2022-2023

# A COUNTDOWN TO GRADUATION AND BEYOND

A GUIDE FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



Class of 2023



# HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Senior:

We want you to have the best possible senior year, and that means being prepared. We want

you to be successful in your classes in order to meet graduation requirements and be prepared

for your future after high school. Be sure to review the information in this booklet very carefully

and share it with your parents. You should then set up an appointment to review your post-

secondary plans with your school counselor. By meeting early in the school year, we can help

you plan for your final year of high school and the beginning of your future.

In this booklet you will find facts related to senior year expenses, SAT and ACT test dates, Bright

Futures Scholarship qualifications, and basic scholarship information.

This booklet is provided as a planning guide. In many cases, additional important information

will be provided during the school year. You are advised to check FOCUS to track your

graduation requirements, and to check the school website for updates.

On behalf of the entire School Counseling Department, we look forward to working with the

senior students and families this year. Please do not hesitate to contact your School Counselor

if for assistance.

Sincerely,

Ms. Hamlin and Mrs. Little

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# **CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

(Students who entered 9th grade in 2019 - 2020)

CATEGORIES (24 Credit Diploma)	CREDITS
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	4
MATHEMATICS	
• 1 credit in Algebra I	
• 1 credit in Geometry (EOC = 30% of final course grade)	
2 credits in additional math courses	4
O Industry Certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to	
2 math credits (excluding Algebra 1 & Geometry) *	
<ul> <li>An identified computer science credit may substitute for one math credit (excluding Algebra 1 and Geometry) **</li> </ul>	
SCIENCE	
• 1 credit in Biology (EOC = 30% of final course grade)	
1 credit in a physical science course	
(Earth/Space Science, Physical Science, Chemistry, or Physics)	2
1 credit in an additional science credit	3
<ul> <li>Industry Certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for 1 science credit (excluding Biology) *</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>An identified computer science credit may substitute for 1 science credit (excluding Biology) **</li> </ul>	
SOCIAL STUDIES	
1 credit in World History	
• 1 credit in United States History (EOC = 30% of final course)	3
• ½ credit in Economics	
• ½ credit in United States Government	
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	
• ½ credit in Personal Fitness	1
• ½ credit in any other PE course	
PERFORMING FINE ARTS	1
ELECTIVES	8
TOTAL	24 Credits

### **Other Graduation Requirements:**

- 2.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale
- One course must be taken on-line
- Passing score on the Grade 10 FSA/ELA or concordant score.
- Passing score on the Algebra 1 End of Course Assessment or comparative score.
- Must take the Civic Literacy Exam
- \* Credit earned by industry certification does not count for SUS admission.
- \*\* A computer science credit may not be used to substitute for both a math and a science credit concordant score.

# CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS OTHER DIPOLMA OPTIONS

(Students who entered 9th grade in 2019 - 2020)

CATEGORIES (18 Credit ACCEL Diploma)	CREDITS
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	4
MATHEMATICS	
• 1 credit in Algebra I	
• 1 credit in Geometry (EOC = 30% of final course grade)	
2 credits in additional math courses	4
<ul> <li>Industry Certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to 2 math credits (excluding Algebra 1 &amp; Geometry) *</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>An identified computer science credit may substitute for one math credit (excluding Algebra 1 and Geometry) **</li> </ul>	
SCIENCE	
• 1 credit in Biology (EOC = 30% of final course grade)	
1 credit in a physical science course     (Earth/Space Science, Physical Science, Chemistry, or Physics)	
1 credit in an additional science credit	3
o Industry Certifications that lead to college credit may substitute	
for 1 science credit (excluding Biology) *	
<ul> <li>An identified computer science credit may substitute for 1 science credit (excluding Biology) **</li> </ul>	
SOCIAL STUDIES	
1 credit in World History	
• 1 credit in United States History (EOC = 30% of final course)	3
• ½ credit in Economics	
½ credit in United States Government	
PERFORMING FINE ARTS	1
ELECTIVES	3
TOTAL	18 Credits

### **Other Graduation Requirements:**

- 2.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale
- Passing score on the Grade 10 FSA/ELA or concordant score.
- Passing score on the Algebra 1 End of Course Assessment or comparative score.
- Must take the Civic Literacy Exam
- \* Credit earned by industry certification does not count for SUS admission.
- \*\*A computer science credit may not be used to substitute for both a math and a science credit

CATEGORIES (18 Credit Career and Technical Education Diploma)	CREDITS
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	4
MATHEMATICS	
• 1 credit in Algebra 1	
• 1 credit in Geometry (EOC = 30% of final course grade)	
2 credits in any additional math courses	4
<ul> <li>Industry Certifications that lead to college credit may substitute</li> </ul>	_
for up to 2 math credits (excluding Algebra 1 & Geometry) *	
<ul> <li>An identified computer science credit may substitute for one</li> </ul>	
math credit (excluding Algebra 1 and Geometry) **	
SCIENCE	
• 1 credit in Biology (EOC = 30% of final course grade)	
1 credit in a physical science course	
(Earth/Space Science, Physical Science, Chemistry, or Physics)	
1 credit in any other equally rigorous science course	3
<ul> <li>Industry Certifications that lead to college credit may substitute</li> </ul>	
for 1 science credit (excluding Biology) *	
<ul> <li>An identified computer science credit may substitute for 1</li> </ul>	
science credit (excluding Biology) **	
SOCIAL STUDIES	
1 credit in World History	
• 1 credit in United States History (EOC = 30% of final course grade)	3
• ½ credit in Economics	
• ½ credit in United States Government	
CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION	
The courses must result in a program completion & industry	2
certification	
WORK-BASED LEARNING PROGRAMS OR 2 ELECTIVE CREDITS, INCLUDING FINANCIAL LITERACY	2
TOTAL	18 Credits

### **Other Graduation Requirements:**

- 2.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale
- Passing score on the Grade 10 FSA/ELA or concordant score.
- Passing score on the Algebra 1 End of Course Assessment or comparative score.
- Must take the Civic Literacy Exam
- \* Credit earned by industry certification does not count for SUS admission.
- \*\* A computer science credit may not be used to substitute for both a math and a science credit

# OTHER GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

While you must earn all the credits in your chosen diploma option to earn your high school diploma, you also are required to meet additional graduation requirements, which are listed below.

