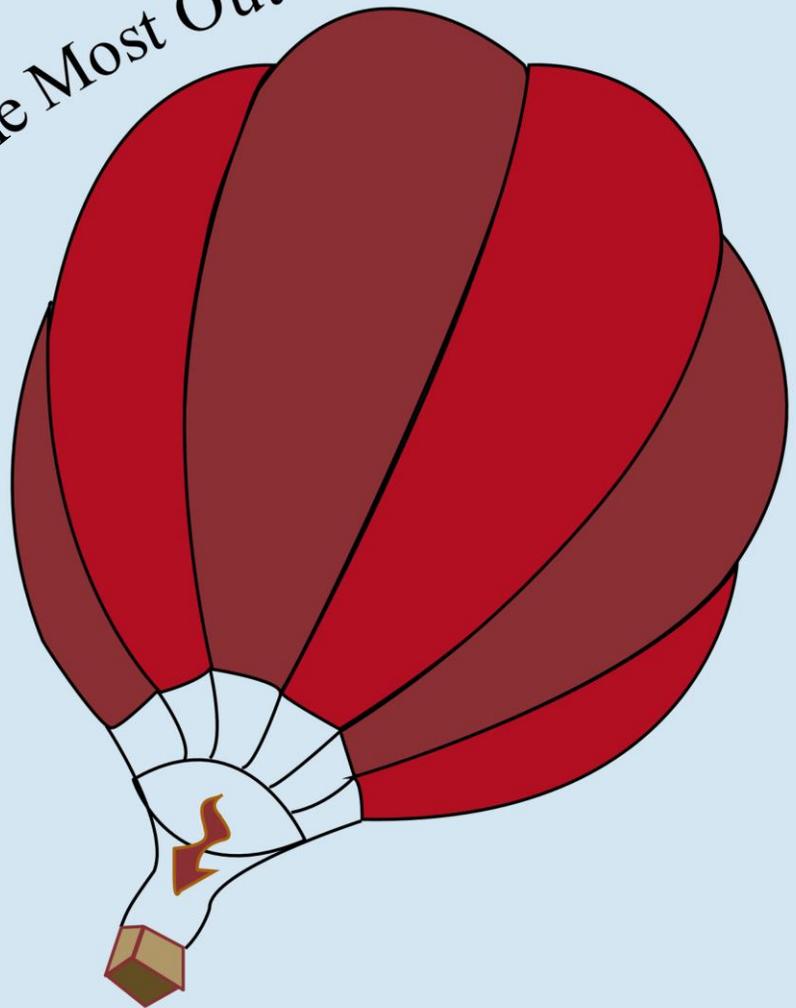


Planning Your Future

Making The Most Out Of High School



Junior / Senior Planning

Congratulations!

You're thinking about what you want to do in the future!

Here are some helpful pages of information to help guide you along the way. If you have any questions, see your counselors for help!



Professional & Technical High School

501 Simpson Road

Kissimmee, FL 34744

Phone: 407-518-5407

Fax: 407-344-2467

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Bright Futures Scholarship



Education Foundation Scholarships

Valencia-Bound Students

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Final Senior Tasks

Graduation Requirements & Diploma Designations

4 Credits of English

4 Credits of Math (including Algebra I, Geometry, and above)

- o Algebra I EOC Geometry

EOC 8 Elective Credits

(must take) Including

Science (a 4th through

science recommended for College)

- o Biology I EOC *(must take)*

1 Credit of World History

1 Credit of Phys. Ed. with the integration of Health (HOPE)

1 Credit of

Fine/Practical/Performing Art

1 online course 3 Credits of

Osceola Virtual School

Additional Requirements

10th Grade FSA (Reading Level 3)



For requirements specific to your Graduating Class, visit Florida Department of Education

<http://www.fldoe.org/academics/graduation-requirements/>

1 Credit of US History o US

History EOC *(must take)*

½ Credit of U.S. Government

½ Credit of Economics with Financial Literacy

Algebra I EOC Level 3

2.0 Unweighted GPA

**4-year College entrance requires at least

2 consecutive credits of a foreign language

Scholar Diploma Designation

Earn 1 credit in Algebra II

Pass the Geometry EOC

Earn 1 credit in statistics or an equally rigorous mathematics course

Pass the Biology I EOC Earn 1 credit in chemistry or physics

Earn 1 credit in a course equally rigorous to chemistry or physics Pass the

U.S. History EOC

Earn 2 credits in the same world language

Earn at least 1 credit in AP, IB, AICE or a dual enrollment course.

A student is exempt from the Biology I or U.S. History assessment if the student is enrolled in an AP, IB or AICE Biology I or U.S. History course and the student

- Takes the respective AP, IB or

AICE assessment; and ○

Earns the minimum score to earn college credit.

Merit Diploma Designation

Attain one or more industry certifications from the list established (per section 1003.492, Florida Statutes [F.S.]

