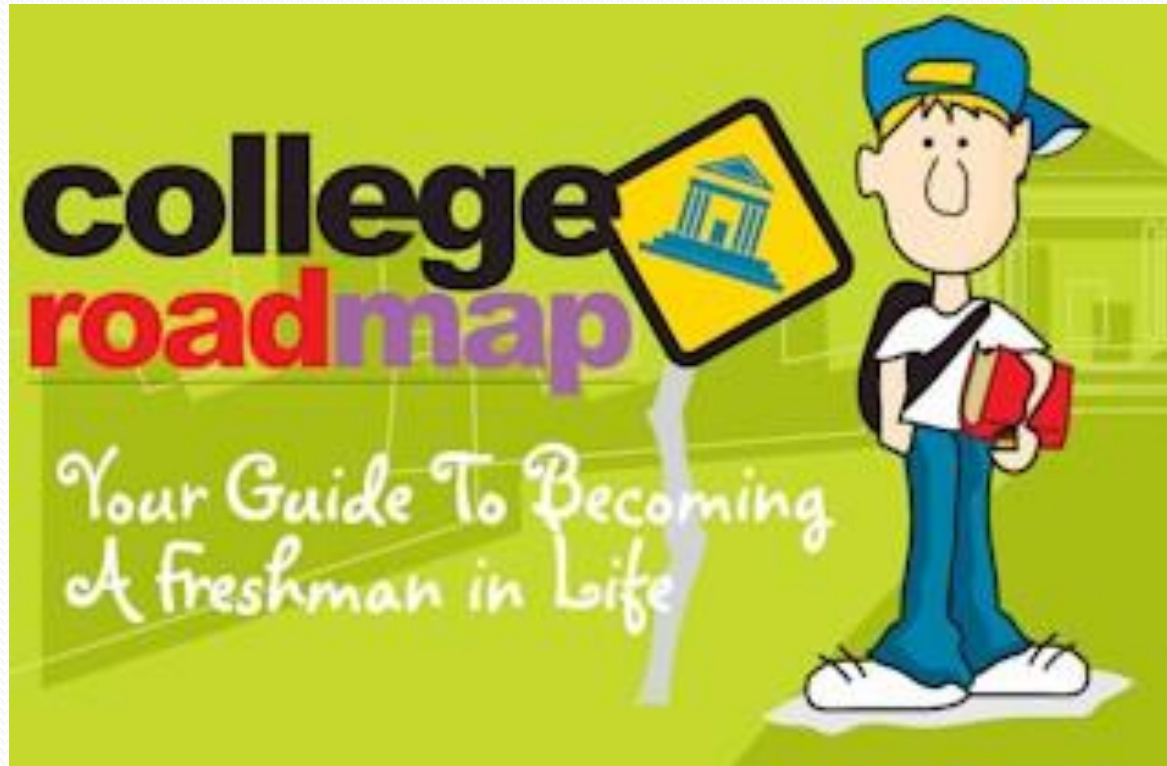




Preparing for College

The Roadmap to Success



SENIOR Calendar ACTION PLAN:

1. Make a master calendar and note:
 - a. Test dates, fees, and deadlines
 - b. Community or State Colleges are open enrollment
 - c. Transcripts, and Test Scores
2. Use Scholarship Search @ Bigfuture or FastWeb
3. Stay focused on your grades.
8. Take ACT or SAT before January 31st to satisfy graduation requirement
9. Complete Community Service Graduation Requirement (25 hours for each year enrolled in High School at ACA)
10. File Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) after October 1st and FAFSA application after October 1st.





