

2009-2010 COLLEGE INFORMATION

FLORIDA'S UNIVERSITIES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES

STUDENTS SHOULD GO TO WWW.FACTS.ORG TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FLORIDA SCHOOLS. Students desiring to go to school out of state should visit that school's website or our Career Connection Center in the Media Center. We have numerous resources which can be consulted in your college search. **Students can also do their own internet searches. Many web sites are listed on the last page of this info packet.**

Everyone with a high school diploma is admitted to a Florida community college or state college such as our local Northwest Florida State College. Courses a student is able to register for are determined by test scores, either ACT, SAT or Florida College Placement Test (CPT)

Florida's community and state colleges prepare students for transfer to a university or for entry into jobs. A 2 year Associate in Arts degree prepares students for acceptance into the university system. Students with an A.A. degree are guaranteed admission into one of the schools in Florida's State University System. Students must be careful to select the correct course of study leading to their desired major. A student may also choose an Associate of Science 2 year degree by completing a program of study leading to employment. Vocational programs lasting 1 to 2 years culminating in certificates are also available.

The State University System is composed of 11 universities. The state of Florida has set minimum requirements for admission; however, the universities are free to require higher standards. Most of the Florida universities have set higher standards making admission more competitive. Students and parents are advised to use www.FACTS.org to access the colleges through links to each school to find admission information and deadlines for applications, scholarships and housing. Students desiring admission to these colleges must meet certain requirements. These include completing a curriculum consisting of courses through at least the Algebra II level and 2 years of the same foreign language. A minimum GPA, usually 3.0, with ACT of 20 or SAT of 970 are also requirements (sub-scores are taken into consideration). These scores and curriculum requirements are in line with the Bright Futures Medallion Scholarship requirements.

The University of Florida has the highest standards. Students admitted are near the top 5% of their high school class and have taken at least 3-6 Advanced Placement courses. Three colleges which are also popular with our students that have more competitive admissions standards are Florida State University, University of South Florida, and Central Florida University. The University of West Florida still admits students with minimum admissions criteria. Troy University in Alabama will give students residing in Okaloosa County in state tuition. Many private colleges and universities give out financial aid and scholarships to students who qualify either through need or academic excellence. This practice makes them competitive with the state universities.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE TESTS

Seniors planning to attend a 4 year university who have not taken the ACT or SAT should do so at the first opportunity. Students planning to attend a 4 year university should take the ACT plus Writing every time.

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Juniors enrolled in Algebra II or higher math course should definitely take the test this spring. Seniors need to take the test first semester in order to qualify for the Bright Futures Scholarship prior to graduation. Only first semester ACT and SAT test scores can be used for 7th semester qualification. If test scores are not received by Feb. 1st students will have to wait until after graduation to know if they will qualify. There are only 2 evaluation dates, Feb 1st and in June after graduation. **Students who qualify after the February evaluation cannot be recognized at Senior Awards Night.**

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

If a student completes the 75 Community Service Hour requirement (necessary only for the Academic Scholars level of Bright Futures) outside of school, a **form** must be turned in to the senior counselor Mrs. Ferkes by Feb. 1 for the 7th semester evaluation. Bright Futures will not raise the level of the award until the summer evaluation. The Voluntary Public Service course also counts for the . Students may use either method to earn volunteer hours.

FWBHS high school or CEEB code is 100532. If this number is not filled in on the ACT or SAT registration form we will **not** receive a report of your scores. This may delay your score report being sent to colleges and Bright Futures. Note the following dates for testing and application deadlines.

TEST	TEST DATE	DEADLINE	LATE DEADLINE
ACT (FWBHS)	OCT. 24, 2009	SEPT. 18	OCT. 2
ACT (FWBHS)	DEC.12, 2009	NOV.6	NOV. 20
ACT (FWBHS)	FEB. 6, 2010	JAN. 5	JAN. 15
ACT (FWBHS)	APR. 10, 2010	MAR. 5	MAR 19
ACT (FWBHS)	JUNE 12, 2010	MAY 7	MAY 21
SAT (FWBHS)	OCT. 10, 2009	SEPT. 9	SEPT 23
SAT (FWBHS)	NOV. 7, 2009	OCT. 1	OCT. 15
SAT (FWBHS)	DEC. 5, 2009	OCT. 30	NOV. 12
SAT (FWBHS)	JAN. 23, 2010	DEC. 15	DEC. 30
SAT (FWBHS)	MAR.13, 2010	FEB. 4	FEB. 18
SAT (FWBHS)	MAY 1, 2010	MAR. 25	APR. 8
SAT (NWFSC)	JUNE 5, 2010	APR. 29	MAY 13

TEST FEES

ACT	\$32	ACT Plus Writing \$47.00	Late deadline fee +\$21
SAT REASONING TEST	\$45.00		Late deadline fee +\$23.00

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STUDENTS SHOULD REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE FOR THE SAT AT WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.COM AND AT WWW.ACTstudent.ORG FOR THE ACT.

BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIPS

All requirements are outlined at the website www.FACTS.org All students should check their current eligibility progress towards earning the scholarship at this website.

The GPA on the student's report card is a student's overall GPA and *is not* the core GPA Bright Futures requires in the 15 academic credits, (3.0 for Medallion, and 3.5 for Academic Scholars, and 3.0 in the high school grad. requirements for Gold Seal). 75 Hours of community service is required only for the Academic Scholars Award.

ACT or SAT scores are used for the Medallion and Academic levels of the scholarship. College Placement Test, SAT, or ACT scores may be used for Gold Seal Scholarship.