VALENCIA COLLEGE

Dual Enrollment Application Timeline

Please see below for the steps to apply for the Dual Enrollment program through Valencia College. See you counselor for more information and specific dates & deadlines for the semester you're planning to apply. The application process occurs during Fall & Spring semesters. Students who are accepted can start classes the following semester. For example, a student will apply in the Spring to begin the following Fall semester.

STEP 1: THE DUAL ENROLLMENT APPLICATION

- Complete the DE Application (We strongly encourage you to type your application through our fillable PDF file) Sign application and obtain parent/guardian signature
- Obtain Guidance Counselor signature confirming your cumulative GPA and college-ready test scores ○ If there are no test scores provided in the Guidance Counselor portion, the DE office will expect to receive official

test scores for the PERT, ACT or SAT by the specified test score deadline (usually shortly after the application closes).

STEP 2: SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

- Applications must be submitted through your School Counselor / Valencia College Coach
 - You will be issued a Valencia ID number within seven business days after the DE office receives your application
 - Please note: Applications will *not* be accepted at any Valencia College campus**
-

STEP 3: COLLEGE READY TEST SCORES

- If you have eligible, college-ready test scores on file with Valencia at the time your application is submitted, you will be fully processed within seven business days
 - If you do not have eligible, college-ready test scores on file with Valencia at the time the application is submitted, you will receive a weekly email reminder to submit eligible test scores
 - SAT and ACT scores must be
-

requested from Collegeboard.org or ACT.org

- SAT and ACT scores take 5 weeks to be received and processed
- *ALL Scores must be received by the test score deadline determined for that semester*

STEP 4: DUAL ENROLLMENT ACCEPTANCE LETTER

- An official Dual Enrollment acceptance letter will be mailed to the address listed on your application
 - The letter will outline your next steps or you can check our website for specific details
-

STEP 5: HOW TO CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR APPLICATION

- Speak with your Guidance Counselor / College Coach to receive application status updates before contacting the Valencia Dual Enrollment office
-

Valencia College Dual Enrollment Application Process - this form adapted from valenciacollege.edu/dual

Junior Year College/Career Checklist

Fall

- _____ Meet with your counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate.
- _____ Take/Review the PSAT and focus on weak areas
- _____ Start/continue a resume so that you can keep track of your extracurricular activities, volunteer work, jobs, academics, etc. You will need this info for applications.
- _____ FOCUS ON YOUR GPA. Applications you complete will use your 11th grade CUMULATIVE GPA!
- _____ Get to know teachers and counselors, so they can get to know you. At some point you will need recommendations for summer programs, scholarships, and college applications.
- _____ Think CAREERS! Research, research, research! Use MyCareerShines!
- _____ Start a list of post-secondary options (military; tech; college/university) & start researching.
- _____ Research programs by learning more about: the type of program (four-year, two-year, apprenticeship) and the major you are interested in, where you want to live, job opportunities in your field, and financial aid.
- _____ Start scheduling and going on college tours and/or meeting with College Reps.
- _____ Prep for the SAT and ACT
- _____ Get to work on researching scholarships!!!!
- _____ Find fun and interesting ways to volunteer (*try to find opportunities in your field of interest*).

Winter/Spring

- _____ Research & apply to summer workshops
- _____ Check GPA and class rank at the start of the 2nd semester _____ Register for the May or June ACT and SAT...AND STUDY!!!!
- _____ Take AP exams for any AP classes you've taken & consider taking SAT Subject Tests
- _____ Narrow down your career interests and post-secondary plans
- _____ College options - develop a preliminary list of 6 colleges that you plan to apply
 - 2 Reach Schools (you do not meet all the criteria to be accepted, but you're pretty close)
 - 2 Match Schools (you meet all the criteria to be accepted)
 - 2 Backup Plan Schools (you meet all the criteria, and you will definitely get accepted) _____ Continue to volunteer, and continue to research/apply for scholarships!
- _____ Military Options – Take the ASVAB for experience & work on physical requirements _____ TAKE ALL TESTS & EXAMS SERIOUSLY – THESE WILL IMPACT YOUR FUTURE!!!!
- _____ Report your post-grad plans to Mrs. Crotty & create your goals for Senior Year!

Summer

- _____ Finalize your list of colleges/options, research & create TO-DO lists for Fall of Senior Year (applications!)
- _____ Visit institutions that interest you. Sign up for a tour so they'll know you were there! Bring questions!
- _____ Sign up to retake the SAT and/or ACT exams for scores need for college requirements/scholarships.

