****

**off to college**

****

****

****

**APPENDICES:**

1. Checklist for a Campus Visit.
2. College Comparison Worksheet (ACT)
3. Road Map for the College/University Bound Senior
4. Road Map for the Community College Bound Senior
5. Websites
6. Internet Scholarship Search Websites
7. Senior Year College Checklist
8. Deadlines
9. 2021-2022 Calendar for the Highs School Student (fastweb)
10. FAFSA: Step-by-step (fastweb)
11. Advice for F.T.I.C.’s
12. NCAA Requirements

**COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS (SAT/ACT)**

Four year colleges and universities require College Entrance Examination Board test scores as part of the admissions process. Of the two types of tests, SAT and ACT, it is recommended that you take at least one administration of each to determine which is the better test for you. (If you took the PSAT and/or the PLAN, the practice version of the SAT and ACT, you already have a good idea of which test you prefer.)

The SAT yields verbal, writing and math sub-test scores. The SAT score ranges are evidence-based reading and writing score (200-800), essay (2-8) and the math score (200-800). The ACT yields English, math, reading comprehension, and science reasoning sub-test scores. To obtain the composite ACT score, the total value of each sub-test section (36 maximum) is added together and divided by four. It is important to remember that many colleges/universities combine sub-test scores (super-score). For example, if you took a May SAT and then take an October SAT, the college will take the higher verbal SAT and higher math SAT to determine your overall SAT college entrance exam score. Sub-test scores on the ACT are combined in the same manner. Not all colleges/universities super-score.

**NOTE: You may not combine an SAT sub-test score with an ACT sub-score in order to arrive at an entrance exam score.**

If you are dissatisfied with your test scores and want to improve them in order to increase your chances for college admission and scholarship/grant money, you may take the SAT or ACT as many times as you like. However, merely re-sitting for the test will not provide a significant increase; you will need to devise test-taking strategies and orchestrate a plan of action. Both SAT and ACT will provide test preparation booklets free of charge; these booklets are housed in Guidance.

**SAT and ACT REGISTRATION**

SAT/ACT registration materials can be found in the Guidance office. You may register on the SAT/ACT website.

SAT: <http://www.collegeboard.org> ACT: http://www.actstudent.org

Please make sure the photo guidelines are followed. It is possible to upload an unacceptable picture. ACT and SAT do not preview pictures for acceptability. Students will not be admitted to testing if their photo does not meet the requirements. Photo guidelines are posted on the following sites:

<http://www.actstudent.org/regist/add-photo.html>

<http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/photo-requirements>

SAT recommends you avoid calling on Mondays and between the hours of 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. You may also request SAT scores by phone for a fee at 1-888-SAT-TEST. This service, which is provided for your information only, does not get scores to institutions any faster. To have scores “rushed” requires another process and fee. See the website to request this.

**SAT Subject Tests**

Many colleges/universities require SAT Subject Tests achievement scores for admission and/or placement purposes. Consult individual college catalogs to determine whether or not you need to take SAT Subject Tests. SAT Subject Tests information is found on the College Board website.

You may take up to three (3) SAT Subject Tests on any given testing date. You may not take a SAT and SAT Subject Tests on the same date. Carefully consult the SAT registration booklet for test administration dates for specific subjects.

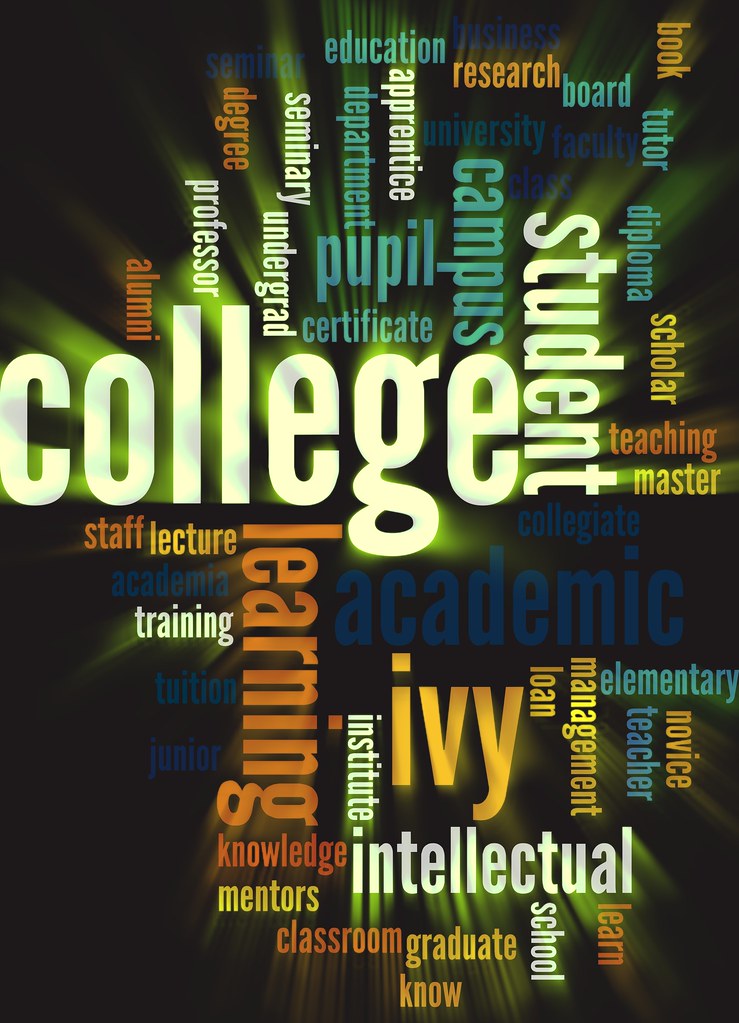
NOTE: Some schools will accept ACT sub-test scores in lieu of SAT Subject Tests.

