PRINCIPAL
MR. JEFF MILLER

Assistant Principals
Dr. Jennie Hughes
Mr. Charles Munk
Mr. Efrain Alejandro
Ms. Marisol Rubio

SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT
MR. JUSTIN LIPOMI
MR. GARRETT WESTON
MS. KIM CAIME

School Counseling Department Support Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Extension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registrar</td>
<td>Ms. Louise Everett</td>
<td>23746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Ms. Dorinda Anderson</td>
<td>23743</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Senior:

I want you to have the best possible senior year, and that means being prepared. I want you to be successful in your classes in order to meet graduation requirements and be prepared for your future after high school. I hope you will review the information in this booklet very carefully and share it with your parents. I hope you will then set up an appointment to review your post-secondary plans with me. By meeting early in the school year we can 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 listen to the daily announcements and to check the school website for updates. On-site visits from college representatives will also be announced in the daily bulletin during the fall as they are scheduled.

On behalf of the entire School Counseling Department, I look forward to working with the senior students and families this year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Justin Lipomi
Director of School Counseling
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# CLASS OF 2017 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
(Students who entered 9th grade in 2013 - 2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORIES</th>
<th>CREDITS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MATHEMATICS</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 credit in Algebra I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 credit in Geometry (EOC = 30% of final course grade)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2 credits in additional math courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCIENCE</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• 1 credit in Biology (EOC = 30% of final course grade)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 credit in a physical science course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Earth/Space Science, Physical Science, Chemistry, or Physics)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 credit in an additional science credit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOCIAL STUDIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 credit in World History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 credit in United States History (EOC = 30% of final course grade if enrolled in 2012-2013 or thereafter)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• ½ credit in Economics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• ½ credit in United States Government</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• ½ credit in Personal Fitness</td>
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<tr>
<td>• ½ credit in any other PE course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PERFORMING FINE ARTS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ELECTIVES</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>24 Credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Graduation Requirements:
- 2.0 Grade Point Average (GPA)
- One course must be taken online
- Passing score on the Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading or concordant score on ACT/SAT
- Passing score on the Algebra 1 End of Course Assessment or comparative score on the PERT
COUNTDOWN CALENDAR

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

**September — October**

- Visit the School Counseling office for college and financial aid information and for college representatives’ visitation dates.
- 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 (DSC) or Bethune Cookman University (BCU), or arrange any course work you may need for credit recovery / remediation.
- FCAT retakes for seniors who still must pass the reading section.
- 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. **College Expo, September 26th 2016 from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at Mainland High School.**
- 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](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Be sure to complete it as soon as possible after January 1st.

**November — December**

- ASVAB testing
☐ 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.

☐ Register for the Bright Futures Scholarship program
☐ Attend Financial Aid Nights

**January**

☐ Meet with counselor to review graduation plans.
☐ Retake the SAT and/or ACT.

**February**

☐ Promptly respond to requests for information from college admission and financial aid offices.
☐ Complete applications for community scholarships.
☐ Retake the SAT and/or ACT.

**March**

☐ 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.

**April**

☐ Academic Signing Day application deadline
☐ Academic Signing Day Ceremony
☐ Make your final decision on college attendance and notify the appropriate admissions office.
☐ Promptly respond to requests for information from the college admissions and financial aid offices at your chosen college.
☐ Pay required deposits for enrollment and/or residence hall.
☐ Retake SAT and/or ACT.
May

☐ A.P. exams

☐ Senior Awards Night

☐ Retake SAT and/or SAT.

☐ Complete all FLVS or Odyssey coursework.

☐ Graduation rehearsal

☐ Turn in Volunteer Hours

☐ Graduation May

June – August

☐ Request final high school transcripts to be sent to your college of choice. Final transcripts will not be available until mid-June at the earliest (graduates are responsible for this!).

☐ Attend the orientation program for the college/university you will attend.

☐ Retake the SAT and/or ACT if necessary. June is the last month that scores will count for Bright Futures.