#CollegeBound Senior Checklist

<p>Summer/Fall</p> 	<p>Choose 4-5 Colleges/Universities where you want to apply</p> <p>Research application <u>deadlines & requirements</u></p> <p>Register for ACT/SAT (Students who qualify for free/reduced lunch can get a fee waiver from Mrs. Crotty)</p> <p>Schedule a Scholarship Counseling Workshop (foundationosceola.org)</p> <p>Decide/Ask who will write letters of recommendation for you</p>
<p>Early Fall</p>   	<p>Start filling out applications (if applicable)</p> <p>Start researching scholarships</p> <p>Look at: Osceola Education Foundation, local organizations, Interested colleges financial aid office websites, Scholarship sites like fastweb.com, scholarships.com, unigo.com</p> <p>Start writing college application essays</p> <p>Take SAT and/or ACT & SAT Subject tests (if applicable)</p> <p>Attend a Scholarship Counseling Workshop (schedule appt.) Turn in your community service hours (on-going)</p> <p>October deadline for turning in your Resume (Mrs. Brickman)</p> <p>OCTOBER 1st - Fill out FAFSA (deadline Dec 1st) fafsa.gov See Mrs. Crotty for assistance/events</p> <p>Complete FFAA for Bright Futures <u>and</u> state grants Opens OCTOBER 1st (same as FAFSA)</p> <p>http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/bf/</p>
<p>Early – Late Fall</p>	<p>Early NOVEMBER – Education Foundation <u>scholarships OPEN!</u></p> <p>Complete college applications (and mail) & check status</p> <p>Keep turning in volunteer service hours & researching scholarships</p>

<p>Early Spring</p> 	<p>Research & complete scholarship applications</p> <p>Turn in remaining community service hours</p> <p>Request transcripts</p> <p>Re-test SAT / ACT, if needed</p> <p>Review financial aid award packages as they arrive</p> <p>Submit any acceptances/scholarship awards to Mrs. Crotty</p>
<p>May</p> 	<p><i>May 1st! National Decision Day!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Notify school of your choice via enrollment deposit before 5/1 <p>GRADUATE!</p>

Osceola Virtual School

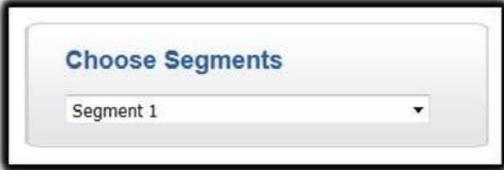
For students needing to satisfy the online course requirement or students wanting to take additional courses online, please use the following process to register for an online course through the Florida Virtual School – Osceola Virtual School option.

1. Go to flvs.net then click sign-up.



2. Select County Virtual School.

3. Pick Osceola County and Public/Charter School Student.



4. Select your course then the semester that you want to take.

5. Choose your start date. (Choose next available date)



6. Pick Osceola Virtual Secondary School. Please contact 407-870-1445 if Osceola is not listed.

Community Service Hours

Community Service is a great way to gain experience in your chosen field, increase your chances of getting into certain schools, receiving scholarships and, of course, pursuing personal fulfillment.

It is NOT a graduation requirement to have hours completed but it is HIGHLY recommended!

TURN ALL COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS IN TO YOUR COUNSELOR.

THERE ARE 2 WAYS TO SUBMIT HOURS:

1. You may use the PATHS community service hours log. Be sure it is complete with all required information and signed by you, your parent, and the supervisor at the worksite.
2. The second option is to have the worksite create a document with the needed information on company/organization letterhead. It must include the number of hours completed, the type of work done, dates and time the work was completed, and signatures from the supervisor, you, and your parent.

1 WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE?

- Students must perform volunteer services on their own time, which can include lunch breaks and after school.
- Fundraising for non-profit organizations or charities is acceptable.
- Service may be volunteered to the school and/or the community.
- Service may be performed for profit-making organizations only if they are institutions like hospitals or nursing homes.
- Volunteer work for a religious or political organization will only count as volunteer hours if, for example, your church youth group helps with the Special Olympics or the political organization promotes non-partisan activities, such as voter registration.
- Vacation Bible School and working in church nursery are acceptable.

2 WHAT DOES NOT COUNT TOWARDS COMMUNITY SERVICE?

- Service rendered as a prerequisite for employment
- Service performed for a student's family, neighbors or friends or for profit-making organization
- Attendance at self-improvement workshops, conferences, or competitions
- Service performed as a result of disciplinary action taken by the school or courts
- Participation in Varsity or Junior Varsity athletics or regularly scheduled band or chorus performances
- Common activities such as acolyte, altar server, lay reader, church choir and clerical work for religious organizations

- Babysitting
- Any paid service

- Volunteer service involving academic requirements for a class

***The above criteria will not cover all circumstances. If a question exists regarding the acceptance of an activity for volunteer service, the student's counselor should approve the service prior to the student's participation.**



Applying to College

Terms to Know

Application: Admissions departments usually require students to complete an application for admission that generally consists of academic records, personal essays, letters of recommendation, and a list of extracurricular activities. Most schools require the SAT or ACT. Deadlines for admission applications are established and published individually by each college or university.

Advanced Placement (AP): AP courses are college-level classes taught in the high school following guidelines and covering material that will instruct students in AP subject areas and should prepare them to take Advanced Placement tests offered by The College Board.

Campus Visit/Tour: A service by the college admissions office for prospective students, allowing them to visit various campus buildings, meet key institutional personnel, and get a firsthand look at campus life.

College Rep Visit: This is when a college or university admissions representative visits a high school or community site for the purpose of recruiting students for admission to the institution.

Common Application: The Common Application (informally known as the Common App) makes it possible for students to use one admissions application to apply to any of almost 700 member colleges and universities. This allows the application to be filled out once online and submitted to all schools with the same information going to each.