COST: SAT $49.50 or $64.50 with essay ACT $52.00 or $68.00 with writing

**COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION BOARD (CEEB) CODE 101033**

The MIHS College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) identification code is 101033. When you supply SAT/ACT with this number, your scores will be reported to the school and appear on your transcript. While test scores are posted on transcripts, universities require test scores to be sent directly from the testing company to the university.

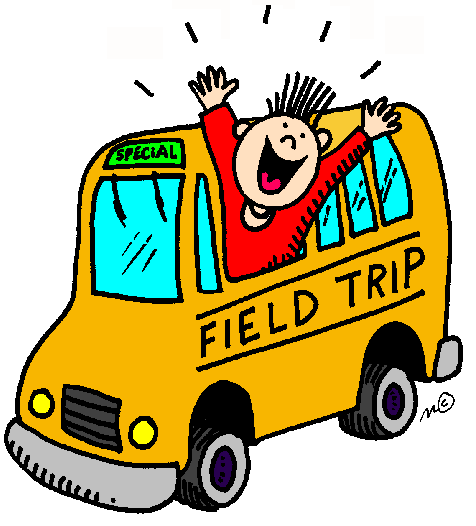
The CEEB code will be required on many college applications as well as on the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) application.



**COLLEGE VISITS**

**OFF-CAMPUS VISITS**

College visits help you narrow your choices of schools to which you will apply for admission. Hopefully, you visited your narrowed-down list of prospective colleges the summer between your junior and senior years. If not, you need to carefully study college websites and plan visits to your top choice schools very early in your senior year. Check out the schools’ websites which will list pre-established visitation times and open houses. **These visitation times occur on weekends and during some holidays in order to accommodate prospective students and their parents. Planning ahead by checking with your selected schools before visiting will ensure that each visit is a profitable experience-and, remember: some schools require you to pre-register prior to visitation.** Completing the College Comparison Worksheet (ACT) found in the appendices of this booklet will also help you in the process. When you actually visit the schools, follow the ACT suggestions found in Checklist for a Campus Visit also found in the appendices. Juniors & seniors are allowed 3 administratively excused absences per year to visit college campuses. You will need forms from Guidance prior to going and something official from the college showing the date you visited to give the attendance office to get the day administratively excused. You may also print these forms from our website.



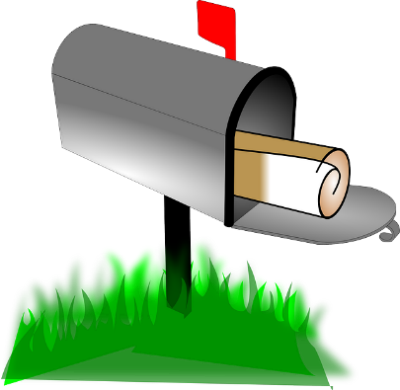
**ON-CAMPUS VISITS**

College representatives visit our campus in the fall. Important information about a school can be learned and a contact at that school can be identified.

Announcements are made as to dates, times, et cetera, as well as being posted on our website; and students are invited to meet with these representatives. They are in the Career Center at different times. Some colleges are requiring appointments be made to meet with the college representatives while they are here on our campus. The guidance clerk can coordinate these appointments.

