



POST-SECONDARY ADMISSIONS PROCESS

BHS School Counseling

When to apply?



- **Scholarships**

- There are scholarships you can apply for NOW and you should continue looking for scholarships throughout college

- **College/University/Vocational School**

- By October 31 of senior year (check with the college to make sure the deadline isn't earlier, but most are November 1)
- Firm deadline vs. Rolling admissions (larger window, decision within a few weeks)
- Even if the deadline is in May or the college is on a 'rolling admission', we suggest applying by Oct 31 for access to scholarships, housing, etc.
- Can start as early as summer between 11/12 grade year – UNF 'Apply in July'
- You are applying with the cumulative GPA from the end of junior year, ACT and SAT test scores obtained by August of senior year, and strength of your senior schedule.

What do you need before you start the application process?

- Look at the websites of all the colleges you are applying to and make a list of the following:
 - Application deadlines
 - Application fees
 - Admission essay requirement and topic
 - Letter of recommendation requirement
- Current academic history (you can view this in HAC on the transcript tab)
- Ordering transcripts – via [Parchment](#)
- ACT, SAT, and/or CLT score reports (send score reports directly from your ACT or SAT or CLT account)
- List of extracurricular activities (inside and outside of school)
- Academic honors and achievements
- Information about you and your parent(s)/guardian(s)
 - Social Security Number
 - Parent information: occupation, employment status, income, level of education (which colleges they attended and how many degrees they have earned)

College Application Fees



- Colleges charge a fee to apply! Application fees vary but could be between \$35-\$50, depending on college
- SJRSC and FSCJ come to BHS on certain days and will allow you to apply for FREE! So, pay attention to those dates!
- There is never a fee associated with scholarships
- SAT, ACT, or NACAC college application fee waivers can be used to waive college application fees
 - If you took the ACT or SAT with a fee waiver, see your counselor about obtaining college application fee waivers.
- If using fee waivers (free and reduced lunch), contact each college to determine how they would like the fee waivers submitted. Every college has a different process.

ACT and SAT and CLT Score Reports

The only way a college will see your ACT/SAT/CLT score is if you **SEND** your scores to them! Do this for free when you register for your test or pay a fee afterwards.

ACT

- www.actstudent.org
- Log in and send your scores to the college(s) of your choice
- If you didn't send scores when you registered for the test, then this will cost money

SAT

- www.collegeboard.org
- Log in and send your scores to the college(s) of your choice
- If you didn't send scores when you registered for the test, then this will cost money

CLT

- <https://www.cltexam.com/tests/clt/>

High School Transcript

- Official record of academic performance and testing history
 - Different than a credit detail report that a counselor can print for you
- Request transcript via [Parchment](#)
- Most public state universities in Florida require students to complete the Self-Reported Student Academic Record ([SSAR](#)) instead of sending an official transcript.
 - We recommend using the transcript screen in HAC or requesting a copy of your transcript via [Parchment](#) to assist you in completing your self report.
 - Keep in mind that the university in which you enroll will require a final transcript at the end of the year that will need to match your self report.

Letter of Recommendation

- Everyone will have to provide a transcript or SSAR, but not necessarily a letter of recommendation
- Check to see if letter of recommendation is **required**
- Who should you ask to write a letter? Ask an adult in your life, who is not related to you, who knows you really well and would say really nice things about you!
- Give them a resume or brag sheet of your achievements to help them
- **Ask well in advance** of the deadline – bare minimum 2 weeks
- Give instructions to writer about how to submit the letter of recommendation
 - Directly to you?
 - Uploaded electronically?
 - Sent directly to college or scholarship organization?
- Send a thank you note!

Applications

- Two ways to apply to colleges:
 - Most colleges have their own online application
 - Common App
- Submit the application and all other requirements **before** the deadline – these deadlines are firm!
- It would be helpful to have your parent/guardian close by while filling out applications
- Have your academic history, extra curricular activities, essays and ACT/SAT/CLT score reports with you while filling out the application
- Organize yourself – put all of the information you need in one notebook/folder so that you'll have it handy
- Break down the application process in small chunks – you don't have to do it all in one day!

Essays

- Colleges can either make the essay optional or required
- You can view specific essay requirements on the college's admissions page
- Authentic story
- Excellent written skill
- No spelling or grammatical errors
- Essay is organized and has a purpose
- Essay answers the prompt
- Always type the essay outside of the application portal first
- Proofread the essay before submitting to the application portal

Get Organized !

Keep a folder/file/binder with everything that is needed to apply for multiple scholarships and colleges.

- Application deadlines
- ACT/SAT/CLT scores
- High school transcript (request from [Parchment](#))
- Letters of recommendation, if needed (because you may be able to use one for multiple applications)
- Resume of activities, community service, and leadership roles
- Essays (because you may be able to use one essay for multiple applications)
- Parents level of education, occupation, income

Get an **appropriate** e-mail address

- [JohnSmith01@gmail.com](#) (YES)
- [BigDaddy01@gmail.com](#) (NO)

Application Help!

- You can find days when counselors are available to help with applications here:
<https://www-bhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/presentations-and-resources/>
- Seniors are always welcome to stop by the counselor's office during lunch or during a modified period

Decisions!

- Most colleges and universities send decision letters, including any scholarships that are awarded, electronically.
 - Depending on the college that could look like ...
 - Log into your application portal for all decisions, including admission and scholarships
 - Check your email for all decisions, including admission and scholarships
- How admission offices review an application ...
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvVL-aeMPvA>
- Admit: A student that has been formally approved and acknowledged as having been granted admission to their academic programs.
- Waitlist: A group of students held in reserve after a college makes its admissions decisions. If openings occur, students on the waitlist may be offered admission.
- Deny: An admission outcome wherein a student was unable to be offered admission.
- Defer: An admission outcome wherein a student who has applied for early admission is not accepted or rejected, rather their application is reconsidered within the Regular Decision pool.