Extracurriculars: Extracurricular activities are simply anything you do that is not a high school course or paid employment (but note that paid work experience is of interest to colleges and can substitute for some extracurricular activities). You should define your extracurricular activities in broad terms—many applicants make the mistake of thinking of them solely as schoolsponsored groups such as yearbook, band or football. Not so. Most community and family activities are also "extracurricular." **GPA (Grade Point Average):** Quantitative measure of a student's grades. The GPA is figured by averaging the numerical value of a student's grades. It is cumulative, starting freshman year with grades counting every year.

A poor GPA in ninth grade can drag down the overall average, despite, for example, good grades junior year.

Recommendations: Statements or letters of endorsement written on a student's behalf during the college application process.

School Profile: This is an overview of your high school's program, grading system, course offerings, and other features that your school submits to admissions offices along with your transcript. For better or worse, admissions offices use this information to weigh your GPA, placing a student's GPA against the academic reputation of the school she or he attends.

Transcript: This is the official document containing the record of a student's academic performance and testing history. The school at which a student is or has been officially enrolled must issue the transcript, certified by the signature of an authorized school administrator. The school's official seal or watermarked school stationery may also be used to authenticate the transcript.

Acceptance: The decision by an admissions officer or committee to offer the opportunity for enrollment as a student at a particular institution. **Early Action:** Early action is when a prospective student applies for admission by early deadline (before the regular admission deadline) and receives notice of acceptance, denial, or deferment with no obligation to the university to enroll, if accepted for admission.

Early Decision: Through this program offered by many post-secondary schools, students willing to commit to a school, if accepted, submit their application by a date well before the general admission deadline. If accepted, the student must enroll in that school, so students should only apply early decision to their first choice school.

Gap-Year Programs: Year-long programs designed for high school graduates who wish to defer enrollment in college while engaging in meaningful activities, such as academic programs, structured travel, community service, etc. **Rolling**

Admissions: This is a practice used by some institutions to review and complete applications as they arrive, rather than according to a set deadline. **Credit (or Semester) Hour:** Credit given for attending one lecture hour of class each week for 15 weeks or equivalent.

Most college classes are three credit hours, meaning their total meeting time for a week is three hours.

First-Generation Student: A student whose parents have no college experience/degree.

First-Year Student: A college freshman.

Award Letter: An award letter from a school states the type and amount of financial aid the school is willing to provide the student, if s/he accepts admission and registers as a full-time student.

Cost of Attending College: This is the total cost of going to college, including tuition, room and board, books, transportation, fees, and personal expenses.

Demonstrated Need: This is the difference between the cost of attending a college and your expected family contribution.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC): The EFC is the amount of money you and your family could be expected to pay for one year of college costs, based on the data gathered from the FAFSA and determined by a federal formula applied to that data. This figure often differs from the actual amount you will be required to pay.

FAFSA: This is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, a federal form required as the application from all students who wish to apply for need-based financial aid, including grants, loans and work-study awards.

Fees: These are charges that cover costs not associated with the student's course load, such as costs of some athletic activities, clubs, special events and equipment. **Financial Aid Package:** The total amount of financial aid a student receives. Federal and nonfederal aid—such as grants, loans, or work-study—are combined in a "package" to help meet the student's need. Using available resources to give each student the best possible package of aid is one of the major responsibilities of a school's financial aid administrator. **Need-Blind Admission:** Full consideration of an applicant and his or her application without regard to the individual's need for financial aid.

Tuition: This is the amount of money that colleges charge for classroom and other instruction and use of some facilities such as libraries.

College Planning: Where Do I Start?

1 Pick a Career/Major

Upon entrance to a degree program, students will select their identified field of study. This will be an area of study that indicates the type of career they're planning to have. There are *many* pathways for different occupations. For example, a student that majors in the field of Education may continue to be a teacher, or even do further coursework to work in school administration, student services, district leadership positions, etc. Another example may be that a student who studied Psychology could go into a Criminal Justice career, a Mental Health Counseling career, or even a Medical career.

1.1 Undecided

That's OK! Skip to Step 2 and start on your Associate of Arts while narrowing down your chosen career field. Some colleges have undeclared major programs to assist you in this decision process. Most colleges have career centers and program advisors to assist with this planning, as well.

1.2 Types of Post-Secondary Degrees

- A.A.: This stands for an "Associate of Arts" degree, which can be earned at most two-year colleges. This is the degree often used to complete General Education coursework and then transfer to complete a Bachelor's Degree.
- A.S.: This refers to an "Associate of Science" degree, which can be earned at some two-year colleges. These degrees are often used to complete some general coursework but mostly courses in the student major, with the intent of seeking employment after the completion of 2 years of study.
- B.A. or B.S.: B.A. stands for "Bachelor of Arts," and B.S. stands for "Bachelor of Science." Both degrees can be earned at four-year colleges/universities. These are the second 2 years of study when the student actually takes classes in their major of study.
- Graduate Degrees: These degrees are earned beyond the bachelor's degree when the student completes graduate school curriculum requirements. Common examples include the MA (master's degree), PhD (doctoral degree) MBA (master's degree in business administration), MD (medical doctor).
- Certificates: In an economy that increasingly rewards specialization, more and more institutions are offering certification programs, typically a package of five or six courses, for credit or not, taken over three to 18 months. An example might be a welding program or a program at a Technical College.

