

College Information Night for Seniors

September 5, 2024



Stay Informed!

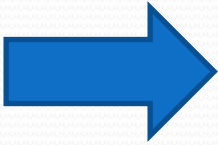
- **Class of 2025 Schoology course**
- **MHS Website**
 - **College and Career Center page**



Important Dates for Seniors

- Page 5 in your handbook
- General timeline by month to help you stay on track

Post Secondary Options

- 4- year college/university = Bachelor's degree
- 2-year college  transfer to 4-year college/university = “2+2” = Bachelor's degree
- 2 year degree = A.S. degree
- Vocational colleges = training for career

Researching Colleges & Careers

- **Big Future**
- **Xello**
- **College websites**

Big Future

Available any time to any student

- All students can access the free website

Explore careers

- Start from a curated list of 30 careers based on interests and skills using career quiz to discover their best fit

Plan for college

- Students can learn more about 4,400 institutions

Pay for college

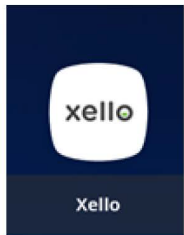
- Monthly BigFuture scholarships

Incentivizes students to plan.

- Take action on BigFuture for college, career and financial planning and get entered into a scholarship drawing

XELLO

Create your very own, unique roadmap
for future success



- Use Xello today to explore careers, match to careers based on your interests, create a resume and more!
- Every student has a free Xello account!
- Look for the Xello tile on your SSO (Single Sign On)

Researching and Visiting Colleges

- MHS College Fair – Sept. 23rd
- District Post-Secondary Education Night -Sept. 23rd
- Visit college campus in person or virtually
- College 101 from Florida Shines



State Colleges/Technical Colleges

- State Colleges – like State College of Florida
 - There are 28 state colleges around Florida
 - Option for “2+2”
- Technical Colleges – like Manatee Technical College

SAT/ACT/CLT Tests

- Required for many 4-year colleges
 - And for Florida Bright Futures Scholarships
- **Be aware of registration deadlines**
- Be aware of college deadlines to receive test scores

Application Process

1. The Application

- How?
- When?
- Application fee

2. Courses & Grades (Transcripts)

- Official from MHS or self reported

3. Official SAT/ACT/CLT test scores

- Testing again?

4. Additional Materials?

What Happens Next?

Application Status Check/Portal

- Be sure to check your status
- Make sure all materials have been received
- **Complete any additional requirements** – like the SSAR



Read the instructions carefully!

Every college/university does it differently

Questions? **Call the college!** They are the experts on their application – so don't hesitate to contact them

DEADLINES ARE CRITICAL!

Be aware! After you submit the initial application there may be additional materials required!

Example - UF

STEPS TO *Apply:*

**Read instructions
on the
college/university
website!**

1 Gather your materials.

+

2 Complete all sections of the application.

+

3 Pay the application fee.

+

4 Create your Gator Portal credentials.

+

Example - UF

5

Courses and Grades: The SSAR

+

6

Upload your test scores.

+

7

Check your status.

+

THAT'S IT. YOU'VE APPLIED! *Congrats!*

Common Application

- **Create your account**
- **Complete general sections** including your profile, family information, courses/grades, activities, etc.
- **Add colleges**
 - You will see deadlines, supplemental documents required, sections of Common App they don't use, etc. as well as college specific questions
 - Invite your counselor to upload school information
 - Invite teachers if letters of rec are accepted
- Read instructions on the college websites – many use only some parts of Common App and/or need separate information

Self-reported Student Academic Record – the SSAR

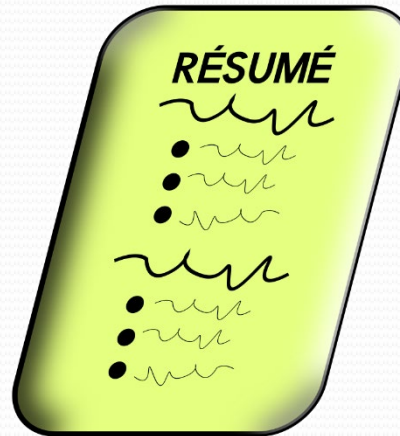
- Required by many universities in Florida (and around the country)
- Separate requirement/form from the application
 - If you send a transcript to a college that requires the SSAR, it will not be used. You must do the SSAR!
- Colleges will have links on their websites to the form
- Colleges also have deadlines that the SSAR must be submitted

Letters of Recommendation

- Not every college requires them
 - If they don't accept them, don't send them!
- Give teachers/counselors at least two weeks notice!