Applying for College Admissions





Submitting Your Application

- **Follow the rules:** If an application asks you to choose one essay, don't answer them all. Read the application directions completely before answering any questions. **Only provide the information the college is looking for. If they need additional information they will request it.**
- **Include everything:** Verify all forms have been signed and that you've included all essays and recommendations requested. Double check everything before you send it.
- **Proof:** Proof read your application before you send it and correct any errors. Also have someone else proof read as a precaution.
- **Email:** Set up a professional Email account for correspondence.
- **Transcripts:** Request official transcript from high school registrar and from college registrar if you are a dual enrollment student.
- **Create Parchment Account** – Fastest way to send transcript

Road Trip



Checklist For a Campus Visit

- **Schedule an appointment:** Be ready with multiple dates and times. Avoid major events or holidays. Arrange to speak with the financial aid, admissions and career offices. Ask about a guided tour.
- **Take notes as you visit:** If you visit several colleges (especially in one day), the details can get blurry.
- **View other campus buildings:** cafeterias, computer labs, health and recreational facilities, the library, etc.



Show Me The Money

Financial Aid For College



Steps for Applying for Financial Aid

- **Apply for admission as well as financial aid:** Before a student's chances for aid can be determined, many colleges require both an application for admission and for financial aid. Application deadlines vary from institution to institution so apply as early as you can.
- **Submit required financial aid forms:** File all forms for financial aid consideration at the college(s) you are contemplating. This includes the correct year's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You only file one FAFSA regardless of how many colleges you are considering. The FAFSA includes a section for the student to list the colleges to which they want information sent.
- **Filing your FAFSA:** A FAFSA application may be filed anytime after October 1st of your senior year in high school.

FEDERAL STUDENT AID

Money for College

What is Federal Student Aid?

- Federal student aid comes from the federal government, specifically, the U.S. Department of Education.
- Federal Student Aid covers such expenses as tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies and transportation. Aid can also help pay for a computer and for dependent care.
- There are four categories of federal student aid:
 - ❖ **Grant** – Grant money usually does not have to be repaid and is based on a student's financial need (Pell Grant)
 - ❖ **Scholarship** – U.S. Department of Education scholarship money is awarded based on a student's academic achievement and does not have to be repaid
 - ❖ **Work-study** – Work study money is earned by a student through a job on or near campus while attending school and does not have to be repaid.
 - ❖ **Loan** – Loan money must be repaid with interest.
- ❖ For details about student aid programs visit www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/guide.

FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP

Qualification Guidelines and Award Amounts

- Must be a Florida resident and graduate from a Florida public or private high school
- Florida **Academic** Scholars Award -3.5 weighted GPA, 1330* SAT score or 29 ACT composite score and ***100 hours of community service.**
- Florida **Medallion** Scholars Award – 3.0 weighted GPA, ***1210* SAT score or a 25* ACT composite score, 75 community service hours required**
- Students must submit a Bright Future Application before their graduation date.
- Bright Future Scholarships are automatic renewals while in college.
- For the Florida **Academic** Scholars Award student must maintain a 3.0 unrounded/unweighted GPA while in college
- For the Florida **Medallion** Scholars Award student must maintain a 2.75 unrounded/unweighted GPA while in college
- For additional Information about award amounts visit:
www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org

ADDITIONAL FLORIDA FINANCIAL AID SCHOLARSHIPS

- **FSAG** – Florida Student Assistance Grant. Each participating institution determines application procedures, deadlines, student eligibility and award amounts. Maximum award is \$1808
- **The Florida Public Postsecondary Career Education Student Assistance Grant (FSAG-CE)**. Available to students enrolled in Certificate programs of at least 450 hours or 15 semester hours.
- **The First Generation Matching Grant Program (FGMG)**- Need based and available to students whose parents have not earned baccalaureate or higher degrees.
- **The Florida Work Experience Program (FWEP)**– Provides eligible Florida students work experiences to complement and reinforce their educational and career goals.
- **Jose Marti Scholarship Challenge Grant Fund** – Provides financial assistance to eligible Hispanic-American students.
- **Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship Program** – MMB provides financial assistance to undergraduate students who meet scholastic requirements, demonstrate financial need and attend Bethune –Cookman University, Edward Waters College, Florida A&M University or Florida Memorial University.

