or transferred as a junior.

Are you a good candidate to attend a state college?? YES!!! Starting out at a state college will not stop you from getting into medical or law school, if that is your ultimate goal. In fact, sometimes starting out at a state college can be the only way you will be able to achieve that goal. State colleges have many benefits, including:

- »» Small class size
- »» Lower tuition than a university or private vocational school
- »» Flexible class schedules and the availability to attend part-time

You should consider a state college if:

- »» Your family does not have a lot of money to contribute toward college expenses
- »» You are not sure if college is really the right choice for you
- »» You know you want a college education but are not sure about your choice of a major
- »» You have a low GPA or low test scores and cannot get into a four-year university directly out of high school
- »» You want a career-oriented certificate that does not require a Bachelor’s Degree
- »» You need a flexible schedule so that you can work part-time or meet family obligations

The Post Secondary Adult Vocational Program (PSAV) at Palm Beach State College offers many certificate programs for those students looking to go into the working world with a vocational certification on their resume. It is important to review the PSAV website or make an appointment with a counselor for the PSAV program in order to see what programs have spaces available and what the requirements are—each program will be different. Some programs, especially in the medical field, are “limited access” and have harder admissions requirements.

To look at the areas of certification available through the PSAV program, follow these steps:

1. Go to [www.palmbeachstate.edu](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu)
2. Click on “Areas of Study” in the toolbar under the banner
3. Click on “PSAV Programs” on the left sidebar

Each program will have a description, application information, and contact information.

# Palm Beach State College (cont.)

## *Post Secondary Adult Vocational (PSAV) Programs Available at Palm Beach State College*

**These are clock-hour based noncredit programs that provide the student with broad entry-level skills in the chosen field of study. Many of these programs can apply towards an associate in science or associate in applied science degree:**

Child Care - Early Childhood Professional Certificate (ECPC) - Preschool  
Child Care - Bilingual Early Childhood Professional Certificate (ECPC) - Preschool  
Child Care - School Age Professional Certificate (SAPC)  
Criminal Justice Academies - Corrections  
Criminal Justice Academies - Law Enforcement  
Cross-Over CMS Law Enforcement to Correctional Officer  
Cross-Over Correctional Officer to CMS Law Enforcement  
Dental Assisting  
Fire Apparatus Operator  
Fire Inspector I  
Fire Instructor  
Fire Investigator I  
Fire Officer I  
Firefighter  
Insurance Claims Adjuster  
Insurance Customer Service Representative  
Life, Health and Variable Annuities Agent  
Massage Therapy  
Medical Assisting  
Practical Nursing  
Property and Casualty General Lines Agent  
Real Estate Broker  
Real Estate Sales Associate  
Surgical Technology

You should make an appointment with a PSAV advisor at Palm Beach State College to find out information about the availability of the programs listed above. Many of these programs are available at private vocational schools for MORE MONEY. Palm Beach State has the SAME programs for a fraction of the cost! Look at Palm Beach State before committing to an expensive private school.



# Palm Beach State College (cont.)

## ***Palm Beach State College Application Procedures***

### **Step 1: Complete an Application for Admission**

Retrieve the application at [www.palmbeachstate.edu/admissions.xml](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/admissions.xml), complete, and submit.

### **Step 2: Pay Application Fee (non-refundable)**

### **Step 3: Have Transcripts Sent to Palm Beach State College**

All credit degree-seeking students and certificate-seeking students whose program requires high school completion must submit official transcripts. All transcripts should be received prior to orientation and registration.

### **Step 4: Submit Placement Test Scores**

All degree-seeking students, as well as non-degree-seeking and transfer students wishing to take Gordon Rule writing and mathematics courses, who have not successfully completed college-level math and/or English, must furnish official test scores from ACT, SAT, or PERT prior to registration. Test scores are valid for two years from the date the test was taken. If you have not yet taken one of the placement tests listed, contact any campus Testing Center. Look at the Testing Center website ([www.palmbeachstate.edu/testing.xml](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/testing.xml)) to see current hours of operation, test fees, availability of practice tests/study guides, and acceptable forms of identification. *Some students may be exempt from the Placement Test requirement. Ask a Palm Beach State representative if you meet the criteria.*

### **Step 5: Attend Orientation**

Orientation is required of all first-time-in-college degree-seeking students before registration of classes. The orientation requirement has two components: the Online Orientation followed by the on-campus Educational Planning Workshop. The Online Orientation will introduce you to the College's programs, resources, and policies. Once you complete the online component and have placement test scores on file with the College, you'll be able to sign up for an on-campus Educational Planning Workshop.

## ***Testing Center Contact Information***

Belle Glade 1977 College Drive Belle Glade, FL 33430 Phone: (561) 993-1125 Fax: (561) 993-1129 Email: <a href="mailto:westtesting@palmbeachstate.edu">westtesting@palmbeachstate.edu</a>	Boca Raton 3000 Saint Lucie Avenue Boca Raton, FL 33431 Phone: (561) 862-4324 Fax: (561) 862-4322 Email: <a href="mailto:southtesting@palmbeachstate.edu">southtesting@palmbeachstate.edu</a>
Lake Worth 4200 Congress Avenue Lake Worth, FL 33461 Phone: (561) 868-3012 Fax: (561) 868-3015 Email: <a href="mailto:centraltesting@palmbeachstate.edu">centraltesting@palmbeachstate.edu</a>	Palm Beach Gardens 3160 PGA Boulevard Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410 Phone: (561) 207-5359 Fax: (561) 207-5361 Email: <a href="mailto:northtesting@palmbeachstate.edu">northtesting@palmbeachstate.edu</a>

For information on Financial Aid, go to [www.palmbeachstate.edu/financialaid.xml](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/financialaid.xml).