Seniors *must* submit an application in order to be eligible to receive a Bright Futures Scholarship. The application will not be available until December 1st of the graduation year. Your application *must* be complete before graduation. Students register on-line at www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org. This application is for financial aid in Florida only and is *not* part the application process for federal aid. (FAFSA).

College Placement Test (CPT) for Community Colleges

Students who did not take Algebra II and/or have not taken 2 years of the same foreign language should not take ACT or SAT. If the ACT or SAT score the student earns qualifies the student for college level math and/or English then they do not have to take the CPT. If the ACT and SAT scores do not qualify the student for College Algebra or English Comp I a student **MUST** take the CPT in order to determine placement. The CPT is free and given on the NWFSC campus every week. Call NWFSC for times and places, 678-5111.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT TEST SCORES FOR NWFSC. Other Florida community colleges have similar requirements. Florida's 4 year universities do not offer college preparatory courses. These are the scores required for English Composition I and College Algebra. Students not meeting these test scores will be placed in college preparatory classes according to their scores.

ACT	Reading 18, English 21	Math 21
SAT	Verbal 500	Math 500
CPT	Sentence Skills 92, Reading Comp. 83	Alg. 90

CAREER CONNECTION CENTER-SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Mrs. Smith is our scholarship resource advisor and is available to students most days in the in the Media Center. Students may access the following information:

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- Scholarship information and applications (updated weekly online at fwbvikings.com)
- SAT and ACT preparation information
- Occupations videos and career descriptions
- College and university books and catalogs
- Computers with access to the Internet as well as software programs such as Choices, CollegeView, CareerView, and SAT Prep.
- Seniors interested in applying for scholarships should check the scholarship box for applications frequently, listen to the morning announcements, read the VTV scrolled announcements, and use the internet for information on other scholarships.
- Bright Futures registration

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Seniors should apply to 4-year colleges as soon as possible. Florida State University's DEADLINE IS OCT. 14th FOR THE COMPLETE APPLICATION(transcripts, test scores, essay, etc. must be in their hands. University of Florida's deadline is Nov. 1st (they will accept later test scores and transcripts.) Our recommendation is to try to have your complete application to the colleges of your choice by Nov. 1st. College application deadlines vary from school to school. It is your responsibility to check each college's deadline. If you are applying for early decision then you must check out those deadlines with the individual colleges as well. Remember that early decision is a binding contract. Colleges in general prefer online application at their website. We are unable to complete the universal Common Application online, so we prefer you use the colleges own application when possible.

COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE VISITS TO Fort Walton Beach High School

College representatives will be visiting our school throughout the year. Students are encouraged to attend. Watch VTV and check in the senior hall or online at fwbvikings.com for date, time, and college.

COLLEGE VISITS (JUNIORS AND SENIORS see your handbook)

College visits will be approved by counselors and are school-sanctioned absences. Students must have a legitimate interest in the school and the qualifications to be eligible for admission. Field trip permission forms must be picked up from the counselors 5 days in advance and approved 3 days prior to the visit. Documentation of the visit must be on school letterhead and returned to the counselor within 3 days of the visit for verification of the absence. If a senior requests more than 3 days, a committee will determine the necessity. Juniors are eligible for one college visit second semester.

PROCEDURES FOR TRANSCRIPTS

All colleges and most scholarships require a transcript. Each transcript ordered costs \$1. To order transcripts students must fill out a transcript release form in the records office and turn in to Ms. Fields. You must order your transcript at least 24 hours in advance of when you need it. Transcripts to SUS Florida schools will be sent electronically. All seniors who will be attending a post-secondary institution

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must send a final transcript to that institution to prove high school graduation and final grades. A form should be turned to records at the end of the school year marked for this purpose.

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

Some colleges and scholarships still require a letter of recommendation. If your college wants one you will need to ask teachers and/or counselors at least one week in advance. A **resume** will help the teacher or counselor write your letter. It is not fair to expect a well-written letter unless you supply a list of your extra-curricular activities and accomplishments and give the teacher or guidance counselor adequate notice. It is best to choose someone who knows you well. Many colleges no longer require letters of recommendation. They are more interested in a well written essay by the student and or a resume of the student's activities both in and out of school.

FINANCIAL AID

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms will be available in guidance in December 2009 for the next school year 2010-11. **The preferred way to apply is over the Internet at www.fafsa.ed.gov**. This form must be filed to apply for any need-based grants and/or student loans. Colleges require this application if you are requesting any financial aid or applying for their scholarships. File this as soon as possible after completing your income tax for the year 2009. Each college has its own deadline, but it is usually March 1st.

WEB SITES FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT COLLEGES, FINANCIAL AID, SCHOLARSHIPS, APPLICATIONS, AND TESTING

www.clas.ufl.edu/CLAS/american-universities.html links to most U.S. colleges

www.campustours.com visit the campus without leaving home

www.collegeboard.com SAT registration

www.actstudent.org ACT registration

www.petersons.com college database, educational and career information

www.princetonreview.com information and ratings of hundreds of colleges

www.kaplan.com college financial aid and testing information

www.fastweb.com scholarship search

www.collegenet.com searchable database of colleges, scholarships and academic resources

www.collegeview.com multimedia tours of two and four year colleges

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www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/eduhome.htm

www.fafsaed.gov Free Application for Federal Student Financial Aid

www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org State of Florida's Bright Futures Scholarship Program

www.FACTS.org Florida's academic advising web site where students may access their progress toward Bright Futures Scholarships or apply to Florida's colleges.

www.college-scholarships.com College scholarship search

www.collegebound.net

www.collegeispossible.org

www.collegiatechoice.com Walking tour videos

www.commonapp.org The common application to colleges

www.embark.com

www.mapping-your-future.org

www.nextSTEPmagazine.com Florida's student information magazine