

The College Application Process & Going to College Debt Free

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2012-13 Bright Future Award		
	Florida Academic Scholars (FAS)	Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)
SAT (Combined best score)	1280 (Critical Reading & Math only)	1070 (Critical Reading & Math only)
ACT (Combined best score)	28	23
GPA	A parent-generated transcript will not be accepted for Bright Futures evaluation. Bright Futures accepts only sealed, official transcripts from the following sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Florida public high school, o Florida Virtual School, o Dual-enrollment coursework from a Florida state (community) college, o FDOE-registered private high school. 	
Community Service	100 hours (documented)	75 hours (documented)
District Confirmation	Form	Form
Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)	Fill out online	Same
4 Year	\$100.00	\$75.00
2 Year	\$61.00	\$47.00
Florida Colleges Baccalaureate Programs	\$69.00	\$51.00
Career/Technical Centers	\$50.00	\$38.00

Helpful Websites:

- www.edulaunchpad.com (Generous Colleges & Information)
- www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/home/uamain.htm (Bright Futures)
- www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/homepac.htm (Bright Futures - Home School)
- www.fastweb.com (scholarship search engine)
- www.scholarshipexperts.com (scholarship search engine)
- www.scholarship-monkey.com (scholarship search engine)
- www.stetson.edu/financialaid/scholarshiplinks.php (list of scholarships & search engines)
- www.scholarshipexperts.com (SAT website & helpful high school planning tips)

In 9th & 10th Grade

- Take interest and skills assessments to help you explore careers that interest you.
- Talk with your mom and dad about college and career options and the education required for those careers.
- Talk about paying for college.
- Participate in extracurricular activities.
- Volunteer in the community.
- Review your high school class plan. Take the most difficult classes you can handle.
- Sign up for classes that will earn you college credit during your junior year of high school.
- Join Scholarship websites. Make a list of potential scholarships and deadlines (some scholarships must be applied for junior year).
- Summer: study for PSAT

In 11th Grade

- Take the PSAT in the fall to prepare for the SAT, and to identify areas where you need improvement.
- Request materials from schools that interest you, and visit their websites.
- Arrange campus visits to those schools that interest you.
- Go visit colleges of interest (if far away, may need to wait for the summer).
- Participate in extracurricular activities.
- Volunteer in the community.
- Request admissions and financial aid forms.
- Sign up for classes that will earn you college credit during your senior year of high school.
- Take the ACT and/or SAT in the spring.
- Research your private scholarship options.

In 12th Grade

- Participate in extracurricular activities.
 - Volunteer in the community.
- September - November
- Arrange campus visits to those schools that interest you. It's okay to go more than once.
 - Take or retake the ACT and/or SAT.
 - Select the schools to which you will apply. Make a list of deadlines for each school.
 - Ask for recommendations (if required) from teachers, counselors, pastors and others who can comment on your character, abilities and talents.
 - Sign up for spring classes that will earn you college credit.

December - February

- Apply to four or more colleges that interest you. Some may have earlier or later deadlines. (Make copies of each application.)
- Apply for scholarships offered by the colleges to which you have applied.
- Apply for financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at www.fafsa.gov as soon as possible after January 1. You and your parents will need the previous year's income tax information to complete it.
- Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) for accuracy (result of FAFSA).

March - May

- Have your final high school transcript sent to the colleges to which you've applied.
- Carefully review and compare the financial aid packages offered by each college to which you applied. Each college is different and may offer you different amounts of different types of aid.
- Choose a college and notify in writing those you don't plan to attend.
- Send in any required forms or deposits.

Summer

- Get a job to earn money for college or volunteer.
- Review orientation materials from the college you selected.
- If living on campus, check with the college for a list of what's provided by the school and what the school expects the student to provide.
- Contact your roommate