For information on career exploration, assessments, and planning, go to [www.palmbeachstate.edu/career.xml](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/career.xml).

*This information was retrieved from [www.palmbeachstate.edu](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu) and is subject to change at their discretion. Contact a Palm Beach State College representative to verify current admission criteria and application procedures.*

# College Application Checklist

<b><i>APPLICATION CHECKLIST</i></b>	College 1	College 2	College 3
<b>Applications</b>			
Request info/application			
Regular application deadline			
Early application deadline			
<b>Grades</b>			
Request high school transcript sent			
Request midyear grade reports sent			
<b>Test Scores</b>			
SAT/ACT required			
SAT II required			
Release SAT II scores			
Send SAT and/or ACT scores			
Send AP scores (as part of candidate pack)			
<b>Letters of Recommendation</b>			
Request recommendations			
Send Thank You notes			
<b>Essays</b>			
Write essay/s			
Proof essay/s for spelling and grammar			
Have two people read your essay/s			
<b>Interviews (if applicable)</b>			
Interview at college			
Send Thank You notes to interviewer/s			
<b>Send and Track Your Application</b>			
Make copies of all application materials			
Apply online			
Include application fee			
Sign application			
Mail via certified mail			
Confirm receipt of application materials			
Send supplemental material, if needed			
<b>Financial Aid Forms</b>			
Priority financial aid deadline			
Regular financial aid deadline			
Submit FAFSA			
Submit PROFILE, if needed			
Submit college aid form, if needed			
Submit state aid form, if needed			
<b>After You Send Your Application</b>			
Receive admission letter			
Receive financial aid award letter			
Send deposit			

# College Comparison Worksheet

	College Name	College Name
<b>LOCATION</b> » Distance from home		
<b>SIZE</b> » Enrollment » Physical size of campus		
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b> » Type of School (2yr or 4 yr) » School setting (urban or rural) » Location & size of nearest city » Co-ed, male/female » Religious affiliation		
<b>ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS</b> » Deadline » Tests required » Average test scores, GPA, rank » Notification		
<b>ACADEMICS</b> » Your major offered » Special requirements » Accreditation » Student-Faculty ratio » Typical class size		
<b>COLLEGE EXPENSES</b> » Tuition, room, board » Estimated total budget » Application fee, deposit		
<b>FINANCIAL AID</b> » Deadline » Required forms » % Receiving Aid » Scholarships		
<b>HOUSING</b> » Residence hall requirements » Food Plan		
<b>FACILITIES</b> » Academic » Residential » Recreational » Other		
<b>ACTIVITIES</b> » 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. Do many people bring their laptop computers to class?
  - d. What do students do for fun?
  - e. How big a deal are the fraternities and sororities to this school's social life?
  - f. Do many people leave campus for the weekends?
  - g. Are there nighttime escort programs on campus or transportation to off-campus apartments?

# Ten Tips for Surviving College

*Reprinted 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. If you haven't already met with your academic advisor, schedule an appointment today! 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.

*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 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](http://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*

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 is yours to keep and does not need to be paid back. Grants are available from the federal government, states, institutions, and private corporations. Grant awards 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 high grades are not necessary.
- **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 one of the following ways:
  - Online (FAFSA on the Web) at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) (recommended)
  - PDF FAFSA (download file) at [www.studentaid.ed.gov/PDFfafsa](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/PDFfafsa)
  - Paper FAFSA (request a copy by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID [1-800-433-3243])
- **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 in January, and must apply by July 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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*

- **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. However, any student wishing to apply for a Bright Futures Scholarship must submit an error-free FAFSA regardless of ability to qualify for federal aid.
- **How to get help** – Visit [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) for tips on filling out 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!