**AREA COLLEGE NIGHTS**

Brevard District Schools sponsors an area college night each October. The date, time, and place for College Night will be announced weekly by e-mail and school-wide announcements. These events allow students a valuable opportunity for talking with representatives and/or alumni of approximately 100 postsecondary institutions. Students also have the opportunity to acquire catalogs and other informational brochures at College Night.

****

**APPLYING TO A COLLEGE**

Of utmost importance in the college application process is adherence to deadlines. It is your responsibility to identify and meet application deadlines. Basic application procedures for four year Florida public universities, state colleges, community colleges, and private state and out-of-state schools are discussed below. Consult individual college catalogs to identify each college’s prescribed method.

**APPLICATION TO 4 YEAR FLORIDA UNIVERSITIES**

1. Access the school’s web site. Apply online through their application process. Hint: Save time and energy by checking each college’s website to determine the preferred process. Access [www.floridashines.org](http://www.floridashines.org) for website links to all Florida Public Universities and some Private Independent Florida Colleges.
2. Complete transcript request form as outlined in the Obtaining a Transcript section of this *Off to* *College* booklet. Forms are located in Guidance and cost $1.00 per transcript.
3. Submit fully completed and signed request form and fee to the Guidance clerk for processing.
4. Some state universities are requiring at least one essay as part of the application for admission. If your GPA and/or SAT test scores are “marginal”, we recommend you submit any optional essay or question segments to increase your chances for acceptance. Required and optional essay topics are indicated on applications. “Marginal” means your GPA or test scores fall in a lower quartile of those students accepted for that particular school’s current freshman class.
5. Many colleges do not require Recommendations, but encourage them if a student’s GPA and SAT scores are marginal.
6. UF, FSU, and Polytechnic are requiring a SAR (Self-reported Academic Record,) you will need an unofficial copy of your transcript in order to complete this portion of your application.

Some Universities use Common Application or Coalition Application allowing students to apply to multiple schools using one application.



**APPLICATION TO PRIVATE, STATE & OUT-OF-STATE SCHOOLS**

1. Go online to the college or university website and complete the application. If you are going to apply to more than one school, check to see if they accept the Common Application (commonapp.org), Coalition Application (mycoalition.org), or send Edu online application (sendedu.org). These applications allow you to complete the application once but send to multiple schools.
2. Follow transcript process as outlined in the Obtaining a Transcript section of the *Off to College* booklet.
3. If a recommendation is required by your Guidance Counselor, submit the following items to your counselor at least 3 weeks prior to application deadline in order to guarantee timely mailing of each recommendation.

* Counselor recommendation form
* Your resume
* A pre-addressed/stamped (5 stamps) 10” X 13” or legal size envelope; to determine whether the counselor recommendation section requires a 10” X 13” or legal size envelope, consider which items are to be included in the packet and choose accordingly: transcripts, recommendation form, the recommendation letter, and school profile make for bulky packing. Address the envelope to the college/university as indicated on the application for admission using the format illustrated in the appendices of this booklet.

**NOTE**: If the college/university prefers or allows your mailing of all application sections together, inform your counselor in writing that you will collect the counselor section including a Merritt Island High School profile at a pre-arranged time and that you will assume responsibility for mailing. The best way to inform your counselor that you will mail all application parts is to write a note specifying this and attach the note to the counselor recommendation section. The counselor section and profile will be enclosed in a sealed/marked envelope. Do not open the envelope.

**APPLICATION TO FLORIDA STATE COLLEGES OR COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

1. Go online to the college’s website and complete that application online. (EFSC’s website is [www.easternflorida.edu](http://www.easternflorida.edu))
2. Request a transcript according to procedures outlined in the Obtaining a Transcript section of your *Off to College* booklet.
3. An SAT/ACT score may not be necessary for a state college application/admission. EFSC administers their own placement test called the PERT (Post-secondary Education Readiness Test). If you have taken an academic dual enrollment course, you will have already taken the test unless you had an acceptable SAT/ACT score to substitute. Either way, you are covered. NOTE: if you plan to be a candidate for a Bright Futures Scholarship-Academic or Medallion-you must take the SAT or the ACT and earn scores even if you are starting out in a community college.



**OTHER COLLEGE APPLICATION METHODS**

1. COALITION APPLICATION: (mycoalition.org) This is a set of free online college planning tools that empowers you to learn about, prepare for and apply to colleges.
2. COMMON APPLICATION: (commonapp.org) Prepare and submit/download applications to approximately 200 colleges/universities via the Internet as well. No fee; costs are absorbed by sponsoring post-secondary institutions.