- 1. You must have an unweighted 2.0 GPA, C average, to earn your high school diploma.
- 2. You must earn a 3 or higher on the Grade 10 Florida Standard Assessment English Language Arts Exam (FSA ELA). If you do not pass this exam, you can take an SAT or ACT exam to meet this requirement with a concordant score. The required test scores are below:

Test	Score
SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	480
ACT English and Reading subtests	18*

3. You must earn a 3 or higher on the Algebra 1 End of Course Exam (EOC). If you do not pass this exam, you can take a PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, ACT, or Geometry EOC to meet this requirement with a comparative score. The required test scores are below:

Test	Score
PSAT/NMSQT Math	430
SAT Math	420
ACT Math	16
Geometry EOC	Level 3

- 4. The 24 Credit Diploma also requires that at least one course must be completed through online learning. The options for meeting this requirement include:
  - a. An online high school course taken in grades 6-12
  - b. An online course taken through:
    - i. Volusia Online Learning
    - ii. Daytona State College
    - iii. Florida Virtual School
  - c. Completion of a blended learning course
    - i. Example: Personal Fitness
- \* The average of the ACT Reading and English scores, which can be rounded up. Example: 17.5=18=Graduation!

# COUNTDOWN CALENDAR

The Countdown Calendar is a list of important dates and things you need to do so you are ready for graduation. Keep this copy handy and use it to meet those all-important deadlines.

# September – October

Meet with your counselor to review career and college plans. Review curriculum and test scores for Florida Bright Futures Scholarships. Visit: www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college
Narrow your choices to the top three or four colleges in which you are most interested and contact the admissions offices to schedule campus visits.
Begin your search for private scholarships. Talk with your counselor, college financial aid offices, churches, and civic organizations.
Consult your counselor for college entrance exam test dates and register for those tests. While many colleges or universities will accept either the ACT or the SAT, be sure to check with the institutions to which you are applying.
Meet with counselor to arrange 2nd semester dual enrollment at Daytona State College (deadline December 5th) or arrange any course work you may need for credit recovery/remediation.
FSA ELA and Algebra 1 EOC retakes, SAT, ACT, and Non-College Reporting ACT (October 18-20) for seniors who still must pass the graduation exams.
Apply for admissions to the colleges in which you are interested.
Obtain financial aid information from those colleges. Carefully review information explaining available financial aid, application procedures, and deadline dates.
Attend college fairs and financial aid information nights.
Take or retake the SAT and/or ACT.
Collect the family W-2 forms and completed federal tax return for use in completing the FAFSA if you have not already done so.
Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at http://www.fafsa.ed.gov. Be sure to complete it as soon as possible starting <b>October 1st</b> .
Register for the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) for the Bright Futures Scholarship program, open <b>October 1st</b> .

Nov	rember – December
	Continue to apply for admission to colleges in which you are most interested.
	Meet with college reps.
	Take or retake the SAT and/or ACT.
	Algebra 1 EOC retakes, SAT, and ACT for seniors who still must pass the graduation exams.
<u>Janı</u>	<u>iary</u>
	Meet with counselor to review graduation plans and ensure you are on track for high school graduation.
<u>Feb</u>	<u>ruary</u>
	Promptly respond to requests for information from college admission and financial aid offices.
	Complete applications for community scholarships.
	Retake the SAT and/or ACT.
	FSA ELA and Algebra 1 EOC retakes and ACT for seniors who still must pass the graduation exams.
Mar	<u>ch</u>
	Review your financial aid award from the colleges to which you have applied for financial aid. Your package may include various forms of assistance including student loans.
	SAT and Non-College Reporting ACT (March 7-9) for seniors who still must pass the graduation exams.
<u>Apr</u>	<u>il</u>
	ASVAB testing
	Academic Signing Day application deadline

Promptly respond to requests for information from the college admissions and financial aid offices at your chosen college.

 $\hfill \square$  Make your final decision on college attendance and notify the appropriate

 $\hfill \square$  Academic Signing Day Ceremony

admissions office.

Pay required deposits for enrollment and/or residence hall.		
□ Retake SAT and/or ACT.		
☐ SAT and ACT for seniors who still must pass the graduation exams.		
May		
☐ AP, IB, AICE and/or Career and Technology Industry exams.		
☐ Civic Literacy Exam (new!).		
☐ Retake SAT and/or SAT.		
☐ Complete all FLVS, VOL or Edgenuity coursework for graduation and Bright Futures		
eligibility.		
☐ Graduation rehearsal.		
☐ Turn in <b>volunteer hours before graduation</b> to qualify for Bright Futures!		
☐ Algebra 1 EOC retakes, SAT, and ACT for seniors who still must pass the graduation		
exams.  □ Graduation!		
June – August		
☐ Request <b>FINAL</b> high school transcripts to be sent to your college of choice. Final transcripts will not be available until mid-June at the earliest <b>(graduates are responsible for this!).</b>		
☐ Attend the orientation program for the college/university you will attend.		
☐ Retake the SAT and/or ACT if necessary. <b>June is the last month that scores will count for Bright Futures. July ACT is the last test to count for 2023 graduation.</b>		
☐ Final transcripts for Bright Futures are submitted in early to mid-July.		

# **10 SAT/ACT TEST - TAKING TIPS**

- **1. Know the test directions.** For every five minutes you spend reading directions, you will have five fewer minutes available to answer questions. Learn the directions now.
- **2. Know what to expect.** Questions of the same type are grouped together. Except for the critical reading questions, the easier questions are at the beginning of the section and the harder questions are at the end.
- **3. Answer the easy questions first.** You earn just as many points for easy questions as you do for hard questions.
- **4. Know how the tests are scored.** See the SAT or ACT practice test information or go to the appropriate test website.
- **5. Guess smart.** If you can rule out one or more answer choices for a multiple-choice question as definitely wrong, your chances of guessing the right answer improve.
- **6. Do not panic if you cannot answer every question.** You do not have to answer every question correctly to get a good score. On the practice test in **Taking the SAT I: Reasoning Test**, you can get an average score by just answering about half of the questions correctly (and omitting the remaining questions).
- **7. Use your test book to do scratch work** to cross off answers you know are wrong and to mark questions you did not answer so you can go back if there's time. Be sure to mark your answers on the separate answer sheet, because you will not receive credit for any answers you mark in the test book.
- **8. Do not make extra marks on your answer sheet.** The answer sheet is machinescored, and the machine cannot tell an answer from a doodle.
- **9.** *Mark only one answer to each multiple-choice question.* See examples in *Taking the SAT I: Reasoning Test.* Also, check during the test to make sure that you are marking the correct oval on the answer sheet.
- 10. Get a good night's sleep the night before the test; and on the morning of the test, eat a good breakfast!

