

# POST- SECONDARY ADMISSIONS PROCESS AND BF SCHOLARSHIP

BHS School  
Counseling

# Bright Futures Student Evaluation Information

## Section 1

- Make sure your name is correct
- You must send your ACT and SAT and CLT scores to a public Florida University for it to show up on your evaluation (The February ACT will not be on this evaluation because this evaluation was done before the test results came back)
- You must turn in all service or work hours directly to the service hours basket in the main office counseling office for service hours to show up on your evaluation. You need 100 work or service hours for the scholarship that pays the most money.
  - Service/work hours turned in after January will not be on this evaluation as SJCSD sent transcripts and service/work hours to the State at the end of January. You can check your current service/work hours in your HAC account.

## Section 2

- Three columns for three award levels: FAS will pay the most money, so that should be your goal. You can see what you're missing in each column. Everyone is missing credits at this point because you still have one more year of high school.

## Section 3

- This is your transcript data that Bright Futures uses to evaluate your GPA. Remember, Bright Futures calculates GPA differently than high schools. If you want to bring up your BF GPA, retake any classes you earned a D or F in on FLVS

**Evaluation Key** - <https://www.bhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2023/04/Bright-Futures-Evaluation-Key.pdf>

# Bright Futures Requirements

Type	16 High School Course Credits <sup>1</sup>	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year (ACT <sup>®</sup> /CLT <sup>®</sup> /SAT <sup>®</sup> )	Volunteer Service Only	Paid Work Hours Only	Combination of Volunteer/Paid Hours
<b>FAS</b>	4 - English <i>(three must include substantial writing)</i> 4 - Mathematics <i>(at or above the Algebra I level)</i> 3 - Natural Science <i>(two must have substantial laboratory)</i>	3.50	2025-26 Graduates <sup>2</sup> : 29/95/1330 2026-27 Graduates <sup>3</sup> : 29/95/1330	100 hours	100 hours	100 hours
<b>FMS</b>	3 - Social Science 2 - Foreign/World Language <i>(sequential, in same language)</i>	3.00	2025-26 Graduates <sup>2</sup> : 24/82/1190 2026-27 Graduates <sup>3</sup> : 24/82/1190	75 hours	100 hours	100 hours

**Gold Seal Vocational Scholar (GVS) can only be used to fund a career education, AS, or certificate program.**

# Bright Futures Information

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You must apply for the scholarship by submitting a completed Florida Financial Aid Application on or after October 1 of senior year

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Your goal should be to have all community service or work hours completed by the end of junior year

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Bright Futures GPA is NOT the same as BHS GPA

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Bright Futures weighs honors, AP, AICE and dual enrollment classes equally with 0.5 per credit earned – NOT 1.0 weight for AP/AICE or DE!

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Bright Futures will also accept two additional academic electives toward the GPA calculation if it benefits the student.

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“Bright Futures” receives student transcript information (courses, grades, and community service/work hours) twice a year when districts upload transcripts.

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“Bright Futures” receives ACT and SAT and CLT test scores ONLY when students report scores to one of Florida’s state universities

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Bright Futures GPA cannot be viewed in HAC. Counselors do not have access to BF GPA

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Students are permitted to use qualifying scores from the ACT and SAT and CLT until August after their graduating year.

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If students use paid work experience only, OR a combination of community service and work hours to qualify for Bright Futures, it must be 100 hours – no matter the scholarship level.

# Bright Futures Information

Stay on track for high school graduation

Take both ACT and SAT

Research and Visit Post-Secondary Schools

Earn and turn in 100 hours of community service  
or work hours

Complete grade forgiveness (as necessary)

Research what colleges want to see on your  
schedule for senior year (verify that your senior  
year schedule matches with what your #1  
choice of college wants to see) – Must be  
completed by March 13

Retake both ACT and SAT as needed for a  
better score

# Reviewing Junior Year Goals

# Reviewing your post-secondary options

## **Credential or Certificate (apply in 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of senior year)**

- Community/State College; example – FSCJ, SJRSC, J-Tech
  - Examples of careers: automotive, welding, HVAC, cosmetology, EMS, fire fighting

## **State College (apply in 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of senior year) – (Two-Year, Associate Degree) – SJRCS, FSCJ, TCC, Valencia, Santa Fe**

- **AS Degree** – Two-year degree then straight into the workforce
  - Examples of careers: nursing, air traffic controller, dental hygienist, radiological tech, IT
- **AA Degree** – Two-year degree that transfers to a four-year college/university to earn Bachelor's Degree

## **Four Year College or University (apply by October 15)** (Four-Year, Bachelor's Degree)

- Master's Degree - Can be obtained after Bachelor's Degree
- Doctorate Degree - Can be obtained after Master's Degree