**OBTAINING A TRANSCRIPT**

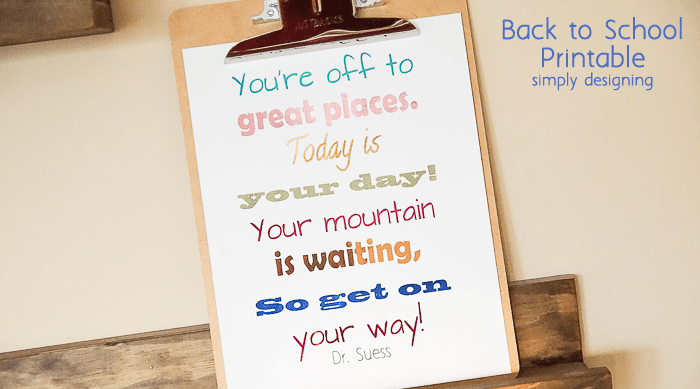
All college applications require OFFICIAL proof of high school coursework. Your transcript provides this proof. You can get a transcript by going to the Guidance department and completing a form or go online to brevardschools.org. Your first/unofficial transcript is free of charge. You need to look over your transcript very carefully to ensure that all data is correct. If corrections need to be made, please make an appointment with your guidance counselor to discuss the correction that needs to be made.

When you are ready to mail your OFFICIAL transcript to the college/university of your choice, you need to complete another **TRANSCRIPT REQUEST** form and turn it in to the **guidance clerk**. The charge for this service is **$1.00 for each transcript** you order. ($5.00 after graduation)

* The transcript can be picked up after 24 hours for you to bring in hand to the college/university.
* The transcript can be mailed by the school to the college/university.
* If the college/university is in the state of Florida, the transcript may be sent electronically.

Be sure to check the appropriate spaces on the transcript request form for distribution of each requested transcript. Under no circumstances should you ever open a sealed transcript envelope; affixing the school seal and enclosing the transcript in a sealed envelope is what makes the transcript OFFICIAL. Some colleges/universities require mid-term transcripts, which is after 1st semester grades have been posted. You will need to submit a transcript request form for this.

NOTE: The college/university you decide to attend will require an official final transcript. YOU MUST SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR THIS ***FINAL OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT*** PRIOR TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION IF YOU WANT THE SCHOOL TO HAVE THE TRANSCRIPT BEFORE YOU ACTUALLY MATRICULATE AT THE SCHOOL. PLEASE WRITE **‘FINAL’** ON THE TOP OF THE FORM.



**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Acquire recommendations from teachers, community members, employers-people who know you well- for college application and scholarship purposes. Many scholarship applications require as many as three (3) recommendations. Requesting recommendations in advance is good planning; it also prevents the person writing the recommendation from feeling hurried and from viewing you as less organized. ALWAYS allow a two (2) week time period for the person to write the recommendation. Hastily written recommendations are rarely to your advantage. A written thank you to the person writing the recommendation is always a nice gesture.

You will need to provide a copy of your resume at the time you request a recommendation to be written. How impressive it is to present a typed, professional looking resume at the time of the request for a recommendation! And, be sure to submit a copy of your resume to your guidance counselor.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Check the Merritt Island High School eNews for scholarship announcements.

Many of the national scholarships have early application deadlines. A missed deadline can mean a loss of money. As the year progresses, more and more local scholarship opportunities will become available. Develop the habit of checking the scholarship folders in the guidance office. Also, check [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) to search for scholarships.

During the summer before senior year, you are strongly encouraged to write a “generic” essay on future goals/plans which would be adaptable for various scholarship applications. This essay will be used numerous times and by the end of your senior year, probably will not resemble the original version. Plan to draft the essay on the computer and save it both to your hard drive and flash drive.

REMEMBER: APPLY! APPLY!! APPLY!!! Seldom will someone come up and offer you a scholarship; you have to exert much effort to secure scholarship dollars. In the appendices, you will find a listing of web sites. Many of these sites “advertise” scholarship opportunities. Check them out!

NOTE: Bright Futures eligibility criteria is available on their website. For up to date information, you should periodically access the web site at http:www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org

**FINANCIAL AID**

Students are strongly encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA becomes available yearly October 1st. You apply online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

As schools may have financial aid deadlines as early as February, it is imperative that you fill out an application as soon as possible. Check with your selected schools as financial aid awards are most often distributed on a first come/first served basis.

Discuss early on with your parents the immediacy of submission on the FAFSA. Make your parents aware of which documents you will need to complete the form. You want to give them adequate time to secure the information required. Remember: Only an estimate is necessary for financial aid application. If you earn enough money to file a tax return, your income tax information will be necessary as well. Be very careful to submit a complete and accurate FAFSA, as errors mean delays which can result in a loss of funds. Every error corrected by US mail can mean an additional two (2) week delay for processing by your selected schools.