2 Determine the type of school(s) you'll attend

- **Public Institution**: A college or university that receives public funding, primarily from a local, state, or national government that oversees and regulates the school's operations is considered a public institution.

- **Private Institution:** This is a college or university funded by private sources without any control by a government agency. The cost of attending a private institution is generally higher than the cost at a public institution.

- **University:** A "post-secondary institution" that consists of a liberal arts college, a diverse graduate program, and usually two or more professional schools or faculties, and that is empowered to confer degrees in various fields of study.
- **State College:** State colleges, sometimes called community colleges, junior colleges, or city colleges, are primarily two-year public institutions providing higher education and lower-level courses, granting certificates, diplomas, and associate's degrees. Many also offer continuing and adult education. After graduating from a state college, some students transfer to a four-year college or university for two to three years to complete a bachelor's degree.
- **Vocational or Technical School:** This type of institution is similar to a state college in that it offers specific career-oriented programs that last from a few months to a couple of years. Most are specialized and offer intense training in one specific skill area.

3 Research Colleges/Universities & learn about them

Degree Programs in your Major (research specific programs that stand out)

Campus Life, Clubs, Organizations, Honors Societies, Sports, Greek Life, etc.

Application Requirements – Deadline, Essay, Test Scores, etc.

High School GPA Requirement (Weighted or Unweighted?)

SAT / ACT Score Requirements (Writing Option Required?)

Tuition Costs (consider tuition & fees, housing, meal plans, transportation, etc.)

Financial Aid & Scholarship Opportunities



4 Research and decide on the following

- Choose **two REACH** schools – Schools you are interested in and have requirements that are at a higher level than your scores/grades are now
- Choose **two MATCH** schools – Schools you are interested in and have requirements at the level you are currently achieving

- Choose **two BACKUP** schools – Schools that you are interested in that have a high chance of acceptance for you

College Entrance Testing

The below tests are used to determine measures of performance across academic areas.

Colleges/Universities use SAT & ACT test scores to evaluate student achievement.

These scores are also sometimes used for scholarship programs, such as the Florida Bright Futures program.

ACT: A two-hour-and-55-minute examination that measures a student's knowledge and achievement in four subject areas -- English, mathematics, reading and science reasoning -- to determine the student's readiness for college-level instruction. There is also an optional writing test that assesses students' skills in writing an essay. The four subject area scores are averaged to create a Composite Score.

PSAT Test: This exam prepares students for the SAT and is used to qualify students for the National Merit Scholarship semifinals and other academic awards. **SAT:** The SAT Reasoning Test assesses students' critical thinking skills as they relate to the ability to manage collegelevel instruction. It is a 3-hour exam measuring verbal and mathematical skills, as well as grammar/conventions and the ability to write a brief essay. **SAT Subject Test:** SAT subject tests (also known as SAT II tests) are offered in many areas of study including English, mathematics, many sciences, history, and foreign languages. Some colleges require students to take one or more SAT subject tests when they apply for admission. A student might take these to show their knowledge/intelligence in a specified area of concentration.

SAT	vs.	ACT
reasoning & evidenced based test	Type of Test	content-based test
3 hours total Reading – 65 minutes Writing & Language – 35 minutes Math – 80 minutes **50 minute Optional Essay	Test Format	Total: 2 hours 55 minutes English: 1, 45-min section; Math: 1, 60-min section; Reading: 1, 35-min section; Science: 1, 35-min section; *Optional Writing: 1, 30-min essay
Vocabulary – meaning & implications, Reading & Writing – interpret, synthesis, & use of evidence in passages & text elements Math – Problem solving & Data Analysis Essay(Optional) – Written analysis of provided source	Content Covered	grammar & usage, math, reading, science reasoning, and writing (optional)
Reading, Writing & Language, & Math range 200-800 Essay range 2-8/3 categories Total Score Range 400 - 1600	Scoring	English, Math, Reading, and Science scores will each range 1-36. Composite ACT score is the average of your scores on the four sections; ranges between 1-36
yes – you can choose which set(s) of SAT scores to submit to colleges 4 free reports if requested before test date	Score Choice?	yes – you can choose which set(s) of ACT scores to submit to colleges 4 free reports if requested before test date
seven times per year: January, March or April, May, June, October, November, December	Offered when?	six times per year: February, April, June, September, October, December
typically about four weeks before the test date	Registration deadline?	typically about five to six weeks before the test date
www.collegeboard.org/mysat	More Information	www.act.org

See the testing websites, our school website, or your counselor test dates and how to register. Students that are eligible for free/reduced lunch may receive waivers to take each test twice per school year.

Financial Aid & Scholarships Terms to Know



GRANTS, like loans and most scholarships, are based on financial need. A grant may be provided by federal or state governments, an institution, a foundation, or some other nonprofit funding source and does not have to be repaid.

