College Information Night for Seniors
September 20, 2023

Welcome Back!

<u>Know your counselor.</u> Senior year is a fun and exciting time, but it is important to stay organized to minimize the stress you may feel.

- Diana Ansbro (A – Da)
- Monica Quinn (Db – He)
- Tracy Jordan (Hf – Mi)
- Kelly Bowling (Mj – Sc)
- Cathy Wincelowicz (Sd – Z)
- Aubrey Rife – College & Career Advisor
- Erin Koerper-Novarro – SDMC Career Pathways Coordinator

Resources

- **Manatee County Senior Handbook**
- **College and Career Center**
- **School Counselors**
- **Class of 2024 Schoology Page**
- **PCHS Website**

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

Assessing Career Goals

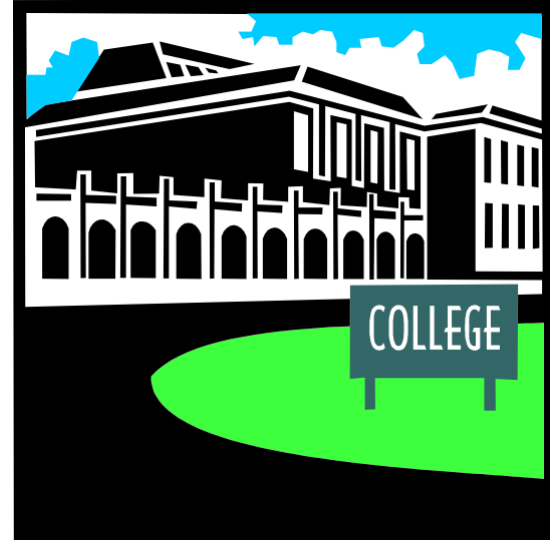Career or major may help you decide on a college/type of college

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

Assessing Your List of Colleges

- Fit?

- Major or areas of interest?

- Application process?

- Deadlines?

College Application Process

- ✓ Research
- ✓ Choose Where to Apply
- ✓ Take Standardized Tests
- ✓ Plan When to Apply
- ✓ Complete Your Application
- ✓ Apply for Financial Aid
- ✓ Choose Where to Attend

Early Action/Priority Application Deadlines

FAMU	**FAU**	**Florida Gulf Coast University**	**FIU**	**FLORIDA POLY**	**FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY 1851**
11/1	11/1	11/1	10/23	11/15	10/15

New College of Florida	**UCF UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA**	**UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA**	**UNF UNIVERSITY of NORTH FLORIDA**	**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA**	**UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA**
11/1	11/1	11/1	11/1	11/1	12/1

Completing the Application

1) Know which deadline you are going to choose.

   a. Early Decision - binding

   b. Early Action – nonbinding

   c. Regular Decision

2) What platform are you going to use?

   a. [Common App](#)

   b. Institutional App

3) What is required?

   a. Social Security #

   b. High School Address

   c. SAT or ACT Scores

   d. Parent's education information

   e. Essay

   f. Letter of Recommendation

4) Housing Applications?

5) Fee required?

6) Review everything before submitting.

Transcripts

Unofficial – See Ms. Jacoby in the registrar's office or ask your counselor for a copy. Transcripts may not be emailed.

Official – Request either through Student FOCUS Account or through the District Website.

Self-Reported Transcript – SSAR or SPARK (UCF only)
If the college requires the SSAR, this replaces the high school transcript for initial review. If accepted to the school, an official transcript will be required to verify successful completion of courses and validate the grades entered on the self report.