You are strongly encouraged to submit your FAFSA online. Turnaround time for receipt by colleges for processing an award amount is approximately 72 hours compared with four (4) to six (6) weeks by US mail. Errors/chances can be quickly remedied via computer application thus avoiding the two week US mail delay.



NOTE: Some schools require completion of the PROFILE, a fee-supported financial aid application sponsored by College Board. Check the financial aid information for each school to which you plan to attend to see if PROFILE is required. Forms are available online at College Board’s website. Unlike FAFSA, which cannot be submitted prior to October 1, PROFILE may be submitted to the requiring school at any time in the calendar year. It is important to note that schools requiring PROFILE usually specify completion of this form very early on in the admissions process in order to estimate aid; FAFSA is most often required as well.

**RECOMPUTED COLLEGE GPA’S**

Using the formula outlined below, you can get a general idea of how our state universities determine admissions GPA. Remember: This formula yields only an estimate of a student’s admissions GPA. One university’s GPA calculation may differ from another university’s in several areas. Some of these areas of difference include: calculating the amount of course weight, awarding additional GPA point value for AP/IB and Dual Enrollment courses taken. SAT/ACT scores, the overall strength of the senior year curriculum, required or optional essays, and high school activities also are factors that figure in the admissions process.

1. Count only the 18 minimum academic units

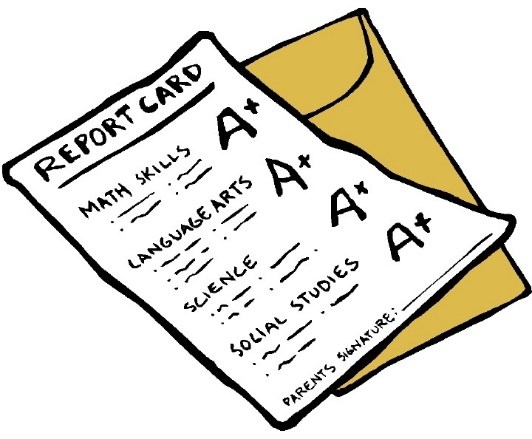
* 4.0 English
* 4.0 Math-Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 (Algebra 1A & 1B substitute as 1.0 Algebra 1; applied math 1 & 2 also substitute as 1.0 Algebra 1)
* 3.0 Science
* 3.0 Social Studies
* 2.0 Foreign language (2 sequential years of the same language)
* 2.0 additional academic electives

\*The approved courses list is available on [www.floridashines.org](http://www.floridashines.org)

NOTE: Selective Universities require the elective courses to come from such areas as AP/IB, additional academics, academic electives, and academic dual enrollment courses; and, many calculate all academic classes in determining your recomputed GPA.

1. Use these point values to calculate GPA for college admission.

* A= 4.0, B= 3.0, C= 2.0, \*D= 1.0 (\*Some schools do not recognize a D grade)
* Each honors level course grade = \*.50 weighted point value.
* Each AP course = 1.0 weighted value
* Each academic dual enrollment course = 1.0 weighted value.

1. Add up total point value for college credit courses
2. Divide total point value by the number of courses to arrive at estimated college admissions.

**NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (NCAA)**

If you plan to play Division I or II college sports, you must register with the NCAA prior to graduation from high school. Prior to consideration for a scholarship award, you must have made application to the eligibility center. (Fee required)

The NCAA Eligibility Center registration is available online at:

<https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/>. Read and complete the application carefully. A strict NCAA recomputed GPA will be determined by NCAA. Your required SAT/ACT scores are determined by NCAA based on your NCAA GPA.

NOTE: IF YOU ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP MONEY, IT IS ADVISABLE TO COMPLETE A TRANSCRIPT REQUEST FORM GIVING PERMISSION TO MIHS TO SEND YOUR TRANSCRIPT TO SCHOOLS AS REQUESTED. SIMPLY INDICATE ON A REQUEST FORM THAT IT IS YOUR CHOICE AND WE WILL SEND YOUR TRANSCRIPT TO ANY SCHOOL REQUESTING IT. THIS REQUEST WILL BE HOUSED IN YOUR TRANSCRIPT FILE IN GUIDANCE AND CAN BE ADJUSTED AT YOUR DISCRETION.

**FEE WAIVERS**

With documented financial need (free or reduced lunch qualification, federal assistance, etc.), the following fees may be waived:

1. Up to two (2) SAT and six (6) SAT Subject Tests registration
2. Two (2) ACT registration
3. Up to four (4) application fees to participating colleges/universities with one SAT waiver
4. PROFILE application
5. NCAA application (must use SAT or ACT fee waiver to qualify for NCAA fee waiver)
6. Transcript requests



See your counselor for further information/clarification regarding fee waiver eligibility.

