

College Information Night for Seniors

September 7, 2023



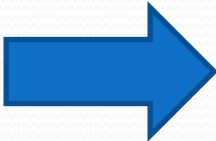
Resources

- **MHS College Handbook**
- **College and Career Center**
- **School Counselors**
- **Class of 2024 Schoology course**
- **Website**

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 and Visiting Colleges

- **Big Future**
- **Florida Shines**
- **College websites**

Researching and Visiting Colleges

- MHS College Fair – Sept. 11th
- District Post-Secondary Education Night -Sept. 11th
- Visit college campus in person or virtually
- NACAC College Fairs
- College 101 from Florida Shines



Assessing Career Goals

Career or major may help you decide on a college/type of college

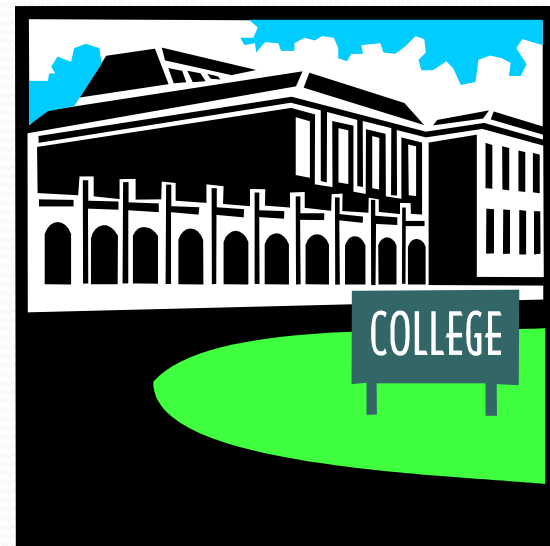


State Colleges/Technical Colleges

- State Colleges – like State College of Florida
 - There are 28 state colleges around Florida
 - Option for “2+2”
- Technical Colleges – like Manatee Technical College
- See page 8 in your handbook for more information

Assessing Your List of Colleges

- Fit?
- Major or areas of interest?
- Application process?
- Deadlines?



SAT and ACT 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. Transcripts

- Official from MHS or self reported

3. Official SAT and ACT test scores

- Testing again?

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!

□ FAQs – see page 13

Common Application/Self Reported Transcripts

Common App

- about 1,000 colleges/universities
- read instructions on the college websites **FIRST**

Self Reported Transcripts – “SSAR”

- many universities in Florida
- separate requirement
- have deadlines

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

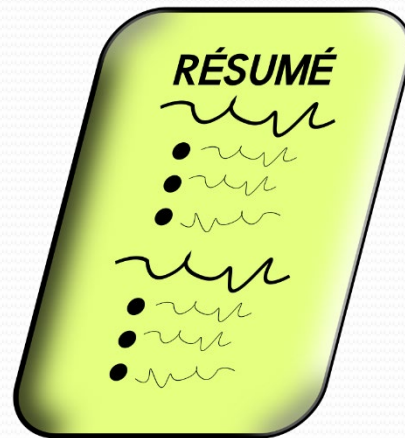


Letters of Recommendation

- **At least two weeks notice!**
- Ask the counselor or teacher before you send them an electronic request
- Provide information to help them write a great letter
 - Complete the form available in the CCC
 - Attach your resume

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



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.
- New Paper program – beyond tutoring – can provide feedback on essays

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

Save the Date!

- MHS Financial Aid Information Night
- October 24th – 6:30pm

FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid

The most important financial aid document!

The FAFSA has undergone an overhaul – the application will not open until sometime in December 2023.

- Stay tuned for updates throughout the Fall

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
- Many scholarships require a FAFSA to be filed

State Aid – Florida Financial Aid Application

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

Florida Bright Futures



FFAA opens October 1st

You can apply even if you are still working towards the requirements

See your counselor for community service/work hour approval


Be sure to complete the FFAA!!

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














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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
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- See page 21 in the handbook

Helpful Websites



College Information Night For Seniors

***Congratulations Class
of 2024!***