☐ 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’ll 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. **Don't panic if you can't answer every question.** You don't 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 won't receive credit for any answers you mark in the test book.

8. **Don't make extra marks on your answer sheet.** The answer sheet is machinescored and the machine can't 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!**
Taylor Middle-High School’s CEEB Code number is **101410**

### SAT Test Schedule 2016-17

**COLLEGE READY? ☑ YES**

FCAT/FSA Reading Concordant Score: **430** or Reading Test Score: **24**

Register at: [https://sat.collegeboard.org/register](https://sat.collegeboard.org/register)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEPT</th>
<th>OCT</th>
<th>NOV</th>
<th>DEC</th>
<th>JAN</th>
<th>FEB</th>
<th>MARCH</th>
<th>APRIL</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUNE</th>
<th>JULY</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

**NORMAL REGISTRATION DATE**

**LATE REGISTRATION DATE**

**TEST DATE**

**SCORE RELEASE DATE**

### ACT Test Schedule 2016-17

**COLLEGE READY? ☑ YES**

FCAT/FSA Reading Concordant Score: **19**

Register at: [www.actstudent.org/regist/](http://www.actstudent.org/regist/)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>AUGUST</th>
<th>SEPT</th>
<th>OCT</th>
<th>NOV</th>
<th>DEC</th>
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<th>APRIL</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>22</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>18</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**NORMAL REGISTRATION DATE**

**LATE REGISTRATION DATE**

**TEST DATE**

**SCORE RELEASE DATE**
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’d 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.

### SAT & ACT Score Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT Composite Score (Math, CR &amp; W)</th>
<th>ACT Composite Score</th>
<th>SAT Composite Score (Math &amp; CR only)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2340-2390</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>960-1010</td>
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<td>560-610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900-950</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>510-550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SENIOR TIDBITS

Career Choices: Unsure of your future plans? 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: Don’t 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 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? Recruiters from various branches of the military visit our campus on a regular basis. Different military branches, including the National Guard, offer a variety of scholarship opportunities. The ASVAB is scheduled to be administered on campus in November. Sign up at the School Counseling office.

Progress Reports: Progress reports are issued at the mid-point of the grading period. In addition to the mid-term grades, progress reports contain information about make-up work, conduct and classroom progress. Progress reports are sent home with the student.
Stay Informed: Keep on top of the latest news and information. Listen to morning announcements, visit our school web site often, and check-in with your counselor regularly. Take advantage of every opportunity coming your way by staying informed.

Transcripts: Transcripts must be requested in advance (at least 2 to 3 days) from the School Counseling Office. There is a form that must be completed and signed by your parent. Provide the mailing address if the transcript is going to an out of state or private college or university.

You will need to request a FINAL TRANSCRIPT at the end of the school year once you are sure which college/university or other program you will be attending. The final transcripts will not be sent out right away. Check in the School Counseling office for this date.
SENIOR EXPENSES

The following items are optional, approximate expenses. This will give you an idea on how to budget your money and possible expenses related to your senior year. These are approximations and subject to change.

✓ Yearbook - $70 - $100

✓ Grad Bash at Universal Studios - $90

✓ Homecoming dance - $30

✓ Prom - $55

Optional, prices vary according to your selection.

✓ Senior pictures - Varies

✓ Class ring - Varies

✓ Graduation announcements - Varies

✓ Class portraits - Varies
GRADUATING THE CLASS OF 2017

The Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2017 is on May 25, 2017. 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 on May 17, 2017 in the auditorium and begins promptly at 6:30 PM. 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 on May 25, 2017 at Stetson Edmunds Center, 421 North Woodland Blvd., Deland, FL.

Graduation Attire

Female graduates are to wear a cool dark, solid colored dress 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. Dresses should not hang below the graduation gown.

Wear dark dress shoes with medium height heels for your safety in getting on and off the stage—also, skin tone stockings are best.

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.

