

SENIOR BULLETIN



What will you do after graduation? Historically, approximately sixty percent of NHS graduates attend a college or university. Are you ready for the next step?

The College Admissions Process

- Step One:** Research colleges on the web at www.floridashines.org or <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
Consider location, size of the school, cost to attend, facilities and majors. Eighty percent of college students change their major at least once. Visit www.mymajors.com for information about college majors for you!
- Step Two:** Make College Visits. Seniors are allowed two college visits, but this must be prearranged. Forms are available on our website on the Guidance page under Request Form for College Visit.
- Step Three:** Begin the application process. Application procedures and deadlines are posted on the websites of each school and on the table on the reverse side of this sheet. Applications should be completed online and waivers for the application fee may be obtained from your guidance counselor if you qualify (if you used an ACT /SAT waiver).
- Transcripts must be requested from the Guidance Office. Complete a blue request form at the reception desk and pay \$2 for each transcript needed. A final transcript will be sent after graduation for free. ACT and SAT scores are not posted on transcripts, so you must request them from the testing company.
 - Some universities do not require a transcript. Instead, you will be asked to complete a Self-reported Student Academic Record (SSAR). Be sure you include all course grades (even forgiven ones) and be honest! Coursework, grades and GPA are posted on the Gradeline under the GPA/Credits tab.
 - If an essay and resume is required, seek assistance from websites such as www.collegeboard.com or your guidance counselor. The essay portion of your application can mean the difference between acceptance and rejection. How you write your personal essay shows the admissions committee how you are different from everybody else.
 - If a letter of recommendation is required, give teachers at least 2 weeks' notice. **Do not provide a letter of recommendation unless one is optional or requested.**

UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS MATRIX

UNIVERSITY	LOCATION	MID RANGE GPA * ACCEPTED	MID RANGE ACT ACCEPTED	% OF APPLICANTS ACCEPTED	PREFERRED TIME TO APPLY	TUITION PER 30 CREDIT HRS
<i>Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University</i>	Daytona Beach	3.71	22-28	71%	Nov. 1	\$34,236
Florida A & M University	Tallahassee	3.5-3.9	18-21	39%	Nov. 1	\$4553
Florida Atlantic University	Boca Raton	3.8-4.4	21-26	36%	Nov. 1 **	\$6381
Florida Gulf Coast University	Ft. Myers	3.4-4.2	24.5	62%	Nov 1 **	\$6118
Florida State University	Tallahassee	4.1-4.5	28-32	33%	Nov. 1 **	\$6516
University of Central Florida	Orlando	3.7-4.3	26-30 *	43%	Nov. 1	\$6368
University of Florida	Gainesville	4.2-4.6	29-33 *	39%	Nov. 1 **	\$6380
<i>University of Miami</i>	Coral Gables	3.7	30-33	60%	Nov. 1	\$47,040
University of North Florida	Jacksonville	4.0-4.4	25-29	31%	Nov. 15 **	\$6394
University of South Florida	Tampa	3.9-4.4	24-29	NA	Nov. 1	\$6410
University of West Florida	Pensacola	3.6-4.0	23-27	53%	Dec. 1	\$6359

GPA includes 18 core classes, adding 1 point for C or higher in AP and dual enrollment, .5 for honors classes.

*Schools that do not superscore the ACT; all schools superscore the SAT ** Schools that use SSAR

Keep in mind that admissions committees are not only admitting on academic merit, but they are also looking to build a diverse and talented student body. They will look at leadership roles, extra-curricular activities, athletics and community service beyond the minimum requirement to qualify for Bright Futures. Sometimes their patterns of acceptance and rejection seem random. Your requested major may also factor into their decision. Popular majors will be more competitive than others. Legacy (family tie to alumni) also plays a role.

The **Common Application** is an undergraduate college admission application that may be used to apply to over 800 colleges and universities (mostly private and out-of-state). For more information, go to www.commonapp.org

Early Decision and Regular Admission: What's the Difference?

With early decision, a student is bound to attend that institution if they are accepted. Students are allowed to apply to only one college as early decision. Regular admission has no restrictions. If a student is accepted under early decision, any regular admission applications that have been submitted must be withdrawn.

Once you have been accepted to an institution, pay attention to deadlines for required deposits, housing, etc. Notify the school if you do not plan to attend. Colleges will request a **final transcript** upon graduation and may rescind acceptance if challenging classes (AP, dual enrollment) are dropped or grades reflect D's and F's during your senior year.

Pensacola State College (and other two-year institutions) will admit students who have earned a high school diploma or GED. ACT and/or PERT scores are used to recommend college coursework.

Scholarships

The Bright Futures Scholarship accounts for a majority of the funding for college. The application process begins on October 1, 2018. The deadline to submit your community service hours to your counselor and apply for the scholarship is May 25, 2019. Bright Futures will accept ACT and SAT scores through June 2019. You may check your Bright Futures Status at <https://www.floridashines.org/go-to-college/pay-for-college#>

Universities, colleges, individuals and community organizations offer scholarships which account for the second largest source of funding. Most universities will extend academic scholarships to the top students who have been accepted to their institution without a separate application. You may search other scholarships that require a separate application by typing the word "scholarship" in the search box on the school's website.

Some individuals and organizations offer scholarships through NHS. These scholarships are posted on our website on the home page under Scholarships. Check this site frequently, as scholarships are added throughout the school year.

ROTC Scholarships may cover tuition, books and pay a stipend for personal expenses in exchange for a commitment to serve in the military after graduation, usually for 4 years.

Financial Aid

As soon as possible after October 1, 2018, you should complete the FAFSA (financial aid application) online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. By filling out the FAFSA, you are applying for grants (money you don't have to pay back) as well as loans. Your eligibility is based on your parent's income. Visit the FAFSA website now to find out if you might qualify for aid by using the FAFSA4caster.

TRADE OR TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

There is a new kind of job that emphasizes skills over education. "New collar jobs," are those that require certain hard skills, but do not necessarily require a four-year college degree. Skills may be acquired through vocational training, a certificate program, an apprenticeship, or a two-year degree. Locklin Technical Center, Pensacola State College, George Stone and Okaloosa Technical College offer a variety of programs in the areas where we are experiencing a shortage. These areas include:

- Health Occupations
- Information Technology
- Construction

Nationwide, over 6 million jobs remain unfilled because of a shortage of skilled workers!