- **Federal Pell Grant:** This grant is a form of financial aid provided by the Federal government to students whose FAFSA indicates a high level of financial need.
- **Institutional Grant:** This is a need-based grant provided by an institution and offered to students whose families are unable to pay the full cost of college. Institutional grants do not have to be repaid.
- **Merit-Based Grant:** A form of gift aid (does not require repayment) based upon your grade point average, academic excellence and extracurricular involvement with some attention to your financial need.
- **Need-Based Grant:** This grant is offered, as a part of the financial aid package, when a student and his or her family are unable to pay the full cost of attending an institution. The grant does not need to be repaid.

WORK-STUDY PROGRAMS: Most colleges offer work-study programs. They allow students to work part time during the school year as part of their financial aid package. The jobs are usually on campus and the money earned is used to pay for tuition or other college charges.

A **LOAN** is a type of financial aid that is available to students and to the parents of students. An education loan must be repaid. In many cases, however, payments do not begin until the student finishes school.

- **Federal Perkins Loans:** These loans are similar to Stafford loans in that no interest accrues while you are in college. The interest rate is lower, and the repayment grace period is longer than that of a Stafford subsidized loan. The need-based standards are more stringent for the Perkins loan and funds are awarded based on the FAFSA Student Aid Report.
- **Institutional Loan:** Any student loan administered by the college or university using the institution's funds as the source of funding. Perkins Loans may also be considered institutional loans.
- **Subsidized Loans:** These loans are need-based loans with interest paid by the government and payments deferred as long as the student is enrolled in a post-secondary program of studies.

A **SCHOLARSHIP** is a sum of money given to a student for the purposes of paying at least part of the cost of college. Scholarships can be awarded to students based on students' academic achievements or on many other factors. Scholarships are **not** required to be repaid.

- **Academic Scholarships:** Academic scholarships are based upon academic achievement as reflected in your college application.
- **Athletic Scholarships:** These scholarships are based upon athletic ability and your prospective college's departmental needs. Division I, II, and III college athletic scholarships are very difficult to receive because of fierce competition.

- **Corporate Scholarships:** These scholarships are awarded to help employees and their families, show community support and to encourage future job seekers toward a career in the company's area of business. Corporate scholarships are much less competitive than other types of scholarships because of geography, employment and the relatively low number of applicants.
- **Private Organization Scholarships:** These scholarship opportunities number in the millions. Places of worship, labor unions, school districts, chambers of commerce and philanthropic organizations are all excellent sources for college scholarships. Sit down with your family and make a scholarship search list of potential sources (you may

be amazed at what's right in your own backyard).

The Scholarship Search



1 FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the key that opens the door to all 3 types of financial aid, including the Pell Grant, which is up to \$6,000 of free money per school year! The FAFSA becomes available every October, and should be completed as soon as possible (the state deadline is March 31st). Many state universities and colleges use the FAFSA to award institutional aid as well. Also outside scholarships will require students to have completed it. You must complete this every year while attending college to continue qualifying.

2 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship

Students attending a Florida institution may use a state-funded scholarship program called Bright Futures to receive scholarship funding. The student must qualify with required test score minimum, GPA minimum and community service hours, among other general qualifications. See the following page for more details.

3 Education Foundation Scholarships

Our local education foundation manages scholarships from multiple sources to be distributed to Osceola County students (mostly H.S. seniors). Since the foundation is local, this scholarship application is the second step Mrs. Crotty recommends to seniors. See the following page for more details.

4 PATHS Counseling Department Remind Text Alerts

The PATHS Counseling Department has Remind Text Alerts set up for each class. The counselors send out important school information, upcoming events, and Mrs. Crotty OFTEN sends out scholarship opportunities. See a counselor or posters around campus to set up your account and join the correct class.

5 University Scholarships & Major-Specific Opportunities

Check with the Financial Aid Office or Website for the institution you are applying/attending. They will have their own institutional scholarships or programs that could offer funding or opportunities. Also check into the associations/organizations coordinating with your future career to see if they offer scholarships or other opportunities. For example, a future teacher might look into the National Education Association (NEA), or even local organizations for current/retired teachers. This is a good idea for your scholarship search, but also just to network or gain additional opportunities.

6 Online Resources

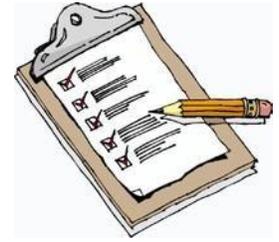
www.RAISE.ME
www.fastweb.co
www.scholarships.com
www.tun.com

m www.unigo.com

m <http://www.scholarships360.org> p-search
g

Free

<http://thescholarshipcenter.co>
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarshi>
www.studentscholarships.or



PRO TIP: Keep a checklist of all the scholarships you apply to with the deadlines, contact info, websites, amounts, etc.



