



# Graduate Gazette

BROOKS DEBARTOLO COLLEGIATE H.S. CLASS OF 2017

## Second Semester

## Senior Survival



First semester of senior year probably felt like it dragged, but now time has wings, and it is going to FLY! Here are some tips to help you get the most out of your second semester:

1. Maintain your focus! Every teacher, administrator and guidance counselor knows at least a few students who have had their admission and/or scholarship rescinded due to poor performance during the final semester. Keep working hard right up to the last minute.
2. Come to school! Not only will you lose your exam exemption status (see criteria to right →), but you'll also fall behind and put your future in jeopardy if you are chronically absent.
3. Ask for help. If you do fall behind, don't get into the "Digger Syndrome" that claims so many student victims. Remember, the longer you put off addressing a problem or challenge, the deeper and deeper the hole you dig for yourself. Spend your time proactively, not reactively.
4. Avoid drama. It's a time-suck, and it will rob you of precious time and energy. Take the high road and stay on it!
5. Spend time with your family. Take a walk with your dad. Go out to breakfast with your little sister. Have a movie night with your mom.

Seniors must plan ahead in order to exempt final exams. Please review the following information carefully!

Twelfth grade students shall:

- Earn at least a C or higher in quarters 3 and 4
- Have no more than 5 excused absences in Semester 2 per course (must be in attendance for more than half of each period in order to be counted as present)
- Have no more than 2 excused tardies per course
- Have no unexcused tardies per course
- Have no suspensions for the Semester
- Must be debt free (including textbooks, library books, lunch account, NSF, etc.--this clearance will come from the Business Office and IT Director)
- Must meet these stipulations up to the day of the exam

Note: Exam Exemption does NOT apply to End of Course Exams or AP Exams.

Note: The teacher of the course may determine an exam is necessary to determine course mastery.

Note: Students who meet exam exemption requirements may choose to take the exam to boost their semester grade.

Note: If a student meets the exam exemption requirements and chooses to exempt the Semester 2 Exam, the Exam grade will be entered as a duplicate of the Quarter 4 grade. For example, if a student earned a "B" Quarter 3 and a "C" Quarter 4, then the Second Semester Exam grade would be a "C".

If a student misses the exam, that student will receive an F for the exam. Make-up exams within the grading period may be permitted due to extenuating circumstances and upon administrative approval.



# GRADUATION 2018



## Please review the important information about the BDCHS Graduation Ceremony:

1. Graduation will be held in Carol Morsani Hall in The Straz Center in downtown Tampa on Friday, May 18th. Doors will open for guests at 1:30PM, and the ceremony will begin at 2PM. Guests who are not inside and seated by 1:50PM will be held outside until after the graduates' processional.
2. Each graduate will get 15 guest tickets in April. There is a post on the seniors' Edsby page for students to offer extra tickets or post how many extra they need.
3. If a graduate has a guest who needs handicapped seating, Mrs. Rinard will get that information **in April** so that we can ensure that your guest is appropriately accommodated.
4. Graduates must arrive through the stage door between 10:15 and 10:30AM, dressed for the ceremony with their caps and gowns with them. Lunch will be provided.
5. Parking is available in various locations around The Straz Center. The cost for parking is usually between \$5—\$10. Carpooling is a great option if you can.
6. Graduation caps and gowns will be delivered to school at the end of April, and we will distribute them to students at school along with any honor cords and/or stoles. Graduation tickets will also be distributed at that time.
7. BDCHS graduates must wear the approved cap and gown (purchased through Herff Jones) and may only wear approved regalia. All regalia (cords, stoles, etc) will be distributed by the honor society advisors.
8. Please save the date for our Senior Celebration on Thursday, May 10th. More information will be coming soon!