# COLLEGE READINESS EXAM TEST DATES

ACT <a href="http://www.actstudent.org/">http://www.actstudent.org/</a>			
Test Date	Deadline	Late Deadline	
September 10,2022	August 5, 2022	August 19, 2022	
October 22, 2022	September 16, 2022	September 30, 2022	
December 10, 2022	November 4, 2022	November 11, 2022	
February 11, 2023	January 6, 2023	January 20, 2023	
April 15, 2023	March 10, 2023	March 24, 2023	
June 10, 2023	May 5, 2023	May 19, 2023	
July 15, 2023	June 16, 2023	June 23, 2023	

SAT			
https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register			
Test Date	Deadline	Late Deadline	
August 27, 2022	July 29, 2022	August 16, 2022	
October 1, 2022	September 2,2022	September 20, 2022	
November 5, 2022	October 7, 2022	October 25, 2022	
December 3, 2022	November 3, 2022	November 22, 2022	
March 11, 2023	February 10, 2023	February 28, 2023	
May 6, 2023	April 7, 2023	April 25, 2023	
June 3, 2023	May 4, 2023	May 23, 2023	

### ACT NCR Grade 12: October 18-20; SAT School Day (No Essay) 12th Grade: October 12, 2022

Students eligible for free or reduced lunch can receive two fee waivers for each the ACT and SAT. Additionally, students who use a SAT fee waiver can receive admissions fee waivers to apply to up to 4 participating colleges/ universities. Please see your school counselor for more information.

Since the SAT and ACT contain different types of questions, many students take both tests, and then compare their performance using this concordance table.

If your SAT I and ACT scores are not quite as high as you would like, take the test again. Colleges will use your highest score to determine admissions, as will the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and the NCAA Clearinghouse.

# SENIOR TIDBITS

Career Choices:	Unsure of your future? You can learn a great deal about yourself by using 'career' software that will help you to find careers that best interest you. Online interest inventories are available. The ASVAB is an excellent tool to identify your aptitude and strengths.
Community Service:	Do not put off fulfilling your service requirements. You will need to attend a community service workshop before you begin your service activity.
GPA:	Remember that you need a cumulative unweighted 2.0 GPA or better to graduate.
Immunizations:	Many colleges now have immunization requirements. Check with the college/university that you plan to attend to see what is required for admission.
	Your immunization record needs to be updated before graduation. The Health Department may provide free immunizations for eligible students – contact the Health Department for details. The Registrar in School Counseling office will supply you with a copy of your shot records; however, you need to give her your new immunization dates so they can be included on your final transcript.
Military Choices:	Interested in the military? Different military branches, including the National Guard, offer a variety of scholarship opportunities.
Stay Informed:	Keep on top of the latest news and information. Visit the school web site often, and check-out the 'SENIOR' section for updated information. <b>Take advantage of every opportunity coming your way by staying informed.</b>
Transcripts:	You will need to request a <u>FINAL TRANSCRIPT</u> at the end of the school year once you are sure which college/university or another program you will be attending. The final transcripts will not be sent out right away. Final transcripts will not be available until mid-June.

# **GRADUATING THE CLASS OF 2023**

The Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2023 is on <u>June 1, 2023\_at 4:00PM</u>. There are many events leading up to this auspicious occasion. Please be sure to review the information provided during the school year so that you are completely knowledgeable about these occasions.

Senior Awards Night All seniors are strongly encouraged to attend with their family

members. This is a night for special recognition of academic achievement as well as awarding local community scholarships.

The ceremony is held on \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_ and begins promptly at \_\_\_\_ p.m. Attire requirements are the same as for

graduation.

**Graduation Practice** It is important to understand that students must participate in the

practice session to be able to take part in graduation. **Graduation**Rehearsal is held on \_\_\_May 30, 2023\_\_\_\_ at 10:00AM at the

Daytona Beach Ocean Center.

Graduation Attire Graduates are suggested to wear a cool dark, solid colored dress,

dark blue or black dress pants under the graduation gown. Be sure to choose a style with a simple neckline that will not interfere with

the neckline of the graduation gown.

Wear dress shoes. If your shoes are heeled, wear medium height

heels for your safety in getting on and off the stage.

Leave your purse, cameras, and other valuables at home or with a friend or relative while participating in the ceremony. There is no

place provided to secure items during the program.

# **SUMMER COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**

- The Summer Commencement Ceremony will be held for students who have not completed the courses needed for their high school diploma by the May graduation.
- The ceremony will take place on July 27th (tentative).
- There will be two ceremonies held for students on each side of Volusia County.

# **GRADUATION DESIGNATIONS**

### **MERIT DESIGNATION**

In addition to meeting the standard high school diploma requirements students must attain one or more industry certifications from the list established (per s. 1003.492, F.S.)

Industry Certification Name				
Adobe (ACA) Dreamweaver	Certified EKG Technician			
Adobe (ACA) Animate	Certified Nursing Assistant			
Adobe (ACA) Illustrator	Engineering Core Certification			
Adobe (ACA) In Design	Emergency Medical Responder			
Adobe (ACA) Photoshop	Microsoft (MOS) Bundle Certification (3 of 6)			
Adobe (ACA) Premiere Pro	Microsoft (MTA) HTML5			
Agriculture Associate Certification	Microsoft (MTA) Networking Fundamentals			
Agriculture Technician Certification	Microsoft (MTA) Software Development Fund.			
Agricultural Mechanics Certification	Microsoft (MTA) Windows Operating System			
	Fund.			
Animal Science Certification Exam	Microsoft (MTA) Security Fund.			
Aquaculture Technician	National ProStart Cert of Achievement			
Autodesk Certified User - AutoCAD	Natural Resources Certification			
Autodesk Certified User - Inventor	Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate Training (PACT),			
	Building Construction Technology			
Autodesk Certified User - Revit	ServSafe Certified Food Protection Manager			
Biotechnician Assistant	Small UAS Safety Certification			
Certified Food Safety Manager	Intuit QuickBooks			
Certified Medical Admin Assistant	Toon Boom - Storyboard Pro			
Certified Internet Business Assoc.	Certified Network Technology Assoc.			