Application

For Federal Student Aid

- Completed every year (opens **OCTOBER 1st**) to be applied to the following School Year (Fall, Spring, Summer)
- Dependent students use personal tax information (if applicable) and one (or married) parent's tax information from prior-prior year (for example, 2019-2020 Application- use 2017 taxes)
- The earlier you submit the form, the better your chances will be in receiving college aid because some aid is only available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

STEP 1

Student (and Parent) create an **FSA ID** (login information to electronically sign the documents)

Navigate to FAFSA.gov and click on the lock icon on the top banner of the webpage. You'll need the persons SSN, birthday, email address and phone number to start. You'll verify your identity by providing a secure code sent to each contact method. **STEP 2**

Step 2: Gather needed information, put all together in a **folder** and maintain this folder throughout your college years. Remember you'll do this again **EACH SCHOOL YEAR!**

- Your FSA ID information to electronically sign
- Your Social Security number (it's important that you enter it correctly on the FAFSA!)

- Your parents' Social Security numbers if you are a dependent student (and marriage/divorce dates, birthdays, etc.)
- Your driver's license number if you have one
- Citizenship documentation, if applicable
- Federal tax information or tax return forms (1040, 1040EZ, 1040A) including IRS W-2 forms, for you (and your spouse, if you are married filing jointly), and for your parents if you are a dependent student.

STEP 3

Navigate to FAFSA.gov and click "Start A New FAFSA." Complete the application and sign electronically by using the FSA ID you created.

While completing the FAFSA, you must list **at least one college** to receive your information. The schools you list will use your FAFSA information to determine the types and amounts of aid you may receive. Schools you list on your FAFSA will automatically receive your FAFSA results electronically. They will use this information to provide you with a financial aid package, if you are accepted.

STEP 4

You'll get your **Student Aid Report (SAR)** within **three days to three weeks** after you submit your FAFSA. You will be emailed or be sent a paper copy. Be sure to look over your SAR to make sure you didn't make a mistake on your FAFSA.

Bright Futures Application/Requirements

- **APPLY** for the scholarship by submitting the *Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)* in your **SENIOR YEAR** Beginning **October 1st** of senior year and by no later than **August 31** after high school graduation.
- Eligibility requirements must be met by high school graduation, but scores of ACT®/SAT®/P.E.R.T. tests taken **through June 30** are accepted for evaluation purposes.
- Don't use it right away? Re-apply within two years of high school graduation to have your award reinstated. See the BFSH for more information.

Apply Here: <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/bf/>

After submitting the FFAA, **the student is responsible for tracking application and award status online** and keeping the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) informed of any demographic or institutional changes.

Renewed automatically each year (up to the scholarship limit) if the student **maintains the required GPA** and earns the **required credit hours**. See the Bright Futures Student Handbook for more details.

General Requirements:

Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen

Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or its equivalent from a Florida public high school or a registered Florida Department of Education private high school.

Not have been found guilty of, or pled nolo contendere to, a felony charge, unless the student has been granted clemency by the Governor and Cabinet sitting as the Executive Office of Clemency.

Be enrolled for at least 6 non-remedial semester credit hours (about 2 classes) per term (semester).

Florida Academic Scholars & Florida Medallion Scholars Awards (used at State College or Universities)				
Type	16 High School Course	High School Weighted	College Entrance	Service Hours
	Credits ¹	GPA	Exams (ACT/SAT)	
Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) award	4 - English <i>(three must include substantial writing)</i>	3.50	29/1290	100 hours
Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) award	4 - Mathematics <i>(at or above the Algebra I level)</i> 3 - Natural Science <i>(two must have substantial laboratory)</i> 3 - Social Science 2 - World Language <i>(sequential, in same language)</i>	3.00	26/1170 ²	75 hours

Gold Seal Vocational Program (can be used at TECO)				
GPA 3.0 Gen. Ed. courses 3.5 in Tech classes	Service Hours 30 Hours minimum	ACT English 17 Reading 19 Math 19	SAT (Old SAT) Critical Reading 440 Math 440	P.E.R.T. Reading 106 Writing 103 Math 114

Osceola Education Foundation Scholarships



To be completed SENIOR YEAR

The application opens in November and closes in February. These scholarships are highly recommended as the chances of winning are greater due to the fact that only Osceola County

students apply for these. The student will complete the initial application online and upload needed documents. The initial submission will apply them to multiple scholarships offered by the Foundation. If the student is eligible for additional scholarships needing additional items this will be listed after submission of the initial application.

FoundationOsceola.org

1. Click the blue link in the center of the page to navigate to the Scholarship Portal. This is a portal that you'll create a login for and you can save/come back to it.

2. You should have with you:

Your High School Transcript (in PDF format to be uploaded)

ACT, SAT, PERT, etc. Score Reports

Your weighted and unweighted GPA

Your Volunteer hours (Recommended 30+, make sure these are shown on transcript)

List of all extracurricular activities and clubs you participated in during high school

Family income information

ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS: Pick one topic, Limit of 500 words

- ✦ Describe an obstacle you've overcome and how it affects you?
- ✦ Describe an experience that forever changed your life and your outlook on life?
- ✦ What are your future plans and how do you propose to achieve them?
- ✦ What is your five-year plan after high school and why?