Resume

- All activities while in high school
 - Clubs, sports, volunteer service, work, honors, awards
- Include number of years involved and hours per week or hours per month
- Quality vs Quantity



College Essays

- Convey meaningful experiences/lessons/reflections on an event in a student's life
- Opportunity for you to personalize your application, a chance to tell the admissions officer who you are as a person -- beyond grades and test scores.
- Provide insight that might not appear anywhere else in the application.

Financial Aid

- Determine **Cost Of Attendance**
 - Tuition and fees
 - Room and Board (meal plan)
 - Books and Supplies
 - Personal Expenses
 - Transportation
- Look for information on the college websites



Four Key Steps to Financial Aid

1. Federal Aid – FAFSA

- **Need based** - federal grants, student loans, work study

2. FFAA– Florida Financial Aid Application

- **Merit based** – grades, test scores, volunteer hours
- Review requirements carefully!

3. Institutional Aid

- From the colleges

4. Private Scholarships

- National and local

FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid

The most important financial aid document!

- Based on your **2023** tax information
- Determines federal aid based on family income
- Grants, loans, work study
- Opens on **December 1, 2024**

Financial Aid Funding



Why FAFSA?

- Can be the most money to assist with the cost of college
- Billions of dollars up for grabs
- Colleges may use it to award Institutional Aid
- Students and parents complete their sections – both must sign

FAFSA Myths

- My parents make too much – I won't qualify
- Only students with good grades get the money
- My parents are not US citizens so I can't apply
- The application is too hard and takes too long



FSA ID

- To electronically sign the FAFSA
- Student must have one
- Parent must have one
- Must be different
- Each must have a unique cell phone number and/or email address

Save the Date!

- **MHS FAFSA Workshop**
- October 24th – 6:00pm – 7:30pm – MHS Media Center
- Create your FSA ID
- Get information about how/when to fill out the FAFSA form

State Aid – Florida Financial Aid Application

- Seniors must complete the FFAA application to be eligible for state aid
 - More than just Bright Futures
- Opens October 1st
- Merit based aid – GPA, test scores and community service/work hours
- ALL seniors should complete it - only takes about 10 minutes



You must apply to be considered for state aid!

Institutional Aid

- **Merit-Based Aid from the Colleges/Universities**
 - **Admissions Scholarships**
 - Based on ACT/SAT/GPA
 - Many universities have admissions scholarships, but they all have different rules and deadlines. Contact their Office of Admissions for more information
 - Start early! Some schools stop awarding these scholarships as early as November
- **Need-Based Aid from the Colleges/Universities**
 - **COMPLETE THE FAFSA!** Check the college deadlines for FAFSA!

Private Scholarships



The screenshot displays the Manatee High School website. At the top, a navigation menu includes links for Home, Academics, Activities, Athletics, Directory, Parents & Students, Seniors, and Volunteers. Below this is the school's logo, a stylized 'M' with a hurricane, and the text 'MANATEE HIGH' and 'Home of the Hurricanes'. On the right, there is a 'District Home' link and language options for 'English' and 'Spanish'. A central row of red buttons with white icons provides access to various resources: Academic Dashboard, Calendar, Careers, Curriculum, Fiscal Transparency, FOCUS, Good News, MySDMC SSO, Public Notices, Registration, and School Menus. On the left, a blue sidebar features the heading 'Career and Technical Education' and a paragraph stating: 'CTE classes provide challenging, coherent course sequences that are a roadmap to future career goals. Students are able to explore careers and have the opportunity to earn industry certifications.' Below this text is a link that says 'LEARN MORE ABOUT CTE →'. The background of the website shows a blurred image of students in a classroom setting.

MANATEE HIGH
Home of the Hurricanes

[District Home](#)
[English](#) | [Spanish](#)

[Academic Dashboard](#) [Calendar](#) [Careers](#) [Curriculum](#) [Fiscal Transparency](#) [FOCUS](#) [Good News](#) [MySDMC SSO](#) [Public Notices](#) [Registration](#) [School Menus](#)

Career and Technical Education

CTE classes provide challenging, coherent course sequences that are a roadmap to future career goals. Students are able to explore careers and have the opportunity to earn industry certifications.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT CTE →](#)

Private Scholarships

Other scholarship search websites:

- College Board Scholarship Search
 - College Board Opportunity Scholarships
 - Fast Web
-
- See page 21 in the handbook

Helpful Websites



College Information Night For Seniors

***Congratulations Class
of 2025!***