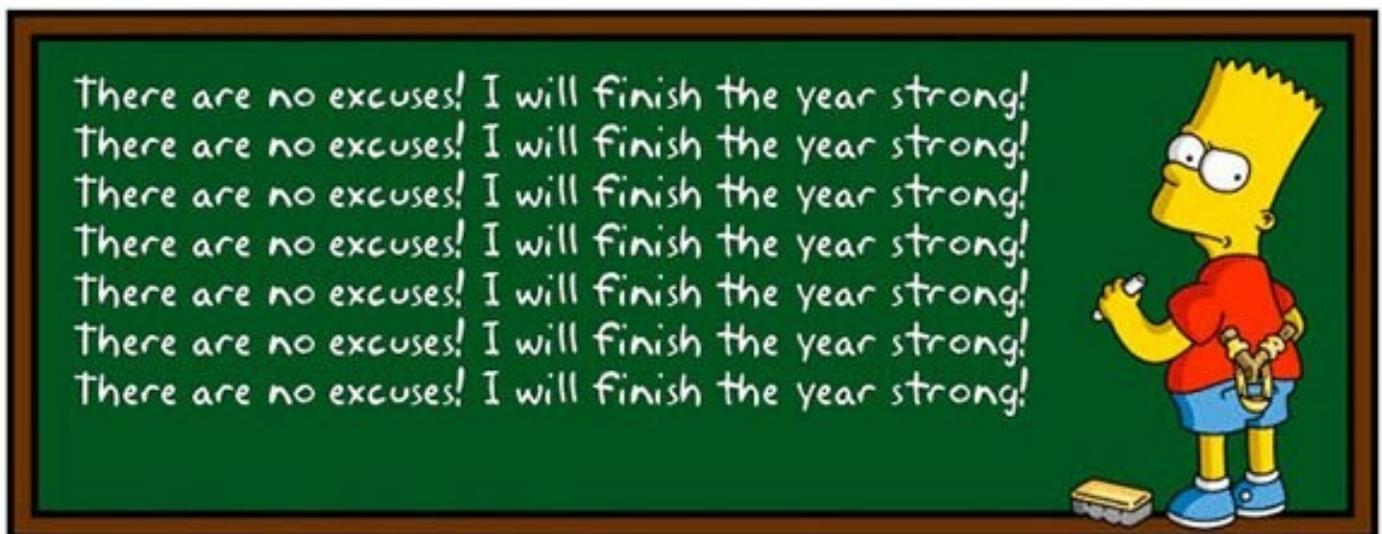
# Making THE Choice

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

In the “Know Before You Go” section of the Gazette, you will find helpful tips to prepare you to get ready for life after high school.

It’s that time of year when seniors check their email, refresh their browsers, and look impatiently for the mail that will determine their immediate futures. As admissions offers arrive, it’s important to keep some things in mind.

1. **DON’T TAKE REJECTIONS PERSONALLY!** Although not getting into a school that you really want to go to feels VERY personal to you, it’s not personal at all to the admissions officers who didn’t choose you, and you will likely never know the “why” behind the decision. Moving on quickly and optimistically is the best way to deal with your disappointment.
2. **COLLEGE IS NOT YOUR SOULMATE!** Despite what it may feel like, there is really not one single school for you. In fact, there are at least several at which you will do well and achieve your academic goals. Make sure that your choice is what’s best for you, whether that means considering price over prestige, family needs over friends, or other considerations that are personal and important.
3. **TAKE ANOTHER LOOK!** Go and visit schools to which you’ve been admitted for another look. Make appointments with academic advisors and financial office representatives since you can now speak in concrete terms as an admitted student.
4. **FINISH STRONG!** Don’t risk having your admissions rescinded or your scholarships revoked (yes, it really does happen) because you lost focus during your last semester.



# 12 Best Ways to Find Scholarships

By Alex Thomas Sadler

<https://clark.com/education/best-websites-resources-to-find-college/>

The idea of student loan debt can be pretty terrifying — especially considering the average 2016 college graduate left school owing more than \$37,000 for their education.

For the 2016-17 academic year, here's how much it costs to attend college (on average):

- Public Two-Year College (in-district students): \$3,440
- Public Four-Year College (in-state students): \$9,410
- Public Four-Year College (out-of-state students): \$23,890
- Private Four-Year College: \$32,410

And the harsh reality is, the price of higher education is continuing to increase year after year.