### **SCHOLAR DESIGNATION**

In addition to meeting the standard high school diploma requirements:

- 1 credit in Algebra 2 or an equally rigorous course
- 1 credit in Statistics or an equally rigorous math course
- Pass the Biology 1 EOC\*
- 1 credit in Chemistry or Physics
- 1 credit in a course equally rigorous to Chemistry or Physics
- Pass the US History EOC\*
- 2 credits in the same World Language
- Earn at least 1 credit in an AP, IB, AICE or a dual enrollment course.
- \* Students who take respective AP, IB, or AICE Biology and/or US History assessment and earn minimum score to earn college credit are exempt from the EOC requirement for these courses.



# SELECTING A COLLEGE: ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL

College and universities come in different sizes and types with different emphases and opportunities. Your needs and priorities will determine how you select from such a wide range of choices (public/private, large/small, four year/two year, urban/rural, secular/religious...) and find an institution that is appropriate for you.

### Choose a LARGE UNIVERSITY (enrollment greater than 10,000) if you want:

- ✓ many academic majors, a large university available academic major often number in the hundreds, not dozens. If you change your major or career choice, a large university is more able to accommodate changes.
- ✓ more sophisticated laboratory equipment and libraries of considerable size available for undergraduate use.
- ✓ a multiplicity of services designed to help students identify and pursue career options
- ✓ more student activities and more varied opportunities to associate with other students.
- ✓ a variety of opportunities for student involvement organizations which cater to a wide range of interests, religious denominations, political involvement, etc.
  - ✓ student services staffs personal counseling and other opportunities to improve social awareness and skills as well as improved opportunities for career identification and job seeking.
  - ✓ to meet students whose backgrounds, present a wide variety of experiences, values and perspectives. A large university is an excellent place to gain experience in being able to live and work with a wide variety of persons.

### Choose a MID-SIZE STATE UNIVERSITY if you want:

- ✓ a less expensive institution compared to a private institution.
- ✓ the possibility of living at home while pursuing your degree.
- ✓ to take advantage of state scholarship programs.
- $\checkmark$  to use a system that is supported by your tax dollars.
- ✓ proximity to parents, friends and your home community.
- ✓ an integrated educational program with easy transfer from campuses as well as twoyear institutions.
- ✓ cooperative extensions, continuing education or satellite program because you cannot attend full-time on campus.
- ✓ opportunities to establish long-lasting relationships as a source of friendship and professional
- ✓ contacts for a lifetime in your home state.

# Choose a TWO-YEAR COLLEGE (designed to prepare you for continuation at a four-year institution) if you want:

- ✓ to start with the essential foundations of undergraduate training.
- ✓ access to faculty. You often get to know professors on a one-to-one basis in the classroom and socially at extracurricular events.
- ✓ less expensive (especially if you plan on commuting).
- ✓ more opportunities for leadership and participation in the first two years of your college career.
- ✓ an entire institution's budget spent on the first two undergraduate years.
- ✓ emphasis on the basics reading, writing and math.
- ✓ to transfer to a four-year institution better prepared and with a greater possibility of being accepted than if you were right out of high school.

### Choose an INDEPENDENT RESEARCH UNIVERSITY if you want:

- ✓ a school with an extraordinary reputation and academic circles boasting an outstanding faculty.
- ✓ to learn as much from your gifted fellow students as from your professors.
- ✓ informal associations between yourself and your professors.
- ✓ seminar classes with leaders in public affairs and the arts and sciences.
- ✓ a diverse student body (deliberately created by the admissions office).
- ✓ a smaller size school provides a critical mass for a wide variety of activities and sense of community.

### Choose a HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE or UNIVERSITY if you want:

- ✓ excellent scholarship opportunities
- ✓ typically, small class sizes allowing interaction and personal attention from the faculty.
- ✓ a "family atmosphere" where strong friendships are easily formed with a wide range of extracurricular activities.
- ✓ an excellent alumni network, strong job placement, and career counseling.

### Choose a CHURCH-RELATED COLLEGE or UNIVERSITY if you want:

- ✓ a values-based education. A church-related institution offers the opportunity to explore the values inherent in the ideas and behaviors presented in the curriculum.
- ✓ spiritual growth opportunities. A church-related institution operates with the idea of educating the whole person spiritually and intellectually.
- ✓ a broader view of role of ethics in society. You will be encouraged to develop and

maintain a personal perspective as a moral being in the workplace and at home.

### Choose a COLLEGE FOR WOMEN if you want:

- ✓ to develop your leadership skills. Women hold all the leadership positions in a women's college. This leadership extends into the working world 40% of female members of Congress and a third of the women board members of Fortune 1000 companies are graduates of women's colleges.
- ✓ to attend graduate or professional school after graduation. Graduates of women's colleges are more than twice as likely as graduates of coeducational colleges to receive doctorate degrees.
- ✓ to study science, math or economics. Women's colleges produce a disproportionate share of women who enroll in fields such as science, math and economics.
- ✓ to pursue a career which is nontraditional for women. About 50% of the working women who graduate from women's colleges are in nontraditional jobs, for example, law, medicine, business management and computer science.

# THE CAMPUS VISIT

Would you buy a new car without seeing it, sitting in it, driving it? The campus visit gives you an opportunity to give the college a "test run." Although the facts and figures may indicate that a particular college is right for you, the campus visit will often help you decide whether you will feel comfortable in that college environment. Given the experience of college education, it makes sense to shop for the school that best fits your needs, and this includes considering your own reaction to the school environment.

### When to Visit

- 1. If possible, visit when the college is in session.
- 2. Try to schedule visits when High School is not in session. It is important that you continue to work hard during your senior year, and this requires an excellent attendance record.
- 3. Visit early in your senior year to narrow down choices of schools and to submit early applications.

### Procedure for Arranging a Campus Visit:

Call or go online to the Admissions Office to find out about special visitation days for high school students and/or the procedure for a regular campus visit.