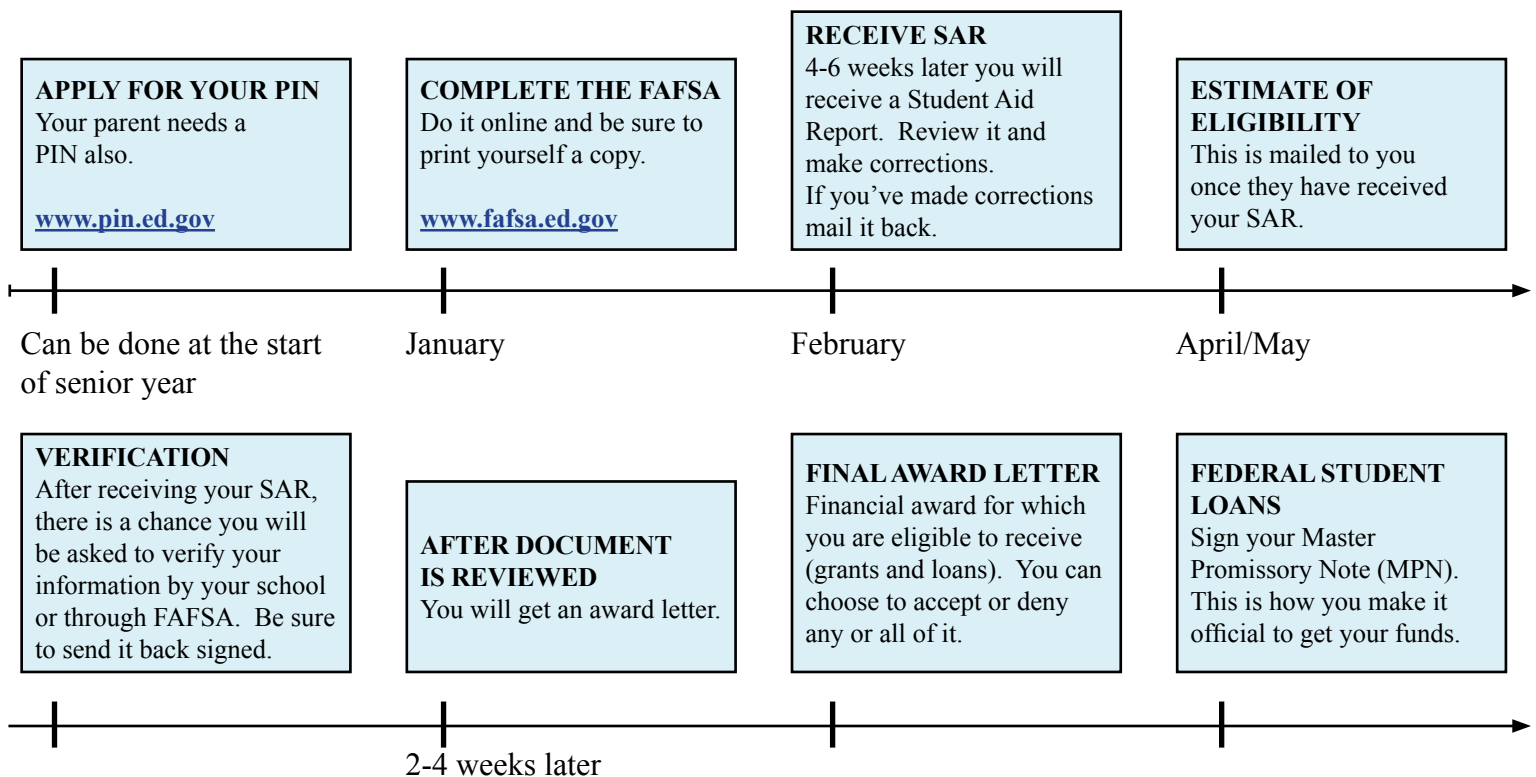
If you or your parents are immigrants, and you will attend Palm Beach State College, contact the Global Education Center for questions about the application process or eligibility requirements. They are located at the Lake Worth campus. Call (561) 868-3973 or learn about them at [www.palmbeachstate.edu/globaleducation/](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/globaleducation/).

If you are not planning to attend Palm Beach State College and 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.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov).

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

## FAFSA Timeline

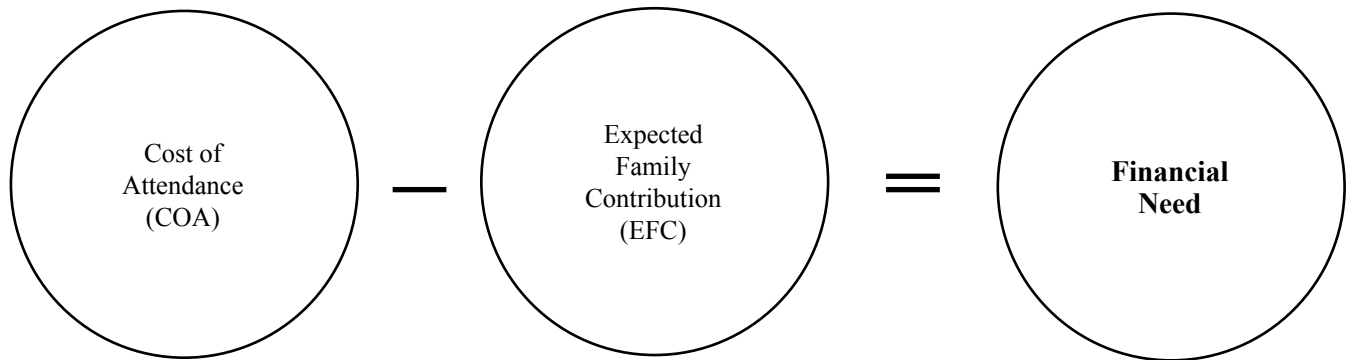
Remember to renew your application each year



# How to Apply for Financial Aid (cont.)

*Adapted from "PERSIST" by ECMC Foundation*

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 seen your FAFSA. 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 adjust the COA or EFC.

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 on scholarships in this book.

Your parents can also borrow money through private institutions. These “parent loans” may have lower 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. Not paying 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*

## **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
- » Current business and investment mortgage information
- » Business and farm records
- » Records of stocks, bonds, and other investments

## **When filling out the paper FAFSA form**

- » Use black ink only
- » Amounts should be rounded to the nearest whole dollar
- » Dates: MM-DD-YY format
- » Print clearly in CAPITAL LETTERS and skip one space between words
- » Fill in ovals completely
- » Do not leave blanks unless directed by instructions

## **FAFSA Hotline**

- » For questions about the application process or eligibility requirements:
  - 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)
  - [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)
  - Questions regarding special circumstances should be directed to the school counselor.  
Do not call the Hotline phone number.

## **FAFSA on the Web**

- » File the FAFSA electronically at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- » Processed in less time than the paper version
- » Use the FAFSA on the Web Worksheet to prepare for the web version

# Completing the FAFSA (cont.)

*Adapted from "Realizing the College Dream" by ECMC Foundation*

## **When to apply**

- » Apply for financial aid no earlier than the senior year in high school
- » The FAFSA filing period begins January 1
- » Some schools have priority filing deadlines as early as February 1 (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 FAFSA4caster. This is a great tool to use to estimate how much you may need to pay out of pocket for college expenses. The FAFSA4caster is sponsored by the US Department of Education. The website is [www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov).

