

BDCHS SENIOR YEAR PREPARATION

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Overview

- Options after high school
- Types of colleges and applications
- Financial aid
- Major/career exploration



Options, options, options

- College
- Apprenticeship
- Military
- Gap year
 - ▣ Work
 - ▣ Mission trip
 - ▣ Travel
 - ▣ Programs
- And more!



Types of Colleges

- 2 Year (HCC) – two routes:
 - 1) Get an A.S. and then work (potentially transfer)
 - 2) Get an A.A. and then transfer to a 4 year college
- 4 Year (USF, UCF) – Earn a Bachelors degree, stricter admissions criteria, generally more expensive than 2 year college
- Public (USF) – Tuition lower, usually larger
- Private (UT) – Tuition higher, usually smaller
 - Ivy League - Very selective in regards to admissions, strong academic reputation
 - Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Penn, Princeton, Yale

Types of Colleges Cont.

- In state – less expensive tuition
- Out of state – more expensive
- Technical Colleges ([HTC](#)) – for job readiness
- HBCUs – Historically Black Colleges and Universities
 - Established to service the black community, but all groups may attend
 - 100+ schools composed of 2 year, 4 year, public, private
 - In Florida: BCU, Edward Waters College, FAMU, FMU

What to Look For in a College

- Academics (majors, programs, etc.)
- Size
- Location
- Tuition/financial aid
- Personal/cultural “fit”
- Organizations
- Entrance criteria

- [Click here](#) for college search engines

***Remember, college is a lot about what you make of it!**



Thoughts on College Searching

- It's on **YOU** to get info, narrow choices and apply
 - ▣ Don't believe every word you hear
- Partnership with family; talk with them
- Be realistic and practical (especially with finances)
- Be aware of deadlines (there are a LOT: application, housing, decision date, financial aid, etc.)
- Visit colleges
- Use resources (online, school counselor, teachers, peers)
- You change and life happens (parent losing job, etc.) – take advantage **NOW** of all opportunities
 - ▣ Don't pre-maturely limit options and scramble/be too late later on
- The more you do **NOW**, the less you may have to worry about later

College Application Process

General Requirements

- ❑ Application
- ❑ Transcripts
 - [Process](#)
- ❑ Test scores (not req'd for all schools)
- ❑ GPA (depends on college if use weighted, unweighted, or recalculate)
- ❑ Essay(s)
- ❑ Letters of recommendation

When to Apply

- ❑ Early! Some apps open before junior year ends
- ❑ Most open July/August

General Applications

- ❑ One application for many colleges
- ❑ CommonApp, Coalition, SendEdu
- ❑ All of the general requirements
- ❑ Essay supplements for some colleges

Deadlines

- ❑ Begin October/November and continue throughout the year
- ❑ More selective schools = Earlier deadlines!

Testing

- [ACT](#) and [SAT](#)
- SAT or ACT? It depends; take practice tests and see how you do
- When should I take it?
 - ▣ First time: End of junior year or summer before senior year
 - ▣ Many students take it multiple times; plan it out with college app deadlines!
- Cost: ~\$50+
- [Prep](#): KhanAcademy, OpenEd, Study Island
- What are good scores? It depends...
 - ▣ Search for “freshman class profile” on college website; look at scholarship reqs
- Fee waivers available if on free/reduced lunch
- If has 504 or IEP: MAY be eligible for accommodations—must apply online

Letters of Recommendation



- Ask first!
- Begin early and give teachers time (3-4 weeks)!
- Inform individual as to:
 - Purpose
 - Format (formal letter, check sheet, etc.)
 - Delivery method (online, hard copy, etc.)
- Provide them an academic resume
- If necessary, give them a stamped envelope
- Complete the [Letter of Recommendation Information Form](#)

College Cost of Attendance (COA)

□ UF 19-20 COA – On campus

*Tuition./ Fees	\$6,380
Books, and Supplies	850
Computer/Cell Phone	1,230
Housing	5,750
Food	4,470
Transportation	1,110
Clothing Maintenance	1,000
Personal	420
Total Budget	\$21,210



Per semester (18-19):