If you are unable to visit on these special days; call, e-mail or register online at the Office of Admissions to arrange a visit. Depending on whether the purpose of your visit is to get a general impression or an in-depth experience of campus life, you may request:

- campus tours
- an interview with an admission counselor
- to attend classes (freshman courses, in your major field of interest)
- to eat in a college cafeteria
- to stay overnight in a dorm
- to attend a social, athletic, political or cultural event
- to meet with a coach or department head, call ahead for appointment

Although VCS expects students to arrange campus visits for days when high school is NOT in session, sometimes it is necessary to miss a school day. If this is the case, the student should bring a note from parents indicating the purpose of the absence and the dates. Bring the note to the Attendance Office. Absences just before or after school vacations are usually considered unnecessary since the visits could take place during the vacation.

# SAMPLE LETTER FOR COLLEGE INQUIRIES

(This sample letter includes requests for: General information, a campus visit and application forms)



Modify this letter to accommodate your unique needs.



Many colleges encourage inquires by telephone or email.

Your Street Address City, State, Zip Code Date
Office of Admissions Name of College or University City, State, Zip Code
To Whom It Concerns:
Currently, I am a senior at ABC High School and will graduate in (month), (year).
Please send me an application for admission and information about your college – a general information bulletin, college costs, and program descriptions. I am considering as my major field of study.
I am interested in visiting your campus, taking a campus tour, and meeting with an Admissions Counselor. I would also like to meet with an advisor in the (your major) department, if possible. Please advise me of a date and time that would be convenient.
My parents and I would also like to investigate all possible sources of financial aid. Please send us an application form, instructions about application procedures (how and when to apply) and any other information that might be helpful.
Thank you for your assistance.
Sincerely,
(Your Signature) (Your name in full with middle initial)

# **COMPLETING THE COLLEGE APPLICATION**

Decide on your college choices.

- ☐ Take or retake the ACT/SAT.
- ☐ Complete an application from the college of your choice.
- ☐ Know and meet deadlines
  - o for early admission
  - o for regular admission
  - o for financial aid and scholarships
  - o for special programs
  - o for housing
- ☐ Fill out an authorization form for release of records.

### **Timeline**

- ☐ Applause if you apply in the fall. I highly suggest an early October deadline!
- ☐ Smiles if you apply before the Holiday break.
- □ Nail biters wait until February.
- ☐ A kick in the pants for those who wait until Spring Break.
- ☐ May applicants fix up your bedroom at home you will still be there!



# **COLLEGE COSTS – ESTIMATIONS FOR 2022-2023**

Average Cost per Academic Year (fall & spring semester) *						
Public/Private Institution*	Tuition	RM & BD	Books	<b>Total Costs</b>		
Bethune-Cookman University	13,844	10,846	1,450	30,540		
Daytona State College	3,072	3,000	1,800	10,196		
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ.	20,592	17,288	1,160	49,168		
Flagler College	19,940	12,540	1,400	32,580		
Florida A&M University	4,554	12,084	1,138	22,302		
Florida State University	5,666	11,088	1,000	23,136		
Stetson University	49,140	14,640	1,400	64,140		
University of Central Florida	5,954	11,498	1,200	18,652		
University of Florida	6,380	10,590	890	21,430		
University of North Florida	6,394	9,846	1,200	21,730		
University of South Florida	6,410	11,836	770	19,016		

<sup>\*</sup> Information taken from individual school web sites. Some are approximations.

The amounts listed above are <u>estimated</u> costs only. Most students will, of course, have additional miscellaneous expenses associated with all the "extras" - like pizza, "school logo gear," pizza, long-distance phone bills, pizza, laundry, more pizza, etc. These costs may add up to an additional \$3,000 or more per year, depending on lifestyle, budget, and appetite.

*Housing* – Early application in the fall of the senior year usually improves housing options at the larger universities.

**Bright Futures Scholarships\*\* -** There are four types of Bright Futures Scholarships. In addition to general eligibility requirements, each scholarship has specific eligibility requirements related to GPA, test scores and curriculum. Benefits of the scholarships are noted below.

SCHOLARSHIP	BENEFIT	RENEWAL
Academic Scholar	100% of tuition and applicable fees and \$300 for both fall and spring semesters for additional educational expenses.	Renewable for up to four years
Medallion Scholar	75% of tuition and applicable fees	Renewable for up to four years
Gold Seal Scholar & CAPE Scholar	\$48.00 Per Semester Hour ( <b>AS, AAS, CCC</b> ) \$39.00 Per Semester Hour ( <b>PSAV &amp; ATD</b> )	Renewable for up to two years Renewable for up to two years

<sup>\*\*</sup>for specific Bright Futures Scholarship details visit www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/.

The Academic Scholar Scholarship and the Medallion Scholar Scholarship include tuition for the Summer 2023 and summer terms.

**Financial Aid -** Many local scholarships are available throughout out the year. Scholarship newsletters will be available on our website. Students are encouraged to review the daily bulletin to stay up to date with the latest newsletter release. Also, parents and students should contact the financial aid offices of the colleges/universities under consideration to determine what types of financial aid may be available.

# **RESUME WORKSHEET**

Complete the following sections to use as a guide in starting your resume. Do not limit yourself at this point; list everything even if it seems trivial. Using this worksheet will help you not only keep track of your "stuff and activities" for four years but will also help guide you. Fill in the missing pieces or areas in which you might be weak in. This worksheet will be helpful for whoever is writing your letter of recommendation also.

whoever is writing your letter of recommendation also.
PERSONAL INFORMATION
Name:
Address:
Phone:
E-Mail:
EDUCATION
High School:
City, State:
Graduation Date:
Type of Diploma:
Major:
HONORS AND AWARDS
Any academic, athletic, or community honors
Award:
Sponsoring organization:
Date awarded & what grade:
Reasons for recognition:
ACTIVITIES
Describe the activities you are involved in, both in and out of school. Include any leadership positions
held. Include club, athletics, drama, music, newspaper, yearbook, student council, community service.
Position held:
Organization:
Dates of involvement and what grade:
Description of activities:
WORK EXPERIENCE
Include both paid and unpaid after school, weekend or summer employment. Describe your skills,
qualifications, and accomplishments.
Job Title:
Name or employer or organization:
City, State:
Dates worked:
Description of work, skills used, special projects and accomplishments.
SKILLS (AND SPECIAL INTERESTS)
Languages:
Computer skills:
Interests:

# **Sammy T Senior**

2023 Graduate Way • Somewhere, FL 32725 • (386) 734-7190 • agreatstudent@gmail.com

### Education

Senior, ABC High School, 100 Way Street, Somewhere, FL 32725

Anticipated Graduation Date: May 2023

### **Objective**

Reliable and mature high school senior seeking a part-time retail sales position within a youth-oriented clothing environment to gain experience and insight into the fashion industry for a future career in fashion design and merchandising.