Male graduates are to wear dark blue or black dress pants and black dress shoes. Jeans, sneakers, topsiders, flip flops and sandals are not allowed. Wear a white dress shirt with a collar and a dark tie.
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.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Industry Certification Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Technology Applications</td>
<td>Adobe Certified Associate (Photoshop)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agritechnology 2</td>
<td>Agricultural Technician Certification</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications Technology 1 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Adobe Certified Associate (InDesign)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications Technology 2</td>
<td>Adobe Certified Associate (Illustrator)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culinary Arts 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Certified Food Protection Manager (ServSafe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culinary Arts 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>National ProStart Certificate of Achievement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Design 3</td>
<td>Adobe Certified Associate (Illustrator)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Design 3</td>
<td>Adobe Certified Associate (InDesign)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Design 3</td>
<td>Adobe Certified Associate (Photoshop)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Media/Multimedia Foundations 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Adobe Certified Associate (Illustrator)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Media/Multimedia Foundations 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Adobe Certified Associate (Photoshop)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Media/Multimedia Foundations 2 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Adobe Certified Associate (Illustrator)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Video Production 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Adobe Certified Associate (Premiere Pro)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Video Production 2</td>
<td>Adobe Certified Associate (Flash)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Medical Responder 3</td>
<td>Certified Patient Care Technician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Science Applications 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Certified Professional Food Manager (ServSafe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Science 1</td>
<td>Certified Medical Administrative Assistant (CMAA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Television Production 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Adobe Certified Associate (Flash)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Television Production 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Adobe Certified Associate (Premiere Pro)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCHOLAR DESIGNATION

In addition to meeting the standard high school diploma requirements:

- 1 credit in Algebra 2
- 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 one credit in an AP, IB, AICE or dual enrollment course.
• Students who take respective AP or IB Biology and/or US History assessment and earn minimum score to earn college credit are exempt from the EOC requirement for these courses.

SUPERINTENDENT’S DIPLOMA OF DISTINCTION (SDD)

• Meet all application deadlines and be accepted into the program
• Successfully complete (4) or more AP courses in 2 or more subject areas (successful completion includes sitting for AP Exam)
• Score 3 or higher on a minimum of (3) AP Exam
• Maintain a 3.0 GPA for AP courses
• Maintain a cumulative weighted 3.0 GPA
• Complete a minimum of 100 hours of community service
• Participate in the SAT or ACT programs.

COLLEGE REPS

Many colleges and universities in the area will send a representative to our school during the fall. These representatives usually bring information about their school, give a brief talk on entrance requirements and campus life, and answer questions. While you should visit college campuses you are most interested in, you should also make a point of meeting with the representative as a part of your college selection process.

College representative visits will be posted usually two weeks prior to the visit – in the School Counseling office. You must sign up in advance in order to receive a pass to attend. If you have questions please contact your counselor.
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:

✓ a large number of academic majors. At a large university available academic majors 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.

✓ 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 two-year 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 **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.

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.
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 particular college environment. Given the experience of college education, it makes sense to shop for the school that best fits your needs, and this includes giving consideration to 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:

- a campus tour
- 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 inquiries 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.
- Get an application from the college of your choice.
- Know and meet deadlines
  - for early admission
  - for regular admission
  - for financial aid and scholarships
  - for special programs
  - for housing
- Fill out an authorization form for release of records.
- Remember – Taylor Middle High School’s CEEB Code is 101410.

Time Line

- 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’ll still be there!
## COLLEGE COSTS – ESTIMATIONS FOR 2016-2017

### Average Cost per Academic Year (fall & spring semester)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public/Private Institution*</th>
<th>Tuition</th>
<th>RM &amp; BD</th>
<th>Books</th>
<th>Total Costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bethune-Cookman University</td>
<td>14,410</td>
<td>8,560</td>
<td>1,450</td>
<td>24,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daytona State College</td>
<td>2,508</td>
<td>2,128</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>5,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ.</td>
<td>33,318</td>
<td>10,382</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>45,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flagler College</td>
<td>16,830</td>
<td>9,630</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>27,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida A&amp;M University</td>
<td>5,785</td>
<td>9,576</td>
<td>1,138</td>
<td>16,499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida State University</td>
<td>5,644</td>
<td>10,264</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>16,708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stetson University</td>
<td>40,040</td>
<td>11,476</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>52,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Central Florida</td>
<td>5,980</td>
<td>9,764</td>
<td>1,146</td>
<td>16,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Florida</td>
<td>6,310</td>
<td>9,650</td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>17,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Florida</td>
<td>6,496</td>
<td>8,190</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>15,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of South Florida</td>
<td>6,410</td>
<td>9,400</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>16,810</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Information taken from individual school web sites. Some are approximations.