## **Who is a "Parent" (for financial aid purposes)?**

- » Considered a Parent:
  - Biological parent(s)
  - Adoptive parent(s)
  - Stepparent
  - Common-law marriage if recognized by the state
  - If parents are divorced or separated, answer the questions about the parent with whom you have lived more during the past 12 months
- » Not considered Parent:
  - Foster parent(s)
  - Legal guardian(s)
  - Grandparent(s), siblings, or other relatives

## **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?
- » 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 state?
- » Are you an emancipated minor?
- » In the past year, were you determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was homeless, as determined by (a) your high school or district homeless liaison or (b) the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development?

# Completing the FAFSA (cont.)

*Adapted from "Realizing the College Dream" by ECMC Foundation*

- » In the past year, did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

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.

## **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

## **Schools to Receive Information**

- » List up to 6 colleges
- » Title IV school codes available from
  - High school counselor
  - Financial aid office
- » 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**

- » If filing electronically, don't forget the signature page or e-signature (PIN)
  - The PIN required for your electronic signature takes from 2 - 5 days for you to receive in the mail. Plan for this accordingly.
  - Parents have to apply for their own PIN
- » If completed by a dependent student, the student and one parent must sign
- » If filed by an independent student, only the student must sign

# Completing the FAFSA (cont.)

*Adapted from "Realizing the College Dream" by ECMC Foundation*

## **More FAFSA Filing Tips**

- » Make a copy of the completed FAFSA and supporting documents
- » Obtain a Certificate of Mailing form from the Post Office
- » Sign and date the form
- » Check for completeness
- » Do not write comments on the form
- » Meet all priority filing deadlines

## **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

The image shows a close-up of a yellow FAFSA form. The form is titled "Step One (Student)" and contains several sections for personal information. The sections visible are: "1. Last name", "4. Number and street (include apt. number)", "5. City (and country if not U.S.)", "8. Your Social Security Number", "9. Your date of birth" (with MONTH and DAY boxes), "11. Driver's license number and driver's license state (if you have one)", and "13. Your e-mail address". The form is partially filled out with black ink.

# Federal Aid Comparison

*Adapted from “PERSIST” by ECMC Foundation and 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	Annual Award Limits
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 <a href="http://www.studentaid.gov/pell-grant">www.studentaid.gov/pell-grant</a> .
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.	\$100 to \$4,000
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
Perkins Loan	Interest charged on this loan is 5% for both undergraduate and graduate students; payment is owed to the school that made the loan.	\$5,000 maximum for undergraduate students; \$8,000 maximum for graduate and professional students.
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.	Up to \$5,500, depending on grade level. Visit <a href="http://www.studentaid.gov/interest">www.studentaid.gov/interest</a> for 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.	Up to \$20,500, depending on grade level (less any subsidized amounts received for the same period). Visit <a href="http://www.studentaid.gov/interest">www.studentaid.gov/interest</a> for 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; student must be enrolled at least half-time.	Maximum amount is cost of attendance minus any other financial aid the student receives.
Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP)	Funded by ED but administered by the state; program names vary by state; may be in the form of work-study. Often required to be a state resident, so contact the state where you live, not the state where you attend school, if that is different.	
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 per student.
Lifetime Learning Tax Credit (IRS)	Part-time students also qualify; unlimited number of years; note income limits.	Up to \$2,000 per student.
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 <a href="http://www.benefits.va.gov">www.benefits.va.gov</a> 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 <a href="http://www.collegesavings.org">www.collegesavings.org</a> .



# Financial Aid Terminology Chart

*Reprinted from "Realizing the College Dream" by ECMC Foundation*

Financial Aid Term	Definition
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	The application for financial aid which is required by most institutions of higher education in order to obtain financial assistance. The priority filing period is usually January 1 - June 30, however, many schools have a deadline as early as February 1 <sup>st</sup> so make sure to fill out the form as close to January 1 <sup>st</sup> as possible.
Expected Family Contribution (EFC)	The amount that the federal government determines a family is able to contribute towards the education of the student applying for the financial aid during one school year. This amount is based on the information provided by the family on the FAFSA. Schools use this number to decide how much financial aid a student is eligible to receive based on the school's cost of attendance.
Student Aid Report (SAR)	A document a student receives after the FAFSA has been processed listing all of the answers provided on the FAFSA. Students should review these answers carefully to make sure they are correct. Any needed changes are made on the SAR and mailed back to the address provided, or changes can be made at <a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a> in the FAFSA Follow-up section under "Make Corrections to a Processed FAFSA."
Cost Of Attendance (COA)	The amount a school costs in its entirety. This includes tuition, fees, books, transportation, living expenses, etc.

# 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 Department of Education

# Scholarships

**In addition to need-based financial aid, students can also qualify for merit-based scholarships. Scholarship awards have many different qualifications. Scholarships do not have to be repaid. 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, but most have specific submission deadlines that applicants must meet. Set aside time each week to see if new scholarships are available in the guidance office. Your high school may even have scholarships posted on the school's website. The money is out there but if you do not take the time to fill out the applications, you will not get it!**

- » Merit-based scholarships can come from many sources, including:
  - » Your employer
  - » Your parents' employer
  - » Religious and volunteer organizations
  - » The college you will attend
- » Ask your school counselor about possible scholarships for which you may qualify.
- » Search the Internet for scholarships. There are literally thousands of scholarships available. Put in specific key words to narrow down your search. For example, if you play the flute, you may want to type in "flute college scholarship" in the keyword field.
- » If you are a good student, an athlete, or a minority student you may already qualify for certain scholarships.
- » If you have special skills or interests, there may be scholarships for which you are qualified.
- » If you have certain career goals, there may be scholarships available.
- » Scholarship applications have deadlines for submission. Be sure to turn applications in on time or early.
- » Many scholarship applications must be submitted online. If you do not have computer access at home, you can use a computer at school or the public library.