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
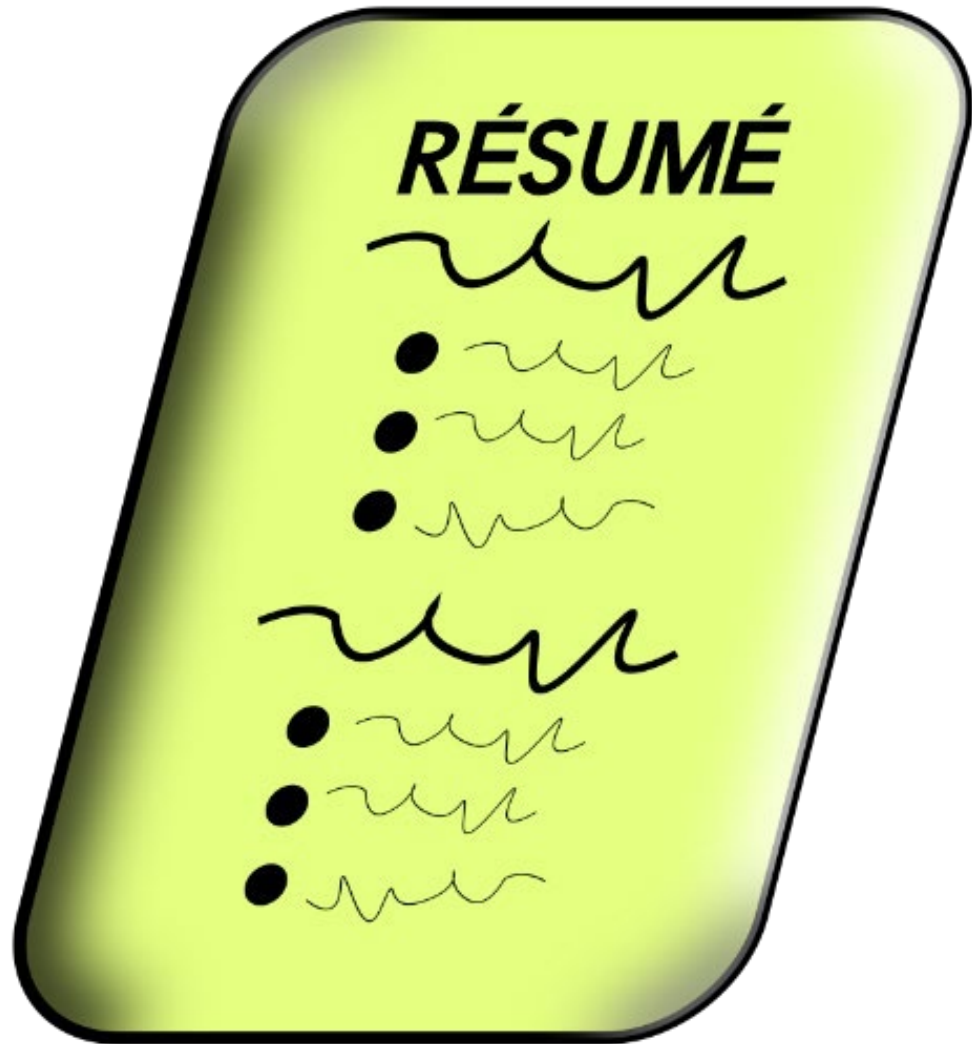- **CHECK YOUR EMAIL!**