### **Skills Summary**

☐ Customer Service	Cash Register Experience	File Management
□ Computer Savvy	General Office Skills	Phone Etiquette

### **Work Experience**

Country Club, 321 Uppity Drive, Somewhere, FL 32725 Summer 2019 and 2021 • Lifeguard

- Monitored swimming areas for rule violations and drowning victims.
- Assisted in maintaining pool facilities and recreation areas surrounding pool area.
- Supervised entertainment activities sponsored by the country club.
- Worked assigned shifts at check-in and concession stand.
- Attended training courses and maintained CPR certification.
- Taught summer swim classes.

Smith & Smith, Attorneys at Law, 123 Numbers Way, Somewhere, FL 32738 Fall 2019 - Fall 2020 • Office Aide/Messenger

- Picked up and delivered catering and supplies for luncheons and corporate functions.
- In house mail delivery and sorting.
- Office supply pick up for local merchants.
- Assisted clerk in the law library.

### Volunteer Work

Big Brothers/Big Sisters • 2019 - 2021

- Assisted with and participated in group activities and field trips
- Tutored ages 8 13 and assisted with homework assignments

### **School Organizations**

National Honor Society 2018 – 2021

**Debate Team** 2019 – 2021

**Decorations Committee Chair** 2020

**Spanish Club** 2018 – 2021

Secretary 2021

# PREPARING FOR A JOB INTERVIEW

There are a few things you should keep in mind before your first interview. Review your personal data so that you will be able to answer whatever questions may be asked of you. The interviewer will generally want to learn about you:

- attitude toward people and work
- educational and work experience
- future career plans

### **BEFORE THE INTERVIEW**

- Prepare clothing
- Verify the day, time and location of the interview
- Verify the interviewer's name and correct spelling
- Gather up a resume, list of references, social security card and a pen
- Practice introducing yourself and shaking hands
- Give yourself a 20–30-minute leeway, but be prepared to walk in 5 minutes early

### WAITING FOR THE INTERVIEW

- Be courteous, especially to the receptionist
- Be aware of your actions, you may be observed
- Read any company literature, if available

### **DURING THE INTERVIEW**

- Be aware of your body language
- Listen carefully to the questions and reflect before responding
- Be honest, positive and direct when responding to questions
- Ask questions of the interviewer: show interest and knowledge of the job

### **CLOSING THE INTERVIEW**

- Express a continued interest in the job.
- Find out when a decision will be made
- Initiate follow-up/call back
- Thank the interviewer

### AFTER THE INTERVIEW

- Send a thank you letter/not e-mail.
- Follow through on follow-up/call back
- Continue job search efforts

### **TOP FIVE QUESTIONS AN INTERVIEWER ASKS:**

- Tell me a little bit about yourself
- Why do you want to work for this company?
- Where do you see yourself in three to five years?
- Why should I hire you?
- Do you have any questions?

# **MILITARY OPTIONS**

Many opportunities await the student who joins one of the branches of the armed services upon graduation. Recruiters from the United States Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy, Marines and National Guard visit our campus regularly. They are eager to meet with interested students.

You will need to earn a regular high school diploma to be considered by most, if not all the services.

Each branch of the service offers different opportunities, and you may want to ask about...

- Opportunities for further education
- Scholarship opportunities
- Career training, jobs and your choices
- Military lifestyle (travel, impact on family life, etc.)
- Time commitments
- Expected income
- Basic training
- Military training
- Duty stations (what type? where?)



The ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) test is required.



# **FINANCIAL AID**

Figuring out the financial aid process does not have to be overwhelming. Some of the best steps to take include:

- Attend \_\_\_\_\_\_ High School's Financial Aid Night on \_\_\_\_\_ @ PM. We will present information to parents and students about financial aid and completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- ❖ Once you have decided on a post-secondary institution, meet with a representative from the financial aid office to discuss the financial aid process and options.

If your family's annual income is over \$60,000 you may not receive much federal financial assistance. However, if you are a good student many colleges with high costs will utilize funds from endowments to help you finance your education. Experts on financial aid advise you to plan by completing the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) worksheet.

### **Scholarship Scams**

Be careful when searching for information on student financial assistance. Make sure information and offers are legitimate. Do not fall prey to fraud.

Estimates show that families lose millions of dollars to scholarship fraud every year. The College Scholarship Fraud Prevention Act enhances protections against fraud in student financial assistance. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) cautions students to look for these telltale lines:

- "The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back."
- "You can't get this information anywhere else."
- "I just need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship."
- "We'll do all the work."
- "The scholarship will cost some money."
- "You've been selected by a 'national foundation' to receive a scholarship" or "You're a finalist" in a contest you never entered.



# **FEDERAL STUDENT AID**

This Guide provides you with information on student financial aid from the federal government. These three pages are an "at a glance" view of the student aid process. Approximately two-thirds of all students financial aid comes from federal programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education's Student Financial Assistance (SFA) office (www.studentaid.ed.gov).

For additional sources of financial aid, other than the federal government, remember to talk to the financial aid administrator at the school you plan to attend, visit the library and the Internet and search under "financial aid" and "student aid."

Beware of scams and services that will search for financial aid money for you for a fee.

### WHAT is federal student aid?

Federal student aid is financial help for students enrolled in eligible programs at participating schools to cover school (a four-year or two-year public or private educational institution, a career school or trade school) expenses, including tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation. Most federal aid is need-based. The three most common types of aid are grants, loans, and work-study.

**GRANTS...**financial aid that does not have to be repaid. Generally, grants are for undergraduate students, and the grant amount is based on need, cost of attendance, and enrollment status.