# Scholarships (cont.)

- » Have someone proofread your scholarship applications.
- » Many scholarship applications require essays. Be sure to read the essay question carefully and answer the question asked. Use correct grammar, mechanics, punctuation, spelling and essay format. Have someone proofread your essays.
- » Many scholarship applications require applicants to submit letters of recommendation. These letters should be written by someone who knows you well. Give that person ample time to write the letter. Provide a copy of your resume in case they need reminders of all of your accomplishments, attributes, qualifications, skills and talents. Provide a stamped addressed envelope if the letter must be mailed directly from them. Send thank-you notes to those who took time to write a letter of recommendation on your behalf.
- » Some scholarships request financial information while others do not. If the scholarship requests financial information, be sure to include it.
- » If student is undocumented, private scholarships may be available. Check with your counselor, as legislation changes from year to year.



# Bright Futures Scholarship Program

The State of Florida has designated money each year to award to high-achieving high school graduates, regardless of financial need. This merit-based scholarship is the Bright Futures Scholarship Program, often just referred to as “Bright Futures.” There are three different awards that are part of the program: The Academic Scholars, the Medallion Scholars, and the Gold Seal Vocational Scholars.

**You must apply during your last year in high school, before graduation, or you will forfeit all future eligibility for a Bright Futures Scholarship.** To apply online, visit [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org), select “State Grants, Scholarships & Applications” and select “Apply Here.” The application gives the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) permission to evaluate your high school transcript and test scores for eligibility for state scholarships and grants, including a Bright Futures scholarship. You may apply prior to meeting all requirements.

After submitting an *Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application*, you will: create a personal User ID online, update your demographic information (on your original application), as necessary, and monitor your Financial Aid Recipient History (award status) online. You are responsible for checking your application and award status. It is also your responsibility to provide your correct name, address, date of birth and social security number, and to inform the OSFA of any changes.

There are two times that you can qualify for one of the three levels of scholarship money: after 1<sup>st</sup> semester and after 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. If you do not qualify after 1<sup>st</sup> semester, it may be that you are missing a certain element of the requirements. You may need to retake the SAT or ACT, complete your community service, or raise your core GPA during 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. Your counselor will tell you what you need to do to maximize your chances of being eligible for one of the scholarships.

A student can only qualify for one of these three awards. The highest level earned will be awarded. The requirements for each award may change after publication of this information. Always check with your counselor to ensure that you are aware of the qualifications based on your year of entry into ninth grade.

Not sure about college? You **should** apply for a Bright Futures Scholarship even if you are considering not going to college, are planning to go out of state, are taking a few years off, or are enlisting in the military. Eligible students have up to two years after high school graduation to begin using the scholarship.

# Bright Futures Scholarship Program (cont.)

To receive a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, you must:

- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, **as determined by your postsecondary institution.**
- Pursue an undergraduate degree at an eligible Florida college, or enroll in a postsecondary adult vocational certificate program.
- Begin using the scholarship funds within two years of your high school graduation. If you enlist directly in the military after graduation, your two-year period begins upon the date of separation from active duty.
- Enroll for at least **six non-remedial** semester hours (or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours) per term.

**Bright Futures website:** [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/)

**Office of Student Financial Assistance website:** [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org)

**Toll-Free:** 1-888-827-2004

**E-mail:** [OSFA@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFA@fldoe.org)

**Locate your high school graduation year in Column A to determine the requirements and conditions for your Bright Futures award.**

Refer to Complete Bright Futures Eligibility Criteria at <http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/bfmain.htm>