Letters of Recommendation

- **<u>At least two weeks notice!</u>**
- Ask the counselor or teacher before you send them an electronic request.
- **<u>Do not submit a letter of recommendation if it is not asked for.</u>**
- Provide information to help them write a great letter
  - <u>Complete the form available on the website</u>.
  - 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.
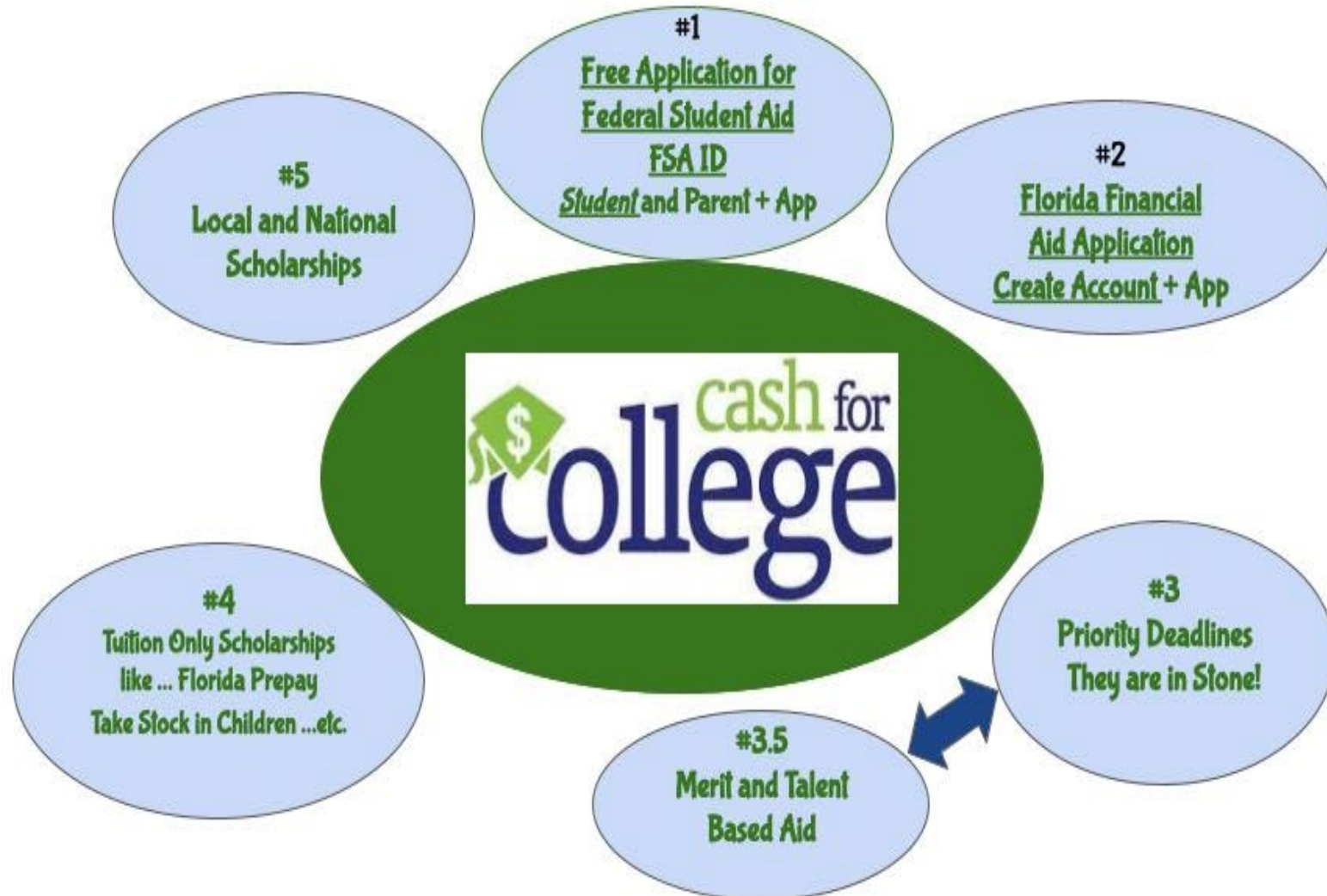
Financial Aid

- 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

Financial Aid – Process

#1
Free Application for Federal Student Aid
FSA ID
Student and Parent + App

#2
Florida Financial Aid Application
Create Account + App

#5
Local and National Scholarships

cash for college

#4
Tuition Only Scholarships like ... Florida Prepay Take Stock in Children ...etc.

#3
Priority Deadlines They are in Stone!

#3.5
Merit and Talent Based Aid

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!

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

- Stay tuned for updates throughout the Fall

FAFSA – How to apply

- Student.gov - This is a FREE website. If it is asking for payment, you are in the wrong place.

- The FAFSA is the Free Application for Student Aid

FAFSA – What is needed to apply?

- FSA ID

- Email address for student and parent/contributor

- The FSA ID is used to login to the FAFSA Application

- Used to sign electronically sign the FAFSA and Federal Loan documents.

- Needed for consent to obtain tax information for FAFSA.

DO YOU HAVE AN FSA ID YET?

FAFSA Changes

- The 2024-2025 FAFSA Application opens December 2023. The exact date has not been released.

- Subsequent years (2025-2026) will return to October.

- Number of questions greatly decreased. Previous years =108. Max questions for 2024-2025 = 36

- Everyone will need a FSA ID (Federal Student Aid)

- Including Parents without SS#

- Roll Based Form

- Students will only see student questions and parents only see parent questions.