10 SCHOLARSHIP SCAM WARNING SIGNS

- **Fees:** Scammers use bogus fees such as “application,” “disbursement,” “redemption,” and “processing fees” as a way to take your money. Scholarships should not require any fee.
- **Credit Card or Bank information needed:** never give credit card or bank account info to receive aid
- **Scholarship guarantee:** No one controls judge’s decisions
- **No work involved:** Legitimate scholarship applications require time and energy
- **No contact information:** before you apply confirm the sponsor’s contact info. The sponsor should always supply a valid e-mail address, phone number or mailing address (not a PO box) upon request
- **Unsolicited scholarships:** If you are called to receive an award for which you never applied, be alert. Ask where the sponsor got your name and follow up.
- **Pressure Tactics:** Don’t allow yourself to be pressured into applying for a scholarship, especially if the sponsor is asking you to pay money up front.
- **Claims of “exclusive” scholarships:** legitimate sponsors won’t restrict knowledge about their award to a single service.
- **An official-sounding name or endorsement doesn’t automatically mean legitimacy:** A sponsor may use words like “national,” “education” or “federal” or have an official-looking seal, but might still be a scammer.
- **Your questions aren’t answered directly:** If you can’t get a straight answer from a sponsor regarding their application or what will be done with the information, proceed with caution

If someone is asking for money just turn and walk away

KEY TERMS FOR FINANCIAL AID

- **Florida Academic Scholars Award** – 100% Bright Future Award
- **Florida Medallion Scholars Award** – 75% Bright Future Award
- **SAR** – Student Aid Report is a summary of the information you entered on the FAFSA
- **FAFSA** – Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The FAFSA must be filled out in order to receive any federal financial aid such as grants, loans scholarships or work study's.
- **EFC** – Expected Family Contribution is the amount your family will be expected to pay based on your situation. The EFC is calculated by using your family's income, the number of family members, net value of assets and your enrollment status.
- **FFAA** – Florida Financial Aid Application is the Florida Bright Future Application and must be filled out by the student prior to graduation. Application only has to be filled out once. The Bright Future Scholarship is a renewable scholarship each semester as long as the student maintains the required GPA while in college.
- **FASTWEB** – Number one search engine for finding scholarships. You can register for this free service at www.fastweb.com

IMPORTANT DATES

- **October 1st** – FFAA - Bright Future Scholarship Application Available online
- **October 1st** FAFSA application available online
- **January 31st** – Must have one ACT or SAT test score on file in school office for graduation requirement.
- **February 1st** – 1st deadline for submission of Bright Future Application to receive eligibility letter in March.
- **May 20th** – Deadline to submit Bright Future Application

ACT test dates 2022 - 2023

September 10
October 22
December 10
February 11
April 15
June 10
July 15



SAT test dates for 2022 -2023

August 27
October 1
November 5
December 3
March 11
May 6
June 3

FINAL DECISION: COLLEGE CHOICE

Here are some tips to help you make your final decision once you have narrowed your college choices.

COLLEGE COST

- What is my actual cost? Look at other expenses beyond the “sticker price” for tuition. (Transportation, Food, Books, Lab fees, Computer/Internet, Insurance and Housing)
- What is the average increase in tuition and other costs from year to year?
- What are the opportunities for employment on or near campus?

ACADEMICS

- How easy is it to switch majors?
- How will Dual Enrollment and Honors credits be counted?
- What percentage of students graduate in four years?
- What kind of career planning services are available?

LIVING ON OR OFF CAMPUS

- Is your prospective college safe
- What meal options are available?
- What kind of health facilities and services does the college offer?
- Available off campus housing? Cost?

FINAL TIPS AND TIDBITS

- **Submit** your final transcript request to the Registrar's office in May before you graduate. Transcripts will be sent to the college you designate as soon as final grades have been posted and transcripts are available. Don't wait until the last minute to make your request. Plan ahead and submit early.
- Register for **Parchment** for transcript submittals online directly to the college or university.
- Dual Enrollment students will need to request transcript from NFC to be sent directly to college or university