Federal student loans can be a great way for students to get help paying for school, but they don't always cover the entire cost, and depending on the college, students are graduating with tens of thousands of dollars in debt — with no chance of paying it off anytime soon.

The idea of turning to private loans is even worse — in fact, there is pretty much no situation in which you should ever take out private student loans. They come with extremely high interest rates, fees for late payments and other concerning features that make them less favorable to federal loans. And while the government may work with you on your repayment plan, private lenders have no sympathy — they are coming after you for that money one way or another.

**Read more: [9 ways to pay for college without student loans](#)**

But here's the good news: While the cost of college isn't getting any cheaper, there are several ways to make it cheaper for yourself.

Whether you need a little help or a lot, there are tons of opportunities available to help you cover the cost of your education. It may take a little extra research and hard work, but in long run, it is absolutely worth it to avoid graduating college with the burden of nearly \$40,000 of debt.

## [1. Fastweb.com](#)

Fastweb hosts more than 1.5 million scholarships that provide more than \$3.4 billion. Once you create a profile, the site's search feature will help you find the most accurate matches that fit your needs. Your personal profile is how the site helps you find pretty much exactly what you're looking for.

You can then also see all the scholarships you applied for, or may want to apply to in the future. They also have 'contests' that you can enter monthly or weekly to win money.

## [2. Collegeboard.org](#)

While the College Board is known for its college planning tools, it also has an arm that focuses on scholarships. Big Future hosts scholarships, as well as other financial aid and internship information from more than 2,200 programs — totaling nearly \$6 billion. In order to get the most accurate search results, it's critical to fill out as many details as you can in the profile that's used for searching.

### 3. [Niche.com](#)

Formerly known as College Prowler, Niche is a great tool that can help you find colleges AND money. It's organized into categories that make it pretty easy to find what you're looking for — allowing users to search by interest, career, major and other areas.

Niche also has some contests to enter.

### 4. [Scholarships.com](#)

Scholarships.com hosts one of the largest scholarship databases out there and it's updated on a daily basis. According to the site, "With more than 2.7 million scholarship and grant opportunities worth more than \$19 billion, just about everyone is bound to find something."

It's easy to browse by category, but the best way to take advantage of what the site has to offer is to make a personal profile, which will allow you to find the most exhaustive lists of opportunities available to you.

### 5. [Moolahspot.com](#)

Moolahspot isn't as robust as some of the other scholarship databases, but in the search for a college scholarship, it's another option to help you find extra money.

### 6. [CollegeNET.com](#)

When you go to the site's homepage, go to the top right corner to search college scholarships. From there you can either search by specific keywords or create a personal profile in order to get the most accurate matches that fit your needs. Once you make a profile, you create and save lists of opportunities you're interested in.

### 7. [Scholarship Monkey](#)

Scholarship Monkey allows you to search for scholarships a few different ways. You can search by keyword, browse scholarship lists (various categories/topics) and also see lists of the latest and featured scholarships. The site also allows you to create a personal profile for more accurate results.

### 8. [Cappex](#)

Cappex hosts a database of more than \$11 billion in scholarship opportunities. Once you create a personal profile, you can search for opportunities that directly match your strengths and skills. Plus, Cappex has a tool that will calculate your odds of getting into a certain college before you even apply.

### 9. [Chegg](#)

Chegg is widely known for its online textbook store that allows students to either rent or buy textbooks for cheap. But Chegg is also a great resource for finding scholarships — more than \$1 billion worth of them.

To search for available scholarships, go to 'colleges' at the top of the homepage and then click 'scholarships' in the drop-down menu. Once you create a personal profile, you can search for available opportunities that match your criteria. Chegg also has a 'top scholarship picks this week' category that highlights some options you may have missed.

### 10. [Unigo](#)

Unigo hosts millions of available scholarships and makes it easy to search by type, including: athletic scholarships, college-specific scholarships, company-based scholarships, minority scholarships, major-specific scholarships, state-specific scholarships and more. You can search by category or create a personal profile to get more specific results that match your needs. Unigo also offers [scholarship contests and sweepstakes](#).