FAFSA Changes (Cont.)

- Students may list up to 20 colleges. Previous application could only list up to 10.

- New method for Tax Data Retrieval. Direct Data Exchange (DDX) replaces Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)

- Student Aide Index (SAI) replaces Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

FAFSA Information

- The FAFSA Application is needed for Scholarships.

- If you qualify for a Federal Loan, you do not need to accept it.

- Parents need a separate login from the student login.

- The FAFSA is required for the Florida Financial Aid Application.

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 Bright Futures

- Opens October 1st

- Merit based aid – GPA, test scores and community service.

- <u>ALL</u> seniors should complete it - only takes about 10 minutes.

- SAT/ACT scores need to be sent to one of the 12 public institutions for the state to receive them.

  - Send scores each time you test as they will super score.

Florida Bright Futures

FFAA opens October 1st

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

See Coach Post for community service hour approval.

Be sure to complete the FFAA!!

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) / Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)
2023-24

Initial Eligibility Requirements: (As determined by the Florida Department of Education)

1. Submit the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) no later than August 31 after high school graduation.
2. Graduate from a Florida high school with a standard high school diploma or its equivalent.
3. Complete the 16 college-preparatory courses required for admission to a state university.
4. Achieve the required weighted GPA in the 16 college-preparatory courses per the chart below.
5. Achieve the required composite ACT® score, Overall Score on the Classic Learning Test (CLT), or combined SAT® score no later than August 31 of the student's graduation year (or through January 31 for mid-year graduates), per the chart below.
6. Complete the required number of volunteer service hours, paid work hours, or 100 total combined hours per the chart below.

Type	16 High School College-Preparatory Course Credits [1]	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year (ACT®/CLT®/SAT®)	Volunteer Service Hours [2]	Paid Work Hours [2]
FAS	4 - English (three must include substantial writing) 4 - Mathematics (at or above the Algebra I level) 3 - Natural Science (two must have substantial laboratory)	3.50	2023-24 Graduates: 29/96/1340 2024-25 Graduates: 29/96/1340	100 hours	100 hours
FMS	3 - Social Science 2 - World Language (sequential, in same language)	3.00	2023-24 Graduates: 25/84/1210 2024-25 Graduates: 25/84/1210	75 hours	100 hours

[1] The required coursework aligns with the State University System admission requirements found in Florida Board of Governor's Regulation 6.002. Additional information regarding high school coursework can be found within the Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook.
[2] Students must earn the required volunteer service hours, 100 paid work hours, or a combination that totals a minimum of 100 hours.

Requirements to Receive an Award: (As determined by the postsecondary institution)

1. Be evaluated by the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) as meeting initial eligibility requirements.
2. Be a Florida resident and U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen.
3. Enroll as a degree- or certificate-seeking student at a Florida institution in at least 6 non-remedial semester credit hours.

Renewal Requirements: (As determined by grade and hours submitted by the postsecondary institution)

1. Students must earn the number of credit hours based on the student's enrollment type per term.
2. The renewal cumulative GPA requirements are outlined in the table below.

	Florida Academic Scholars (FAS)	Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)
Minimum Cumulative GPA (unrounded and unweighted)	3.0	2.75

For detailed information, including other ways to qualify, please refer to the Bright Futures Student Handbook.

Eligibility requirements are subject to change with each legislative session.

Students are responsible for tracking their application and award status online and ensuring that funding for an academic year is accurate by contacting their institution's financial aid office.

Bright Futures Requirements

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

- Other scholarship search websites:

- College Board Scholarship Search

- College Board Opportunity Scholarships

- Fast Web

- PCHS Scholarship List

Take Care of Yourself

- Mental health is just as important as your academic goals.

Stay Organized

- Figure out a system that works best for you.

- Keep a list of important dates and deadlines.

- This is the student's responsibility... **NOT** the parents!

Work Hard

- "Senioritis" is real, but don't give up. Many of you have classes left that you still need for graduation. Give it your all until the end.

- Colleges can rescind your admission for poor grades. You can lose scholarships before you even start receiving money.

Questions

Congratulations Class of 2024!