Bright Futures Initial Eligibility (Columns A-D) and Scholarship Award Information (Columns E-D) by High School Graduation Year														
FAS = Florida Academic Scholars					FMS = Florida Medallion Scholars					GSV = Gold Seal Vocational Scholars				
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I						
Initial Eligibility														
Student's High School Graduation Year <sup>1</sup>	Required SAT/ACT Score to Earn FAS Award	Required SAT/ACT Score to Earn FMS Award <sup>2</sup>	Community Service Requirements	Number of FAS/FMS Hours of Funding Available <sup>3,4</sup>	Number of GSV Hours of Funding Available	Number of Years to Receive Initial Funding <sup>5</sup>	Number of Years of Funding Available	Restoration Opportunity						
2008- <b>2009</b> and earlier	1270 SAT / 28 ACT	970 SAT / 20 ACT	FAS = 75 hrs FMS = 0 hrs GSV = 0 hrs	110% of program of study	110% of program of study up to 90 credit hours	Within <u>3</u> years of high school graduation	Up to <u>7</u> years from high school graduation	For insufficient GPA and insufficient hours <sup>7</sup>						
2009- <b>2010</b>	1270 SAT / 28 ACT	970 SAT / 20 ACT	FAS = 75 hrs FMS = 0 hrs GSV = 0 hrs	100% of program of study	100% of program of study up to 90 credit hours	Within <u>3</u> years of high school graduation	Up to <u>7</u> years from high school graduation	For insufficient GPA in 1 <sup>st</sup> year of funding <u>only</u>						
2010- <b>2011</b>	1270 SAT / 28 ACT	970 SAT / 20 ACT	FAS = 75 hrs FMS = 0 hrs GSV = 0 hrs	100% of program of study	100% of program of study up to 90 credit hours	Within <u>3</u> years of high school graduation	Up to <u>5</u> years from high school graduation <sup>6</sup>	For insufficient GPA in 1 <sup>st</sup> year of funding <u>only</u>						
2011- <b>2012</b>	1270 SAT / 28 ACT	980 SAT / 21 ACT	FAS = 100 hrs FMS = 75 hrs GSV = 30 hrs	100% of program of study	100% of program of study up to 72 credit hours in AS, AAS, CCC or PSAV's; 60 credit hours in ATD's	Within <u>3</u> years of high school graduation	Up to <u>5</u> years from high school graduation <sup>6</sup>	For insufficient GPA in 1 <sup>st</sup> year of funding <u>only</u>						
2012- <b>2013</b>	1280 SAT / 28 ACT	1020 SAT / 22 ACT	FAS = 100 hrs FMS = 75 hrs GSV = 30 hrs	100% of program of study	100% of program of study up to 72 credit hours in AS, AAS, CCC or PSAV's; 60 credit hours in ATD's	Within <u>2</u> years of high school graduation	Up to <u>5</u> years from high school graduation <sup>6</sup>	For insufficient GPA in 1 <sup>st</sup> year of funding <u>only</u>						
2013- <b>2014</b> and after	1290 SAT / 29 ACT	1170 SAT / 26 ACT	FAS = 100 hrs FMS = 75 hrs GSV = 30 hrs	100% of program of study	100% of program of study up to 72 credit hours in AS, AAS, CCC or PSAV's; 60 credit hours in ATD's	Within <u>2</u> years of high school graduation	Up to <u>5</u> years from high school graduation <sup>6</sup>	For insufficient GPA in 1 <sup>st</sup> year of funding <u>only</u>						

<sup>1</sup>High school graduation year = the year in which the student graduated from high school. For example, a student who graduated between September 1, 2013 and August 31, 2014 graduated in the 2013-2014 academic year.

<sup>2</sup>Home educated students who are unable to document a college-preparatory curriculum and wish to earn an FMS award, must earn a 1070 SAT or 23 ACT; and as of 2013-14 must earn a 1220 SAT or 27 ACT.

<sup>3</sup>Extended hours of funding are available to FAS and FMS recipients in a single program of study requiring more than 120 hours.

<sup>4</sup>FAS & FMS scholars completing a baccalaureate degree in 2010-11 or later within 7 semesters (or equivalent hours) or fewer, may receive 1 term of graduate funding, up to 15 semester hours, paid at the undergraduate rate.

<sup>5</sup>Exception to the maximum number of years to begin receiving funding is made for students who are active military.

<sup>6</sup>Students who are unable to complete their program after 5 academic years due to a verifiable illness or other documented emergency may be granted a 1-year extension to the renewal timeframe.

<sup>7</sup>The award may **not** be restored if it was lost due to insufficient hours prior to the 2009-10 academic year.

# Finding Scholarships on the Internet

**There are numerous websites listing college scholarship information. The search is endless. Start your search early for scholarships. Remember...if you can imagine it, there probably is a scholarship for it!**

»» If you do not have a computer at home, you can use one in your school's media center or career center. You can also go to the public library.

»» If you do not have any particular web addresses for scholarships, conduct a search for "college scholarships." You will immediately access many scholarships. Once you go to one site you may get information about other sites. Go to each of these. You can also type in other keywords such as:

- Minority college scholarships
- Hispanic scholarships
- Haitian scholarships
- African-American scholarships
- Asian scholarships
- Hispanic female scholarships

»» Right-click when you want to view a website so that you don't lose your search results. Read the information or print the information for later use.

»» Some scholarships will have an online application. Others may have a form to download and print out. Follow the site's directions to ensure that you are submitting the application in the preferred format.

»» Read all the information carefully. Pay attention to eligibility requirements and deadline dates for applications to be submitted.

»» Answer all questions and complete everything the application requires accurately, honestly, and neatly.

»» If you have difficulty finding information on the Internet, ask your school media specialist or computer teacher for assistance.



# Sample Letter

You may be sending email or writing several letters 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 or Yahoo. If you do not have internet access at home you can check your email at the public library. Use good judgment when choosing your username for your email. Use your name and/or initials. 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 jrodriguez@gmail.com, josefrodriguez@gmail.com, or rodriguezj@gmail.com. If you have a common first or last name, consider using an underscore or period as well (i.e., jose.rodriguez@gmail.com or j\_rodriguez@gmail.com).

Whether writing a letter or sending an email, you should always sound mature and professional. Always have someone proof your writing. Many scholarship organizations have all of their information online. The application is usually available to download and can be completed and mailed in if it cannot be submitted online. Before writing a letter, you should check their website.

Below is an example of a letter that you may have to write to request a scholarship application or information about the requirements. When writing letters, be sure to use correct business letter format. Type letters whenever possible. If it is not possible to type letters, be sure to use black ink and good penmanship, grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Your address  
City, State Zip Code

Date

Name of scholarship organization/sponsor  
Street Address  
City, State Zip Code

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a student at \_\_\_\_\_ High School and will graduate in \_\_\_\_\_ (month), 20\_\_\_\_. I am currently trying to raise 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 \_\_\_\_\_ (proposed major).