Education Foundation of Osceola
County 2310 New Beginnings Rd.
Kissimmee, FL 34744



Scholarship Opportunities for Valencia-Bound Students

VALENCIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Similar to the Education Foundation of Osceola County, the Valencia College Foundation collects & manages donations in order to provide scholarship opportunities to Valencia students. When you navigate to the website, you'll have to create a login for the portal where you can search and apply for different scholarships. You'll need to already be a student with a VID#.

**Deadlines will vary for each scholarship.

BRIDGES TO SUCCESS PROGRAM

The purpose of the BTS Program is to provide students who would otherwise have multiple riskfactors weighing against their college dreams with the support and funding needed to start college successfully. Students who are admitted will start the summer after graduation and upon successful completion of those classes continue in the program with a peer cohort with specified classes and additional opportunities for growth and success. This program provides a full-ride 2year scholarship including funding for tuition and books. In order to be eligible to apply, a student may have 6 or less credit hours of college coursework (AP courses with exams passed or Dual Enrollment courses passed), and will follow a specified application process. See Mrs. Crotty at the beginning of senior year to express interest in the program.

The application **typically opens in September/October and is due in January.

VALENCIA COLLEGE SENEFF HONORS COLLEGE

Become a part of the new Seneff Honors College at Valencia, offering four distinct paths to an honors degree. This program is for students who want more from their college experience—more challenges, more opportunities, and more connections with fellow students and great professors. The Seneff Honors College is for people with a passion for learning. Typically, most students accepted to the honors program receive some sort of scholarship funding. As well as smaller classes, recognition, special service learning opportunities and events, and opportunities for travel. After students complete the Valencia College application (or are already a DE student) they will apply online for admission to the Seneff Honors College.

The application is typically due in **April.

U.S. MILITARY ENTRANCE OPTIONS



ENLISTMENT VS. OFFICER

The US Army states, "Enlisted Soldiers are the backbone of the Army. They have specific specialties within an Army unit. Officers act as managers to those Soldiers. They plan missions, give orders, and assign Soldiers to tasks." Enlisted soldiers may join at any time while officers typically enter the military after completing a college degree.

STEPS TO RECRUITMENT

1. ASVAB – one of the first things a recruiter will ask you is if you've completed the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB). The ASVAB is a timed multi-aptitude test, which is given at over 14,000 schools (10-12th grades only) and at MEPS nationwide. Your scores in four critical areas -- Arithmetic Reasoning, Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension and Mathematics Knowledge (see below) -- count towards your Armed Forces Qualifying Test (AFQT) score. The AFQT score determines whether you're qualified to enlist in the U.S. military. Your scores in the other areas of the ASVAB will determine how qualified you are for certain military occupational specialties and Enlistment Bonuses. A high score will improve your chances of getting the specialty/job and signing bonus you want. PATHS attempts to have 1 administration per semester. See Mrs. Crotty for details.
2. Meet with a recruiter - Recruiters are honest, well-trained, committed professionals. Meeting a recruiter should be an informative, stress-free experience. Recruiters will often visit the school to meet students. You can also locate a recruiter's local office by visiting the recruitment websites for more information. See Mrs. Crotty for our schools assigned recruiter information.
3. Maintain contact with your recruiter – Once you complete your first few steps to enlistment, you'll be keeping in contact with your recruiter. You'll have a few different meetings to review job prospects, conduct needed interviews, and obtain specific information, and your recruiter might even want to meet and talk to your parents. Remember to **ASK QUESTIONS**, you can't sign up now and ask questions later!
4. After showing you're interest, giving needed info and discussing a commitment to enlisting, you'll be sent to the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS). There are over 60 stations in the U.S. and the enlistment process can take several days. It can include the following:
 - ASVAB testing
 - Career Counseling
 - Physical Examinations
 - Background Screening
 - Oath of Enlistment
5. You're in! Following the Oath, an applicant is now a full member of the U.S. Military. At this point, most high school students enroll in the Delayed Entry (or Enlistment) Program (DEP) and undergo training at a future time. The recruit comes home, completes high school and is shipped out for Basic Training at a later date.

Remember to bring your Enlistment Contract to Mrs. Crotty as it will serve as your post-secondary plan "acceptance."

For more information on the enlistment process, military careers, and other topics, visit todaysmilitary.com

Final Senior Tasks

	Confirm with your counselor all graduation requirements will be satisfied
	Provide Mrs. Crotty with FAFSA & FFAA completion confirmation
	Confirm your post-secondary plan with Mrs. Crotty
	Report any acceptances, job/military contracts, or scholarships to Mrs. Crotty!
	Request and send a final High School Transcript with graduation date to the school you'll be attending
	Valencia Dual Enrollment students – submit final grades , complete Florida residency form online, and complete Change of Major form
	GRADUATE!
	Thank all the people who contributed to your success or who influenced you!



A blank sheet of lined paper with 25 horizontal lines and a thick black border.



Molly Crotty, Career & College Counselor

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Kelly Aycock, School Counselor

Kelly.Aycock@osceolaschools.net