Pell Grants range from \$555 to \$5550 for 2011-2012 academic year.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG) range from

\$100 to \$4,000.

LOANS...borrowed money that must be repaid with interest. Both undergraduate and graduate students may borrow money. Parents may also borrow to pay education expenses for dependent undergraduate students. Maximum loan amounts depend on the student's year in school.

**Federal Stafford Loans** are made to students and PLUS loans are made to parents through two loan programs.

- ☐ William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program: eligible students and parents borrow directly from the federal government at participating schools.
- ☐ Direct Loans include Direct Stafford Loans, Direct PLUS Loans, and Direct Consolidation Loans.
- ☐ Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL)
  Program: private lenders provide
  federally guaranteed funds. FFELs
  include FFEL Stafford Loans, FFEL PLUS
  Loans, and FFEL Consolidation Loans.

**Perkins Loans** are offered by participating schools to provide students that demonstrate the most need with low-interest loans.

**WORK-STUDY...**lets you earn money while enrolled in school to help pay for education expenses.

NOTE: Not all schools participate in all the Federal Student Aid programs. Ask your college's financial aid administrator which programs are available.

WHO gets federal student aid? Some of the requirements to receive aid from the U.S. Department of Education's SFA programs are that you must

- ☐ Be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen with a valid Social Security Number.
- ☐ Have a high school diploma or a General Education Development (GED) certificate or pass an approved ability-to-benefit (ATB) test;
- □ Enroll in an eligible program as a regular student seeking a degree or certificate; and *Register* (or have registered) with the Selective Service if you are a male between the ages of 18 and 25.

# HOW do you apply for federal student aid?

1. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA lists deadlines for federal and state aid. Check deadlines! Schools and states may have different deadlines for aid.

You may get a FAFSA

- online at <u>www.fafsa.ed.gov</u>;
- from the School Counseling office.
- from a college financial aid office.
- from a local public library; or
- from the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)
- 2. Review your Student Aid Report (SAR). One to four weeks after you submit your FAFSA, they will send you a SAR. The SAR confirms the information reported on your FAFSA and will tell your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is an index of need that your financial aid administrator will use to determine the amount of federal student aid for which you qualify.
- 3. Contact the school(s) you may attend. Talk with the financial aid administrator at the schools you are interested in attending. They will review your SAR and prepare a letter outlining the amount of aid (from all sources) that their school will offer you.



# FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP FFAA

### www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program establishes three lottery-funded scholarships for Florida high school graduates who demonstrate high academic achievement and enroll in eligible Florida public or private postsecondary institutions. There are three award levels for which high school seniors may qualify. The scholarship may be used for either full-time or part-time enrollment and is renewable. All initial applicants must meet the general requirements for participation in this program, and specific requirements for the individual award.

### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL AWARD TYPES

Futures Office for application deadlines).

То	be	eligible for an initial award from <u>any</u> of the three types of scholarships, a student must:
		Apply by completing the Florida Financial Aid Application during the last year in high school. You may apply on-line at <a href="https://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org">www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org</a> . You must apply during your last year in high school, or you will forfeit all future eligibility for a Bright Futures Scholarship.
		Earn a Florida standard high school diploma or its equivalent.
		Be accepted by and enrolled in an eligible Florida public or independent postsecondary education institution. (All community colleges and state universities are eligible, as are many private colleges. For a list of eligible private institutions, see the Bright Futures website at <a href="https://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/">www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/</a> .)
		Be enrolled for at least six semester credit hours or the equivalent.
		Not have been found guilty of, or pled no contest to, a felony charge.
		Begin using the award within three years of high school graduation (call the Bright

Eligibility requirements for each of the types of awards for a high school graduates can be found on the following pages. A student may receive funding for only one award. The highest award earned will be selected. Also, this information is based on the latest printed material. The Florida State Legislature can amend any and/or all parts of this information at any time. Please continue to visit the Florida Bright Futures' website at: <a href="https://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/">https://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/</a>

# FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES REQUIREMENTS 2022-2023 Graduates

	Florida Academic Scholarship (FAS) -Covers 120 credit	Florida Medallion Scholarship (FMS) -Covers 120 credit	Florida Gold Seal Vocational (GSV) -Covers 72 credit hou	Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars rs- (GSC)**
Award Amount <sup>1</sup>	hours- 100% of tuition & applicable fees at a public Florida institution. Students attending a nonpublic institution will receive a comparable amount.	hours- 75% of tuition & applicable fees at a public Florida institution. Students attending a nonpublic institution will receive a comparable amount.	Up to: \$48/credit hour – AS, AA CCC* \$39/credit hour – PSAV* \$39/credit hour – ATD*	AAS, CCC*
Requirements 1. GPA	3.5 weighted in core classes only	3.0 weighted in core classes only	3.0 weighted in core classes AND 3.5 unweighted in career education courses	
2. Core Classes	4- English (3 with substantial writing) 4- Math (Algebra 1 & Above²) 3- Science (2 with substantial lab) 3- Social Science 2- World Language - (sequential, in the same language)	4- English (3 with substantial writing) 4- Math (Algebra 1 & Above²) 3- Science (2 with substantial lab) 3- Social Science 2- World Language - (sequential, in the same language)	4- English 4- Math (Including Algebrate) 3- Science 3- Social Science (2 with substantial lab) 1- Fine/Performing/Practical Arts 3- in a single Career Teal Ed program	hours through CAPE industry certifications that articulate for college credit
3. Service Hours 4. Test Scores	100 hours or 100 paid hours  SAT – 1330 (CR & Math only)	75 hours or 100 paid hours  SAT – 1210 (CR & Math only)	30 hours or 100 paid ho  SAT 24 Reading Test 25 Writing & Language Test 24 Math Test	urs 30 hours or 100 paid hours
	~OR~ ACT – 29 (Composite)	~OR~ ACT – 25 (Composite)	ACT 17 English 19 Reading 19 Math PERT 106 Reading 103 Writing 114 Ma	

### OTHER WAYS TO QUALIFY:

Students who have demonstrated academic merit through a recognition program may be eligible for Bright Futures without having to meet one or more of the requirements. Note: Both AICE and IB Diplomas must be earned prior to high school graduation. Confirmations may come from AICE and IB as late as September. Please refer to the table below for how to qualify based on one of the merit recognition programs.