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sign your name here  
Type your name

# 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 the Internet for college scholarships. Be sure to apply early! Keep in mind that some website addresses may change after publication of this manual.

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) Financial aid, loans, scholarships, military aid

[www.gmsp.org](http://www.gmsp.org) Gates Millennium Scholars Program--click on “Scholarship Links” to see other organizations that offer minority scholarships

[www.collegefunds.net](http://www.collegefunds.net) Scholarships, financial aid resources

[www.free-4u.com](http://www.free-4u.com) Scholarships, fellowships, internships, religious scholarships, minority scholarships

[www.aps.org/studentsandeducators](http://www.aps.org/studentsandeducators) Scholarships and programs for women and minorities interested in pursuing the field of physics.

[www.blackexcel.org](http://www.blackexcel.org) African-American scholarships, minority scholarships, HBCU information

[www.intel.com/education/sts](http://www.intel.com/education/sts) Intel Science Talent Search

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) Scholarship application guidebook

[www.collegescholarships.org](http://www.collegescholarships.org) Comprehensive website with scholarships for all racial, ethnic, and gender groups, information on financial aid, loans, and grants

[www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org) State of Florida Office of Student Financial Assistance

[www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/) Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

[www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/home/ProgramsOffered.htm](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/home/ProgramsOffered.htm) A list of programs offered by the OSFA—click on each link for a fact sheet stating qualifications and application procedures

[www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/ua/sawstua\\_uaform.asp](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/ua/sawstua_uaform.asp) FFAA application—this MUST be completed and submitted after December 1<sup>st</sup> of your senior year of high school in order to be eligible for Bright Futures and ANY other scholarship offered by the State of Florida’s OSFA

[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) Free information from the U.S. Department of Education on preparing for and funding education beyond high school.

[www.ed.gov/students](http://www.ed.gov/students) U.S. Department of Education’s website for students--offers information about grants, scholarships, and college applications

[foundation.walmart.com/scholarships](http://foundation.walmart.com/scholarships) The Sam Walton Community Scholarship (click on “Education” link on left-hand sidebar to get to the scholarship information)

[www.hispanicfund.org](http://www.hispanicfund.org), [www.hsf.net](http://www.hsf.net), and [www.latinocollegedollars.org](http://www.latinocollegedollars.org) Hispanic Scholarship Fund

[www.lnesc.org](http://www.lnesc.org) LULAC National Educational Service Center—scholarships for Hispanic students

# Scholarship Websites (cont.)

[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com) search over 2.7 million scholarships and grants

[www.yourcommunityfoundation.org/Scholarship-Center](http://www.yourcommunityfoundation.org/Scholarship-Center) 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.halohaiti.org](http://www.halohaiti.org) Haitian American Leadership Organization scholarships

[www.uncf.org](http://www.uncf.org) United Negro College Fund

[admissions.fiu.edu/costs-and-aid/scholarships/index.html](http://admissions.fiu.edu/costs-and-aid/scholarships/index.html) Scholarships available for students who will attend Florida International University

[www.findtuition.com](http://www.findtuition.com) Scholarship search and financial aid website

[www.college-scholarships.com/free\\_scholarship\\_searches.htm](http://www.college-scholarships.com/free_scholarship_searches.htm) Gateway to scholarship search websites

[www.hispanicheritage.org](http://www.hispanicheritage.org) Hispanic Heritage Foundation

[www.scholarshipexperts.com](http://www.scholarshipexperts.com) Scholarship search gateway

[www.scholarshiphunter.com](http://www.scholarshiphunter.com) Scholarship search gateway

[www.AIE.org/scholarships](http://www.AIE.org/scholarships) Scholarship search database

[www.AIE.org/paying-for-college/](http://www.AIE.org/paying-for-college/) Information about college costs, financial aid, the FAFSA, and scholarships

[www.jackierobinson.org](http://www.jackierobinson.org) Jackie Robinson Foundation

[www.maldef.org/leadership/scholarships/index.html](http://www.maldef.org/leadership/scholarships/index.html) Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund downloadable scholarship directory

[www.coca-colascholars.org](http://www.coca-colascholars.org) Two-year college scholarships sponsored by Coca-Cola

[www.nabj.org](http://www.nabj.org) National Association of Black Journalists scholarships

[www.apsanet.org/content\\_3115.cfm](http://www.apsanet.org/content_3115.cfm) American Political Science Association Minority Scholarship resources

[www.kasf.org](http://www.kasf.org) Korean America Scholarship Foundation

[www.jacl.org/edu/scholar.htm](http://www.jacl.org/edu/scholar.htm) Japanese American Citizens League

[www.iefaf.org](http://www.iefaf.org) International Students Scholarships and Aid Help--resources for financial aid, college scholarships, and grants for U.S. and international students wishing to study abroad

[www.naacp.org](http://www.naacp.org) National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

# Scholarship Websites (cont.)

[www.aspirafll.org](http://www.aspirafll.org) Florida chapter of ASPIRA for Latino Youth

[www.scholarshiproadmap.com](http://www.scholarshiproadmap.com) Scholarship search gateway

[www.aaiusa.org/pages/scholarships/](http://www.aaiusa.org/pages/scholarships/) Scholarships and information from the Arab American Institute

[www.alliancescholars.org/applications/](http://www.alliancescholars.org/applications/) The Alliance Scholars Fund for Hispanic students

[www.alliancescholars.org/docLib/20091214\\_ScholarshipGuide.pdf](http://www.alliancescholars.org/docLib/20091214_ScholarshipGuide.pdf) This guide from the National Alliance for Hispanic Health's Proyecto Ciencia® (Project Science) provides select scholarship and education opportunities for students interested in the sciences.