**CHECKLIST FOR A CAMPUS VISIT**

* Meet with an Admission Counselor
* Verify admission requirements
* Determine actual college costs
* Ask about financial aid opportunities
* Take a campus tour
* Investigate your academic program(s)
* Attend a class
* Talk with students and faculty
* Discuss your chances for success:



…admission

…graduation

…placement

1

College Comparison Worksheet

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| COLLEGE NAME: |  |  |  |
| LOCATION:   * Distance from Home |  |  |  |
| SIZE:   * Enrollment * Physical size of campus |  |  |  |
| ENVIRONMENT:   * Type of School (2/4 year) * School setting (urban, rural) * Location & size of near cities * Co-ed, male, female * Religious, affiliation |  |  |  |
| ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS   * Deadline * Tests required * Average test scores, GPA, rank * Notification |  |  |  |
| ACADEMICS   * Your major offered * Special requirements * Accreditation * Student-facility ratio * Typical class size |  |  |  |
| COLLEGE EXPENSES   * Tuition, room & board * Estimation total budget * Application fee, deposits |  |  |  |
| FINANCIAL AID   * Deadline * Required forms * % receiving aid * Scholarship |  |  |  |
| HOUSING   * Residence hall requirements * Food plan |  |  |  |
| FACILITIES   * Academic * Recreational * Other |  |  |  |
| ACTIVITIES   * Clubs, organizations * Greek life * Athletics, intramurals * Other |  |  |  |
| CAMPUS VISITS   * When * Special opportunities |  |  |  |

**ROAD MAP FOR THE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY BOUND SENIOR:**

FALL SEMESTER ACTIVITIES:

1. Identify the colleges/universities you would like to attend.
2. Apply to the chosen schools (in a perfect world, you would apply to four-six schools, with one or two dream schools, one or two schools that are competitive but you should get into, and then one or two fallback schools that you would be comfortable going to if you didn’t get in anywhere else.)
3. When applying, the schools prefer online applications, but if not available, request the paper version. (GOOD ADVICE: Also apply for housing as soon as it is offered.)
4. If you need recommendations, please furnish a resume to the person you are asking and allow them ample time to write the recommendation (at least three weeks.)
5. After applying, request your transcript in guidance.
6. Stay in constant contact with the admissions offices at the colleges/universities that you have applied to (Just to make sure that they have everything they need from you.)
7. If you are an athlete and want to play on the college level, make sure to take care of the NCAA eligibility center forms.
8. Keep your GRADES UP!!!!
9. Retest on the SAT or ACT if you want to improve your score or qualify for another scholarship.
10. See if the school of your choice requires SAT Subject Tests scores (only the most prestigious colleges usually ask for them.)
11. Make sure that you’ve applied for the Bright Futures scholarship (done with guidance counselor thru English classes in October.) If you have no English class or are absent that day you must apply online at [www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org)
12. Apply for financial aid. Check to see which form your college accepts (most use the FAFSA form, but the elite private schools utilize the profile form. FAFSA application opens October 1st)
13. HAVE FUN!!!!

SPRING SEMESTER ACTIVITIES:

1. KEEP YOUR GRADES UP!!!!!
2. Retest on the SAT/ACT if you need to and take the SAT Subject Tests if needed.
3. After you’ve been accepted at various schools, make your final decision as to which one you will attend.
4. Make sure you graduate!! (That means keeping up grades!)
5. Make sure to send a final transcript to the college/university of your choice after graduation.

**Please note: Anytime you have difficulty during this process, see your guidance counselor immediately for help!**

**ROAD MAP FOR THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOUND SENIOR:**

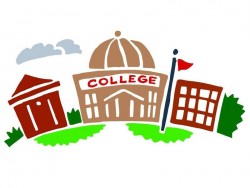
FALL SEMESTER ACTIVITIES:

1. Identify the community college you would like to attend.
2. Identify the degree program that you would like to enroll in (associate in arts, associate in science, or post-secondary vocational certificate/see handout).
3. Keep your grades up!!!
4. If you haven’t done so already, take the SAT or ACT. If you have tested already, think about taking it again to raise your test scores and scholarship chances.
5. Make sure that you’ve applied for the Bright Futures scholarship (done with guidance in October).
6. Apply for financial aid by completing the FAFSA. (Application opens October 1st)

 SPRING SEMESTER ACTIVITIES:

1. Apply to the community college of your choice in the spring of your senior year.
2. Apply for financial aid by completing the FAFSA, if not already done.
3. Keep your grades up!!!!!
4. Retest on the SAT/ACT if needed.
5. Make sure you graduate!! (that means KEEPING UP YOUR GRADES!!!!)
6. Make sure to order a final transcript to be sent to the community college of your choice after graduation.

