

## College Bound – start planning early

- At least junior year to look for colleges and plan visits. Some admission deadlines as early as November 1st of senior year.
- Don't let the published "price tag" scare you off – you may be amazed at how grants, scholarships reduce this (Friend paid less at PBA than FSU)
- Public colleges require additional info for homeschooleders for admissions –
  - UCF and FSU want a textbook list and evaluation methods
  - UF wants 10 courses (2 LA, 2 MA, 2 SC, 2 SS, 2 FL) verified by FLVS, dual enrollment or a regionally accredited school transcript. Otherwise, you must take SAT II subject tests in these areas and pass with min. score. May accept CLEP tests. Did accept "Customized Education" transcript with regional accreditation.
  - Check with colleges to determine what is needed.
  - CALL admissions counselors for help.
- SAT and/or ACT scores required for university admission; take often to improve scores.
- PSAT – take in 9/10<sup>th</sup> as practice, but more importantly in 11<sup>th</sup> to enter running for Nat'l Merit Scholarships.
- Senior year – complete FAFSA – **Free** Application for Federal Student Aid [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) Required by all colleges for student aid or scholarships. Available after Jan 1<sup>st</sup>; sometimes due by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Requires income tax info – can start application with estimates and check "will file" taxes, then come back and update later. Boys must register for Selective Service (draft) to complete.
- Scholarships –search websites, local businesses, employers, college specific...
  - Ex: Target, Kohl's
  - Some offer scholarship \$ for early deposits (usually private colleges).
  - Sometimes colleges offer more academic scholarship monies to freshman than transfers
  - Some colleges offer scholarships in the major fields only after freshman year
- Bright Futures – start initial app prior to grad and before August 31st; FAFSA first
- NCAA sports in college – review requirements on their website, need list of texts, specific academic course requirements, ISBN #s for textbooks
- CLEP testing – One way to earn college credit through passing a subject area test. Find test info at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- Sometimes universities have a max # of credits they will accept from undergrad institution...

**Bright Futures requirements** on Florida Student Financial Aid website  
Scholarship for FL residents who attend FL colleges – 3 levels offered:  
FAS – Florida Academic Scholars Award highest  
FMS – Florida Medallion Scholars Award  
GSV – Gold Seal Vocational Award – lower test scores, Seq of 3 vocational classes

Requirements differ a little for public/private school students vs homeschool students

- 16 core courses
  - 4 LA (lit & comp), 4 MA (Alg 1,2,Geom), 3 SS, 3 SC (2 w/lab, Bio), 2 FL
  - different for Gold Seal
  - Homeschoolers do NOT have to verify completion of these 16 classes, so technically if you can't complete 4<sup>th</sup> math, but meet other req, you qualify
  - However...these core req are also State Univ System req for admissions
- Minimum SAT or ACT scores–
  - SAT just add reading + math scores; ACT – composite score average of all 4
  - BF will superscore the test scores (if you take tests more than once, they add your best reading score + best math = total)
  - Score requirements increase each year – based on grad year – see **chart**
  - Homeschoolers have higher score req for Medallion award
    - Note: If you document the 16 req credits from FLVS or dual enrolled transcripts, you can use the lower score to qualify as a FMS
  - Take the SAT/ACT, and send scores to a FL university=scores are in the FL repository for Bright Futures to access OR have an official copy mailed to BF
  - Can take continue taking tests through end of June of graduation year
- Community Service Req – 100/75/30 –
  - Get approval from and submit hours to school district. Community Service proposal now on county website. CALL the county with questions.
  - Get letter on letterhead from agency with date and total hours of service
  - Cannot receive monetary or material benefit for their service
  - Cannot be service to family members
- Home school Additional Req – must have homeschooled for all of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade in compliance
  - Do NOT send home school transcripts to Bright Futures!

- Public/private school students also have GPA requirements
- Be sure to start initial application prior to graduation (after Dec 1<sup>st</sup> senior year, but before Aug 31<sup>st</sup> deadline). Register as homeschooler unless you are enrolled with a nontraditional private FL school – then you must register under their school code
- Complete FAFSA first – Free Application for Federal Aid [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)
- Apply even if you think your child is going out of state as it can be activated for up to 2 yrs after graduation and is valid for 5 years from high school graduation

CALL the county school board or Bright Futures office for help – they have specific homeschool advisors who are happy to answer your questions.

### College testing

Take often to get comfortable with test and testing environment

Homeschool codes: (PSAT: 991099, SAT: 970000, ACT: 969–999)

PSAT – [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

- practice test for SAT; 11<sup>th</sup> graders are eligible for Nat'l Merit Scholarships if they score high enough; take 9<sup>th</sup> and/or 10<sup>th</sup> for practice
- offered once per year in mid–October on a Wed or Sat
- register with local public, private or umbrella schools; find test locations on collegeboard.org Contact the schools early in the year – usually a max # of seats
- Fee for test – usually less than \$25
- Two critical reading sections, Two math sections, One writing skills section
- School should have a packet with test info and a practice test – ask for it

SAT or ACT

- required for university admissions (unless you get AA at community college first)
- can also be used in lieu of the College Placement Test to gain entry for dual enrollment
- needed for Bright Futures
- can request free score reports to 4 colleges when you take the test
- sending score to a FL university puts it in a test bank accessible by Bright Futures
- scores available online about 3 weeks later; essay online for SAT too
- Can pay extra fee to get a copy of the test and student's answers to review
- superscoring – most colleges and Bright Futures will take the highest

section score from each test taken to create your composite score (some colleges won't superscore ACT)

- register early to avoid late fees (at least a month) and to get your 1st choice of location
- \* Get a good **SAT or ACT review book** to study

SAT – [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

- offered 7 times per year at local public schools; register on collegeboard website
- 10 sections of Critical Reading, Math, Writing including 25 minute essay taken at beginning of test (one section doesn't count – it is a trial section for use on future tests)
- 2012/13 – Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1, Jan 26, Mar 9, May 4, June 1
- Penalty for wrong answers =  $\frac{1}{4}$  point deducted from score; don't guess unless you can eliminate some answer choices. Recommended Strategy: "Sit on the SAT"
- \$50 fee
- scores 200–800 on each section, so max score 1600 reading & math; 2400 total

ACT – <http://www.actstudent.org/>

- offered 6 times per year at local public schools; register at ACT website
- 4 sections: English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning; writing optional taken at the end
- 2012/13 – Sept 8, Oct 27, Dec 8, Feb 9, April 13, June 8
- No penalty for wrong answers – do guess when needed. Strategy: "Act on the ACT"
- \$35 fee – no writing; \$50.50 with optional writing (take with writing!)
- some colleges will only accept ACT scores if the student took it with writing
- scores 1–36 on each section; composite score is average of 4 section scores

SAT II Subject tests – offer additional opportunity to show colleges what you know; some colleges use them for placement in courses

- Literature, history, sciences, foreign languages, math...
- Info on [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

CLEP tests – College Level Exam Placement, 33 subject area tests which can be taken to earn college credit

- [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) – list of tests and what they cover
- tests offered at BCC monthly and PAFB – Columbia College more often

- \$80 plus test center fee
- Not accepted by all colleges – check college websites to see what they accept for credit
- scores 20 – 80; usually 50+ earns credit
- some earn multiple course credits (ex: Spanish)
- most are 90 minutes long; composition = 120 minutes
- REA study guides are good to use for preparing