[www.muslimscholarship.org](http://www.muslimscholarship.org) The Dollar-a-Day Scholarship application for students of Muslim faith

<http://rmhc.org/rmhc-u-s-scholarships/> Ronald McDonald House Charities U.S. Scholarships

<http://www.studentscholarships.org/> Gateway to scholarship searches, career and salary information, and college majors

[www.scholarshipamerica.org](http://www.scholarshipamerica.org) Financial aid and scholarship information

[www.e4fc.org/resources/scholarshiplist.html](http://www.e4fc.org/resources/scholarshiplist.html) Educators for Fair Consideration link to Scholarship List and Guide for undocumented students and other resources for undocumented students

[www.apiasf.org](http://www.apiasf.org) Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund

[www.aigcs.org](http://www.aigcs.org) American Indian Graduate Center

[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.finaid.ucsb.edu/Scholarships.aspx](http://www.finaid.ucsb.edu/Scholarships.aspx) University of California at Santa Barbara provides links to organizations that offer scholarships to undocumented students

[www.thurgoodmarshdhallfund.net](http://www.thurgoodmarshdhallfund.net) The Thurgood Marshall College Fund provides scholarship opportunities for students attending one of the TMCF colleges

[www.zinch.com/scholarships](http://www.zinch.com/scholarships) Scholarship search gateway

[www.salef.org](http://www.salef.org) Salvadoran American Leadership & Education Fund

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. Earning scholarship money takes time, dedication, and persistence. The reward for all of your hard work could be enough money to pay for college without having to use a dollar of your own! It is well worth the investment of your time.

# 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 college information.**

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) The FAFSA form. You MUST fill this out in order to find out if you are eligible for need-based financial aid. Apply online or mail in the paper application.

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) Online Resource for College-bound students. Also the site for the SAT, PSAT, and AP exam information and registration.

[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) Information and registration for the ACT

[www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com) Search for colleges, financial aid, majors, campus life, etc.

[www.college-scholarships.com](http://www.college-scholarships.com) Search for colleges, tech schools, scholarships

[www.nacacnet.org/studentinfo/Pages/Default.aspx](http://www.nacacnet.org/studentinfo/Pages/Default.aspx) Student and parent resources from the National Association for College Admission Counseling

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) Financial aid, loans, scholarships, military aid

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) FASTWEB provides information about scholarships and colleges

[www.collegeapps.about.com](http://www.collegeapps.about.com) Many articles and links to scholarship sites, tips for getting scholarships, and college-related articles

[www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov) Federal Student Aid gateway

[www.FAFSA4caster.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA4caster.ed.gov) Calculator to estimate your EFC on the FAFSA

[www.act.org/path/parent/](http://www.act.org/path/parent/) ACT information for parents

[www.eCampusTours.com](http://www.eCampusTours.com) Information on college admissions, virtual campus tours, financial aid, etc

[www.collegeanswer.com](http://www.collegeanswer.com) Website for college planning sponsored by SallieMae

[www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com) FREE SAT and ACT test prep

[www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com) College and scholarship search site

[www.FLVC.org](http://www.FLVC.org) Florida Virtual Campus is Florida's official online student advising system

[www.floridanext.com](http://www.floridanext.com) "Florida Trend's Next" website specifically for students in Florida

[www.campustours.com](http://www.campustours.com) Virtual Campus tours and information on colleges across the U.S.

[www.collegetoolkit.com](http://www.collegetoolkit.com) Advice and insight on college admissions, scholarships, and careers

[www.college.gov](http://www.college.gov) US Department of Education's website for information about getting in to college and paying for it

# Helpful Websites (cont.)

[www.AIE.org](http://www.AIE.org) Adventures in Education--explore college options, scholarships, money management, and career options

[www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) Information for Student Athletes about the NCAA and eligibility requirements

[www.KnowHow2Go.org](http://www.KnowHow2Go.org) Help for anyone who wants to go to college, with focus on first-generation college students

[www.tgslc.org/students/](http://www.tgslc.org/students/) Money management, scholarship, and loan information for students and parents; section of website provides resources in Spanish

[www.going2college.org/StateResources/](http://www.going2college.org/StateResources/) Provides state-specific information on college information, financial aid events, and outreach programs

[www.mappingyourfuture.org](http://www.mappingyourfuture.org) Resources for college planning, financial aid, and financial literacy

[www.nelnet.com](http://www.nelnet.com) Education planning and financing

[www.4tests.com](http://www.4tests.com) Free test prep for the ACT, SAT, ASVAB, TOEFL, and some AP exams

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

[www.march2success.com](http://www.march2success.com) Site sponsored by the U.S. Army that offers free SAT and ACT practice, SAT and ACT flashcards, and college planning tips

[www.bigfuture.org](http://www.bigfuture.org) The Collegeboard's college, career, and financial aid website

[www.maxthetest.com](http://www.maxthetest.com) Test prep and college admissions help

[www.accreditedschoolsonline.org](http://www.accreditedschoolsonline.org) Find college rankings and compare colleges

[www.myfuturepalmbeach.org](http://www.myfuturepalmbeach.org) Information about colleges and careers for Palm Beach County residents



# 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 on the Department's website:

[www.palmbeachschools.org/multicultural/guidance.asp](http://www.palmbeachschools.org/multicultural/guidance.asp)



***We Can  
Help!!!***