**Please note: Anytime you have difficulty during this process, see your guidance counselor immediately for help!**

****

4

ARE YOU TIRED OF GOING IN CIRCLES REGARDING COLLEGE AND FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION……

THEN WORRY NO LONGER!!!!!!

JUST USE THESE HANDY WEBSITES TO ANSWER ALL OF YOUR QUESTIONS.

COLLEGE WEBSITES:

FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY [www.famu.edu](http://www.famu.edu)

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY [www.fau.edu](http://www.fau.edu)

FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY [www.fgcu.edu](http://www.fgcu.edu)

FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC www.floridapoly.edu

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY [www.fsu.edu](http://www.fsu.edu)

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY www.fiu.edu

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA www.ucf.edu

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA www.ufl.edu

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA [www.usf.edu](http://www.usf.edu)

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA www.unf.edu

UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA [www.uwf.edu](http://www.uwf.edu)

EASTERN FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE [www.easternflorida.edu](http://www.easternflorida.edu)

FLORIDA SHINES [www.floridashines.org](http://www.floridashines.org)

FINANCIAL AID WEBSITES

FAFSA ON THE WEB (FREE APPLICATION FOR STUDENT AID) [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

COLLEGE NET [www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)

FINAID [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

FASTWEB [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

BRIGHT FUTURES www. floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

PETERSONS [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)

COLLEGEBOARD [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

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

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

PRINCETON REVIEW [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)

CAMPUS TOURS [www.campustours.com](http://www.campustours.com)

US NEWS & WORLD REPORT [www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com)

NUMBER 2 [www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com)

INTERNET SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH WEBSITES

COLLEGE BOARD SCHOLARSHIP <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>

COLLEGE NET MACH 25 <http://scholarshipopportunity.org/collegenetmach-25/>

MOLIS (MINORITY STUDENTS) www.finaid.org/otheraid/minority.phtml

SALLIE MAC SCHOLARSHIP [www.scholarships.salliemae.com](http://www.scholarships.salliemae.com)

FAST WEB [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

COLLEGE VIEW [www.livecollegeview.com](http://www.livecollegeview.com)

BRIGHT FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP www. floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org

THE AMERICAN LEGION [www.legion.org/scholarships](http://www.legion.org/scholarships)

CASHE: FINANCIAL AID RESOURCE [www.cache.edu/financial](http://www.cache.edu/financial)

STUDENT LOAN SPECIALISTS [www.studentloanspecialist.net](http://www.studentloanspecialist.net)

NATIONAL FINANCIAL AID [www.nasfaa.org](http://www.nasfaa.org)

US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

COOPERATIVE LIVING ORGANIZATION [www.cloliving.org](http://www.cloliving.org)

SCHOOL SOUP SCHOLARSHIPS <http://scholarshipopportunity.org>

UPROMISE SAVINGS [www.upromise.com](http://www.upromise.com)



6

**ADVICE FOR F.T.I.C’S**

(F.T.I.C. IS AN ACRONYM FOR FIRST TIME IN COLLEGE STUDENT)

As I look around at the students in my classes, it is easy to identify those first time in college freshmen known to most college admissions personnel as F.T.I.C.’s. They are the ones sporting bags underneath their eyes caused by sleep deprivation, because they were scrambling around late last night writing their papers or cramming for a test on Friday morning. F.T.I.C.’s has not learned the important lesson of self-discipline, that pesky little trait that keeps students on task, teaches them to be an advocate for themselves, and forces them to develop study skills. Unfortunately, I speak from personal experience: I am a fourth semester freshman who had to learn the hard way.

When I graduated from high school, I thought I could endure any academic challenge; however, I quickly found out that college was unlike anything I had experienced in high school. plummeting from an average B student to a sub 1.7 GPA by the end of my third semester away from home, I packed up my belongings and admitted to myself that I had not been ready for the life of a university student. Angry, resentful and bitter, I went home, took the summer off, and arriving at my senses-enrolled in Brevard Community College for the fall. It is here where I have found that self-discipline I lacked while in Gainesville. Realization struck: in order to succeed in the real world one must possess the desire and drive to work as hard as possible. I had to develop the ability to put off having fun until my work was completed.