Merit Recognition Program	High School G	nce Exams by raduation Year /SAT®)	Service Hours	Bright Futures Award	
	2021-22	2022-23			
National Merit® Finalists and Scholars			100 hours	FAS	
National Ment <sup>*</sup> Phansis and Scholars			75 hours	FMS	
National Hispanic Scholars			100 hours	FAS	
National Phypanic Scholars			75 hours	FMS	
Advanced International Certificate of			100 hours	FAS	
Education (AICE) - Diploma			75 hours	FMS	
International Baccalaureate (IB) - Diploma			100 hours	FAS	
international Baccalaureate (1B) - Diploma			75 hours	FMS	
AICE - Curriculum	29/1330	29/1330	100 hours	FAS	
	25/1210	25/1210	75 hours	FMS	
International Baccalaureate (IB) -	29/1330	29/1330	100 hours	FAS	
Curriculum	25/1210	25/1210	75 hours	FMS	

### **NOTES:**

- Algebra 1A and Algebra 1B will only count as 1 math credit & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra may be used.
- Students may use up to 2 additional credits to raise GPA (see BF's website).
- ACT scores are rounded up for scores with .5 and higher; SAT scores do not require rounding.
- For the Merit Recognition program, student can also use 100 paid hours.
- Visit the Florida Bright Futures website to view the student handbook for detailed information.

The Florida Legislature is authorized to change eligibility requirements for future graduating classes.

# **MOST FREQUENTLY REQUESTED COLLEGE ADDRESSES**

Bethune-Cookman University 640 Mary McLeod Bethune Blvd.

Daytona Beach, FL 32114-3099

386-481-2620 www.cookman.edu

School Code: 001467

**Brevard Community College** 

1519 Clearlake Road, Bld. 11 Cocoa, FL 32922-6597

321-632-1111

www.brevard.cc.fl.us

School Code: 001470

Daytona State College

Deltona Campus 2351 Providence Blvd.

Deltona, FL 32725 (386) 789-7300

www.daytonastate.edu

School Code: 001475

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

600 S. Clyde Morris Blvd. Daytona Beach, FL 32114-3900

386-226-6000

www.db.erau.edu

School Code: 001479

Flagler College

74 King Street St. Augustine, FL 32085-1027

904-829-6481

www.flagler.edu

School Code: 007893

Florida A & M University

Rm 101 Foote-Hilyer Admin Center

Tallahassee, FL 32307-3200

850-599-3730

www.famu.edu

School Code: 001480

Florida Atlantic University

Student Services Bld, Rm 227 777 Glades Road

Boca Raton, FL 33431-0991

561-297-3530

www.fau.edu

School Code: 001481

Florida Southern College 111 Lake Hollingsworth Drive

Lakeland, FL 33801-5698

800-205-1600

www.flsouthern.edu

School Code: 001488

Florida State University

Suite 4400A University Center Tallahassee, FL 32306-2430

850-644-0539

www.fsu.edu

School Code: 001489

Rollins College

1000 Holt Ave

Winter Park, FL 32789-4499

407-646-2395

www.rollins.edu

School code: 001515

Santa Fe College

3000 NW 83rd Street Gainesville, FL 32606

352-395-5480

www.sfcollege.edu

School Code: 001519

Stetson University

Griffith Hall, Unit 8397 421 N. Woodland Blvd.

DeLand, FL 32723

386-822-7120

www.stetson.edu

School Code: 001531

**University of Central Florida** 

4000 Central Florida Blvd. Millican Hall, Room 120

Orlando, FL 32816-0113

407-823-2827

www.ucf.edu

School Code: 003954

**University of Florida** 

S-107 Criser Hall,

PO Box 114025

Gainesville, FL 32611-4025

352-392-1275

www.ufl.edu

School Code: 001535

University of North Florida

4567 St. Johns Buff Rd South Jacksonville, FL 32224-2645

904-620-2604

www.unf.edu

School Code: 009841

University of South Florida

4202 E. Fowler Ave, SVC 1102 Tampa, FL 33620-6960

813-974-2011

www.usf.edu

School Code: 001537

University of West Florida

11000 University Parkway

Pensacola, FL 32514

850-474-2000

www.uwf.edu

School Code: 003955

\*School codes are relevant for

FAFSA completion 😉

# **SENIORITIS**

"What's senioritis? Imagine a dog left in a kennel for a month, waiting for his owner to come get him. Then he sees his owner and he know he is going to be home soon! He goes berserk, banging on the cage! That is how most seniors feel this time of year while they are waiting for high school to be over."

As students go back to their final year of high school, they have lots on their minds. College, parties, friends, jobs - everything but studies! There is no doubt about the fact that senior year should be the most enjoyable and memorable of them all. However, one should not forget that the last year of high school should also fulfill its primary purpose: to equip students in making a smooth transition from high school to post-secondary.

Colleges are looking more closely at how high school seniors perform *after* they are accepted early in senior year. Students who drop tough courses or whose grades show significant declines after acceptance may have their admissions revoked. Colleges have always had the right to do this, but revocation was rare in the past. Now with increasingly competitive admissions, colleges are tough on high school seniors who slack off.

Other students have too much on their mind (going off to college, leaving family, having to work, finding how to pay for college) to concentrate on studies. The fact that these 18-year-old "adults" must adhere to rules made for their 15-year-old freshman counterparts only adds to their frustration. The result: a dangerous case of high school "senioritis."

For those of you who still think senioritis is a paranoid conspiracy theory, things have gotten so bad that the government has had to set up a commission to deal with the problem! Although the name is not all that original (any guesses on what it is called, anyone?), the National Commission on the High School Senior Year is actively helping students, parents, and teachers to make the final year of high school more productive and effective.

### Tips to help you survive senioritis:

- *Create your own motivation* Even if you have already been accepted to college, keep setting goals for yourself, in and out of the classroom, and working towards them.
- *Challenge Yourself* Take the most rigorous courses available at your school, such as AP® courses. If you would like a preview of college work, consider signing up for a course at a local college.
- *Stay involved and active* Keep up your participation in school activities, sports, volunteer work, etc.
- *Keep things in balance* Try not to let one area of your life (schoolwork, social life, outside interests, job) totally dominate other areas.

NOTES:		