The amounts listed above are estimated 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 $2,000 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 three 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOLARSHIP</th>
<th>BENEFIT</th>
<th>RENEWAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Scholar</td>
<td>$103.00 Per Semester Hour</td>
<td>Renewable for up to four years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medallion Scholar</td>
<td>$77.00 Per Semester Hour</td>
<td>Renewable for up to four years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$63.00 Per Semester Hour at Florida Public or Community Colleges</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Seal Scholar</td>
<td>$48.00 Per Semester Hour (AS, AAS, CCC)</td>
<td>Renewable for up to two years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$39.00 Per Semester Hour (PSAV &amp; ATD)</td>
<td>Renewable for up to two years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**for specific Bright Futures Scholarship details visit [www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/).

### Financial Aid

Many local scholarships are available throughout 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. Don’t 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERSONAL INFORMATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Mail:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City, State:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Diploma:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HONORS AND AWARDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any academic, athletic, or community honors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsoring organization:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date awarded &amp; what grade:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reasons for recognition:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position held:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates of involvement and what grade:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of activities:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORK EXPERIENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Include both paid and unpaid after school, weekend or summer employment. Describe your skills, qualifications, and accomplishments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Title:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name or employer or organization:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City, State:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates worked:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of work, skills used, special projects and accomplishments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SKILLS (AND SPECIAL INTERESTS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Languages:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer skills:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interests:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sammy T Senior  
2017 Graduate Way • Somewhere, FL 32725 • (386) 575-4153 • agreatstudent@gmail.com

Education
Senior, ABC High School, 100 Way Street, Somewhere, FL 32725  
Anticipated Graduation Date: May 2016

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 2013 and 2014 • 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 2013 – Fall 2015 • 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 • 2012 – 2013
- Assisted with and participated in group activities and field trips
- Tutored ages 8 – 13 and assisted with homework assignments

School Organizations
National Honor Society 2013 – 2016
Debate Team 2014 – 2016
Decorations Committee Chair 2015
Spanish Club 2010 – 2014
- Secretary 2013
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 of 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 doesn’t have to be overwhelming. Some of the best steps to take include:

- Attend the district-wide Financial Aid Night on October 27th at Pine Ridge High School at 6:30 PM. Information will be presented 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.

Generally speaking, 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 ahead by completing the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) worksheet.

Scholarship Scams

Be careful when searching for information on student financial assistance. Make sure in formation and offers are legitimate. Don't 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.
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 student 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 of 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 [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov);
- 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 you 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're 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.
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

To be eligible for an initial award from any 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 [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org). 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 [www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/).)

☐ 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 Futures Office for application deadlines).

Eligibility requirements for each of the three 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: [www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/)
FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES REQUIREMENTS 2016 - 2017

FLORIDA ACADEMIC SCHOLARS AWARD (FAS)

3.5 weighted GPA

Courses must include 16 credits of college preparatory academic courses. *May use up to 3 additional credits to raise GPA (see BF’s website)*

4  English (3 with substantial writing)
4  Mathematics (Algebra I level and above)*
3  Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
3  Social Science
2  Foreign Language (in the same language)**

100 Community Service Hours

Test Scores-Best composite score of 1290 SAT (does not include new writing score) or 29 ACT (ACT scores are rounded up for scores with .5 and higher; SAT scores do not require rounding.)