The second important piece of advice I want to pass to the F.T.I.C.’s is to advocate for themselves-to become pro-active and persistent. In college no one holds a student’s hand. whether it be scheduling for classes or paying for that parking ticket, all decisions are left up to the student. I also speak from experience on this matter: I have a learning disability. In high school, the teachers had been informed about my learning disability and knew the accommodations that I needed for testing. As an F.T.I.C., I soon learned I would have to seek out the Dean of the Office for Students with Disabilities in order to obtain the assistance I would need. As soon as I gained the courage to do that, I then inherited the responsibility for informing my professors. Unbelievably, to obtain accommodations for my disability, I had to become my own spokesperson. Worse, I also had to be persistent-not an easy task for a shy, reserved and modest student. Weekly, I had to remind my professors of modifications we had agreed on. For example, I am permitted extra test-taking time; I had to assume the responsibility for coordinating the process with each of my professors. Each professor seemed to possess the uncanny ability to specify methods for accommodations totally unique to him or her. As a learning disabled person who thrives on organization and consistency, dealing with these different personalities and their requirements can drive a person to insanity. Professors and administrations are willing to help, but the student has to put the first step forward.

Thirdly, every F.T.I.C. needs to learn how to be a good student. Aside from developing self-discipline, students must learn to study effectively and efficiently. For some students the SQ3R works. This method consists of surveying the material, posing questions about the material, reading, reviewing, and reciting the material. Another skill all students must know is how to take notes whether it is from a lecture or from a book. Equally important, F.T.I.C.’s must develop strong test taking skills such as knowing how to predict test questions and to lowering test anxiety. Equipped with these skills F.T.I.C’s stand a chance at surviving.

The most important lesson I learned while away from home was that I need self-discipline in order to go anywhere in life. I had to learn the hard way, but in the process I found out what kind of student I want to be. With a little patience and a lot of hard work I hope that I can bring up that GPA and move on. I can only hope that the next batch of F.T.I.C. freshmen will not make the same mistakes I have. Remember the most valuable lesson to be learned by F.T.I.C’s is that school precedes partying.

***Note: This student was a student at the University of North Florida and graduated in May 2002.***

11

**SENIOR YEAR COLLEGE CHECKLIST**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| AUGUST | JANUARY |
| * Register for SAT/ACT. | * Attend Brevard Schools Financial Aid seminar |
| * Note September ACT deadline | * Check all deadlines. |
| * Register for SAT Subject Tests (If required) | * Continue college application process. |
| * Edit/polish generic goals essay. | FEBRUARY |
| * Complete/polish resume. | * Complete FAFSA process if not done already. |
| * Complete autobiography. | * Note March SAT deadline. |
| * Complete college visits. | * Note April ACT deadline. |
| * Narrow down college application list. | * Check all deadlines: admissions, financial aid, scholarships, housing, etc. |
| * Obtain/start college applications. | * Continue college application process. |
| * Compile list of all deadlines: admissions, financial aid, scholarships, housing, etc. | MARCH |
| * Complete Profile, if required for $$ aid. | * Check all deadlines. |
| SEPTEMBER | * Complete FAFSA process if not done already. |
| * Check all deadlines. | * Check college acceptance notification deadlines. |
| * Note October SAT deadline. | * Check for acceptance letters. |
| * Note October ACT deadline. | * Check for possible $$ aid awards. |
| * Note November SAT deadline. | * Note May SAT deadline. |
| * Attend on campus sessions with admissions reps. | APRIL |
| * Continue college application process. | * Check all deadlines. |
| * Acquire recommendations. | * Continue to check mail for college acceptance letters. |
| OCTOBER | * Begin process to decide which college you will attend. |
| * Check all deadlines. | * Notify schools you will not attend. |
| * Continue college application process. | * Note June SAT deadline. |
| * Attend Brevard Schools College Night. | * Note June ACT registration deadline. |
| * Attend college visits on CB campus. | * WARNING! June-last chance to get BF test scores! |
| * Note December SAT deadline. | MAY |
| * Note December ACT deadline. | * Finalize decision regarding college you will attend. |
| * Complete FAFSA Free Application for Federal Student Aid. | * Notify schools you will not attend. |
| * Apply for Bright Futures. | * Complete final transcript request form for final transcript to be sent to school of choice. |
| NOVEMBER | * GRADUATE!!!!! |
| * Check all deadlines. | * YOU DID IT!!!! Now you are ready to go…….. |
| * Continue college application process. |  |
| DECEMBER |
| * Check all deadlines |
| * Continue college application process. |
| * Note January SAT registration deadlines. |
| * Note February ACT deadlines. |
|  |

7

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| College | Application | Housing | Financial Aid | Other |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |



DEADLINES