- UF: \$212/credit
 - $212 \times 15 = 3,180$
- USF: \$211/credit
 - $211 \times 15 = 3,165$
- FAMU: \$151/credit
 - $151 \times 15 = 2,265$
- HCC: \$104/credit
 - $104 \times 15 = 1,560$
- Out of state
 - U of Ala = \$14,615
- Private:
 - Saint Leo = \$11,200
 - U Tampa = \$13,603

Financial Aid



- **YOU** must be proactive
- Types: [scholarships](#), grants, loans, work study
- Loans: **subsidized** vs. **unsubsidized**
- From: National = [FAFSA](#), state = FFAA (Bright Futures),
local = HEF, institution/organization = college
- Scholarship essays!
- Letters of rec and resume needed for some applications
- [Federal Work-Study \(FWS\)](#)
 - ▣ Must mark corresponding question on FAFSA to apply

FFAA / Bright Futures (current reqs)

Requirement	Academic	Medallion	Gold Seal
Weighted BF GPA	3.5	3.0	3.0
Community Service	100	75	30
SAT/ACT (excluding Writing)	1290/29	1170/26	SAT: 24R&M, 25W ACT: 19R&M, 17E PERT: 106R, 103W, 114M

- Academic & Medallion: Composite scores allowed (**NOT** for Gold Seal)
- Weighted BF GPA: based on 16 core credits:
 - 4 English
 - 4 Math
 - 3 Social Science
 - 2 Foreign Language
 - 3 Science
- Gold Seal: requires 1 practical/performing arts and 1 PE credit AND a minimum of 3 vocational/technology credits with a uGPA of 3.5 in them
- Apply October of senior year; [click here](#) for more info about Bright Futures
- Check status: <https://www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college>
- Requirements can change every year pending legislation!

Apprenticeship

□ Apprenticeships:

<https://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/doc/1219>

- The list on the webpage does not list every potential field/trade
- Earn while you learn
 - A 1st yr apprentice for Elevator Constructors pays \$22/hr + benefits (most apprenticeships are \$14+/hr)
 - Full-time work and take classes once a week or month
 - You don't pay for the classes
- While college students are paying for classes, you are making money and learning

Military

- Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard
- Types of involvement
 - ▣ Active duty – Full time
 - ▣ Reserve – Part time
 - ▣ National Guard (Army and Air) – Part time
- Contact a local recruiter for more info
- Prepare and take the ASVAB
- Can pay for future college tuition (Post-9/11 GI Bill)
- Resources
 - ▣ <https://www.todaysmilitary.com/joining/types-of-military-service>
 - ▣ <https://www.todaysmilitary.com/contact-a-recruiter>



Major/Career Exploration

- It's okay to not know: over 50% of college students change their major
 - ▣ Start actively exploring about it
- Know yourself: <https://www.floridashines.org/find-a-career/plan-your-future>
 - ▣ Values, interests, personality, skills inventories
 - ▣ Browse careers and schools
- Get experience: volunteer, shadow, work
- Resources
 - ▣ [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)
 - ▣ [O*Net](#)
- School counselors and teachers may help!



Other

- College Athletics; make a profile!
 - ▣ [NCAA](#)
 - ▣ [NAIA](#)
 - ▣ Be aware of test scores, GPA requirements and NCAA approved courses
- Talk with college reps who visit
- **You MUST finish high school!**
- Look for [timelines/checklists](#)
- Talk with your school counselor about the application process and provide official documentation to him/her of college/scholarship acceptances



What to do now...

Don't wait!

- Get good grades!
 - The summer before senior year is the last semester many colleges will see before making an admissions decision
 - Keep doing well: Colleges believe your grades from senior year are a good predictor of how you will perform your first year of college!
- Plan out and register for SAT and/or ACT
- Research careers, colleges & deadlines
- **If you still need to, complete the [online course graduation requirement!](#)**
- [Evaluate Bright Futures standing](#) and earn service hours
- Over the summer: Look at college applications, begin/finish college essays
- Explore and use the [Student Services Portal](#)
- Talk with family about options
- Make a system that works for you to write down dates, events, passwords, etc.