/ FLORIDA MEDALLION SCHOLARS AWARD (FMS) /

3.0 weighted GPA

Courses must include 16 credits of college preparatory academic courses. *May use up to 3 additional credits to raise GPA (see BF’s website)*

4  English (3 with substantial writing)
4  Mathematics (Algebra I level and above)*
3  Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
3  Social Science
2  Foreign Language (in the same language)**

75 hours of community service

Test Scores-Best composite score of 1170 SAT (does not include new writing score) or 26 ACT (ACT scores are rounded up for scores with .5 and higher; SAT scores do not require rounding.)
FLORIDA GOLD SEAL VOCATIONAL SCHOLARS AWARD (GSV)

3.0 weighted GPA using the 16 credits listed below for a 4-year Diploma and a 3.5 unweighted GPA in a minimum of 3 vocational credits in one vocational program, combined with the test scores listed below.

4-year Diploma
Credits must include 16 core credits required for high school graduation.

- 4 English
- 4 Mathematics (including Algebra I)
- 3 Natural Science
- 3 Social Science (Am. Hist., World Hist., Am. Govt., and Economics)
- 1 Practical Arts OR 1 Performing Arts OR .5 credit in each
- .5 Personal Fitness
- .5 Physical Education

30 hours of community service

Students must earn the minimum score on each section of the PERT or SAT or ACT. Sections of different test types may not be combined.

PERT: Reading 106 Sentence Skills 103 Algebra 114
ACT: English 17 Reading 19 Math 19
SAT Reasoning Test: Critical Reading 440 Math 440

NOTES:

**8th grade Algebra & Foreign Language may be used.

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

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

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

Brevard Community College
1519 Clearlake Road, Bld. 11
Cocoa, FL  32922-6597
321-632-1111
www.brevard.cc.fl.us
School Code: 001470

Florida Southern College
111 Lake Hollingsworth Drive
Lakeland, FL  33801-5698
800-205-1600
www.flsouthern.edu
School Code: 001488

University of Florida
S-107 Criser Hall,
PO Box 114025
Gainesville, FL  32611-4025
352-392-1275
www.ufl.edu
School Code: 001535

Daytona State College
Deltona Campus
2351 Providence Blvd.
Deltona, FL 32725
(386) 789-7300
www.daytonastate.edu
School Code: 001475

Florida State University
Suite 4400A University Center
Tallahassee, FL  32306-2430
850-644-0539
www.fsu.edu
School Code: 001489

University of North Florida
4567 St. Johns Buff Rd South
Jacksonville, FL  32224-2645
904-620-2604
www.unf.edu
School Code: 009841

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 A & M University
Rm 101 Foote-Hilyer Admin Center
Tallahassee, FL  32307-3200
850-599-3730
www.famu.edu
School Code: 001480

Florida State University
Suite 4400A University Center
Tallahassee, FL  32306-2430
850-644-0539
www.fsu.edu
School Code: 001489

University of South Florida
4202 E. Fowler Ave, SVC 1102
Tampa, FL  33620-6960
813-974-2011
www.usf.edu
School Code: 001537

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

Stetson University
Griffith Hall, Unit 8397
421 N. Woodland Blvd.
DeLand, FL  32723
386-822-7120
www.stetson.edu
School Code: 001531

University of South Florida
4202 E. Fowler Ave, SVC 1102
Tampa, FL  33620-6960
813-974-2011
www.usf.edu
School Code: 001537

Florida A & M University
Rm 101 Foote-Hilyer Admin Center
Tallahassee, FL  32307-3200
850-599-3730
www.famu.edu
School Code: 001480

Stetson University
Griffith Hall, Unit 8397
421 N. Woodland Blvd.
DeLand, FL  32723
386-822-7120
www.stetson.edu
School Code: 001531

University of West Florida
11000 University Parkway
Pensacola, FL  32514
850-474-2000
www.uwf.edu
School Code: 003955
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 knows he’s going to be home soon! He goes berserk, banging on the cage! That’s how most seniors feel this time of year while they’re 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's no doubt about the fact that senior year should be the most enjoyable and memorable of them all. However, one shouldn't 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 college.

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" have to 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 isn't all that original (any guesses on what it's 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’ve 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'd 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.