### 11. [Peterson's](#)

Peterson's hosts \$10 billion in scholarship opportunities and also provides information to help you in your search. Once you fill out a short survey, you can filter your search results so they're tailored to your specific needs.

The site also allows users to [search by a variety of different topics](#), college types and personal details — in order to give you the best results for you.

### 12. [The U.S. Labor Department's Free Search Tool](#)

According to the official [Student Aid website](#), this free tool is a great resource for students to search more than 7,500 scholarships, grants and other various types of financial aid award opportunities.

The [CareerOneStop tool](#) allows you to:

- Look through the site's entire inventory of scholarships, arranged in order of closest deadline.
- Narrow your list with a "search by keyword" option: Just enter a keyword about the type of award you're looking for.

Use the filters to see opportunities for only certain types of awards, locations, level of study, and more.

## More Tips for Finding Scholarships

The Department of Education recommends using the following free resources to find more information about scholarships and other financial aid opportunities:

- the financial aid office at a college or career school
- a high school counselor
- the U.S. Department of Labor's [FREE scholarship search tool](#)
- [federal agencies](#)
- your [state grant agency](#)
- your local public library's reference section
- foundations, religious or community organizations, local businesses, or civic groups
- organizations (including professional associations) related to your field of interest
- ethnicity-based organizations
- your employer or your parents' employers



## BE AWARE!

There is **NO SUCH THING** as an approved “senior skip day.”

Seniors—like all students—are expected to be in school every day. Taking a “skip day” could nullify a senior’s exam exemption!

## We Want to See

YOU



Send your pictures of yourself and your BDCHS friends to

**BDCHSseniors@gmail.com**

or tag **@BDCHSseniors** on Twitter throughout the year to be included in the newsletter and senior slide show!

Please remember to ask permission before taking or submitting pictures of other people! You might think it’s the cutest picture ever, but your friend may not want others to see it!



# Senior Year College Admissions Timeline



- Make your short list of prospective college choices (one reach, one match, and one safety)
  - Talk as a family about college expenses and budgets
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- Take the SAT and/or ACT again if needed to get your scores up—remember that you need at least a 26 ACT or 1170 SAT for Bright Futures
  - Create a checklist for your applications and meet all deadlines for submitting them: Where are you applying? Do you need letters of recommendation? Personal statements? Have you requested transcripts and score reports?
- 
- Look for other financial aid and scholarship opportunities
  - Evaluate your options and make a decision
- 
- Decline offers to colleges you’ve opted against.
  - Fill out housing forms and get ready to soar!

June - August  
September - November  
December - February  
March - April

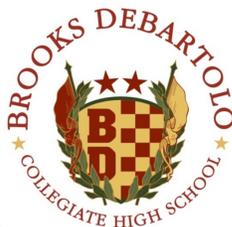
# 2017-2018 Calendar

Dates Are Subject To Change!



January 15	No School
January 25	Senior Assembly during Advisory
February 9	No School / Class Rank Freeze
February 19	No School
March 8	Senior Assembly during Advisory
March 9	End of Quarter 3
March 12-16	Spring Break
March 29	All FLVS/Night School Courses Must Be Completed
March 30	No School
April 13	Grad Bash
April 28	Prom at The Event Factory on W. Hillsborough Avenue
May 4	Seniors' Last Day / Class Olympics
May 7-8	Senior Exams
May 7—18	AP Exams (talk to your AP teacher about specific dates and times for your course exam)
May 10 at 7PM	Senior Celebration in BDCHS Gym
May 17 at 1PM	MANDATORY Graduation Rehearsal in BDCHS Gym
<b>May 18 at 2PM</b>	<b>Graduation at Straz Center</b> <b>Seniors must arrive between 10:15 &amp; 10:30AM</b> <b>lunch will be provided</b>
June	Diplomas will be ready—we will notify all seniors when they may start coming in to pick-up

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## STAY CONNECTED-

Sign up for Remind notifications by texting  
@e97g4 to 81010

Follow us on Twitter @BDCHSeniors



Contact Mrs. Rinard, Senior Class

Advisor: arinard@bdchs.org