

College Checklist

	Freshman 9th Grade	Sophomore 10th Grade	Junior 11th Grade	Senior 12th Grade
FALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin thinking about colleges and careers that fit well with your interests. Take the most challenging (and realistic) course load for which you are eligible. Make an appointment to meet with your guidance counselor and seek their advice on college planning. Together choose the right classes to prepare you for college. Explore Career Training – College, Vocational, On-The-Job Training, Military Know Graduation, Bright Futures and post high school education requirements Establish a savings plan. Learn about financial aid. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice makes perfect! Take the PSAT to get some practice and to familiarize yourself with the SAT. Take the PreACT to get some practice and to familiarize yourself with the ACT. Get involved with your extracurricular and volunteer activities. Be a leader both inside and outside of school. Begin exploring careers that might interest you. Further explore and visit Career Technical Programs in your area. <p>Your GPA counts! Stay on track with your courses. If you're struggling, ask your teacher for help.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to stay on track in your classes. Build up that GPA! Take the PSAT to get more Practice. Schedule and take the SAT and ACT! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know the dates and locations of the SAT, ACT and other tests you might be planning to take, and put them on your calendar. Start building a balanced list of your top five colleges. The College and University Profiles tool lists the admission requirements, deadlines, and other important information about each public college and university in Florida. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety colleges are institutions where your GPA, test scores, and class rank are above the average range of the most recently admitted freshman class. Target colleges are institutions where your GPA, test scores, and class rank fall within the average range of the most recently admitted freshman class. Reach colleges are institutions where your GPA, test scores, and class rank fall at the lower end of, or below, the average range of the most recently admitted freshman class. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check requirements and deadlines for the colleges of your choice. Consider creating a CommonApp account. → The CommonApp makes it easy to apply to multiple colleges using one application. Update your resume. Finalize college essays. Ensure transcripts and records are up to date Take the SAT and/or ACT. Ask references for letters of recommendation. Complete and submit all your college applications by their deadlines. Verify that colleges received your application, letters of recommendations, and test scores October: Apply for Financial Aid. <p>National Merit Scholars → Check to see if you qualify for the Benacquisto Scholarship Program Complete your Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA).</p> <p>Submit your FAFSA along with any other financial aid forms required by the college. (FAFSA opens in October)</p>
SPRING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get involved! Clubs, activities, and community involvement look great on a college application. Record and keep track of your credentials (awards, volunteer hours, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin your college search. Go to www.FloridaShines.org and check out the College and University Profiles tool. Consider taking the SAT or ACT. Begin preparing for the SAT and ACT by using at home test prep tools. Begin putting together a job resume. (Even if you're not ready to get a job, learning how to write and present a resume is a skill that will come in handy throughout your life.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Search for scholarships. Build community service hours needed for Bright Futures Scholarships. Contact the individuals from whom you plan to request letters of recommendation. Plan college visits. Organize financial aid information. Start college application essays. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain your second semester grades and beware of "Senioritis." (Colleges can withdraw their acceptances if your grades drastically decline.) Admission letters begin arriving. Watch for them in the mail! Compare financial aid packages. Make a final choice of the college you will attend. Graduate high school!
SUMMER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make your summer count! Continue to build credentials (awards, volunteer hours, etc.). Plan a challenging 10th grade course load. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find a summer job! A steady Summer job can offer valuable work experience, allows you to network, and will help you along your path to college and a successful career. Plan a challenging 11th grade course load. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay involved in extracurricular activities, and seek out leadership roles in your community that will look good to colleges Start communicating with admissions officers and recruiters at colleges on your list. Begin researching early admission deadlines! Generally, colleges set early admission deadlines in November and December, but some colleges have deadlines as early as mid-October. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare for your freshman year of college!