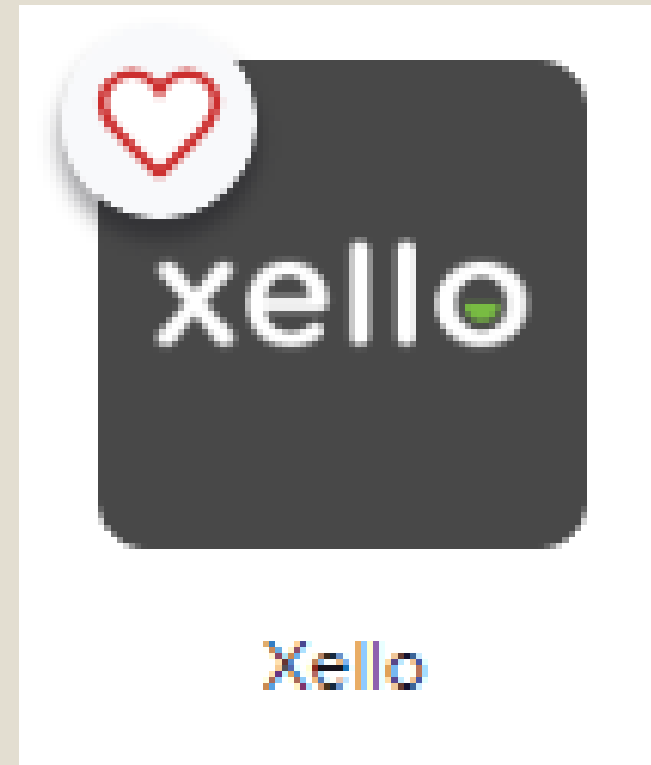
**Military** – ASVAB test during junior or senior year

# Applying to Post-Secondary Education

- Begin the search process now
  - Make a list of all colleges or postsecondary opportunities that are interesting to you
  - The colleges that you are interested in can fall into one of the following categories:
    - Match (your academic credentials fall well within the school's range for average freshmen)
    - Reach (your academic credentials a little fall below the school's range for the average freshmen)
    - Safety (your academic credentials fall above the school's range for the average freshmen)
  - Request information about each college/vocational school
  - If possible, visit colleges/vocational schools that you are interested in
- You are applying to college/university with:
  - Transcript/GPA through the end of Junior year
  - ACT/SAT/CLT scores (deadline varies by college)
  - **Strength of Senior Year Schedule (4 year university/college only)**
  - Activities/Resumes throughout High School

# What to think about when researching post-secondary education

- What is the graduation rate?
- What is the cost?
- What is the percentage of students who come back after freshmen year?
- Does the college offer my major?
  
- Compare and research colleges
  - <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>
  - Xello (log in via Clever on Beachside website)



# Get out paper for notes...



**What are some things you will need to know when completing an application?**

<http://youtu.be/h6xxDRvlq3I>

# 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- <https://www-bhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/transcript-requests/>
- ACT, SAT, CLT and/or PERT score reports (send score reports directly from your ACT or SAT or CLT account)
- List of extracurricular activities (inside and outside of school). Put the best stuff first.
- Academic honors and achievements
- High school code – 102-813
- Information about you
  - An appropriate email address
  - Social Security Number (memorized)
  - Parent(s)/Guardian(s) information: occupation, employment status, income, level of education (which colleges they attended and how many degrees they have earned)

# When to apply?



- **Scholarships**
  - There are scholarships you can apply for NOW and you should continue looking for scholarships throughout college
- **4 Year College and/or University**
  - Between August 1 and October 15 of senior year **(check with the college to make sure the deadline isn't before October 15)**
  - **DO NOT WAIT TO APPLY**
  - 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 15 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, CLT, and SAT test scores obtained by September of senior year, and strength of your senior schedule.
  - **We suggest you apply to all public universities in Florida by their early action or priority deadline for priority consideration.**
- **2 Year College/Trade/Technical/Vocational School**
  - Spring of Senior Year
  - FSCJ and SJRSC will be on campus in spring for FREE application days. Wait until those schools are on our campus to apply.
  - FCTC deadline is usually in February
- **Military**
  - Start speaking with recruiters.
  - Take the ASVAB

# Applications – Open August 1

- Two ways to apply to colleges:
  - Most colleges have their own online application OR (not both)
  - Common App (opens August 1)
- 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 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!

# College Application Fees



- Colleges charge a fee to apply! Application fees vary but could be between \$35-\$50, depending on college
- SJRSC and FSCJ will come to BHS in March and will allow you to apply for FREE! So, pay attention to those dates when they are posted on Schoology!
- 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, CLT, and SAT Score Reports

The only way a college will see your ACT/SAT 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](http://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](http://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/>
- Log in and send your scores to the college(s) of your choice

# 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 transcripts via Parchment- <https://www-bhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/transcript-requests/>
- Most public state universities in Florida require students to complete the Self-Reported Transcript and Academic Record ([STAR](#)) 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.

# Self-reported Transcript and Academic Record (STAR)

- Most public universities in Florida require STAR instead of official transcripts
- We recommend using the transcript screen in HAC or requesting a copy of your transcript via Parchment to assist in completing your self report
- Entering Courses & Grades
  - Grade level taken: look at the school year in HAC/Transcript
  - Name of course: list it exactly as in HAC/Transcript (if the course is called a different name than what is in HAC, enter what it is called in parenthesis)
  - Indicate if the course is standard, honors, AP, AICE, or dual enrollment
  - Enter semester 1 grade and semester 2 grade
  - Yearlong courses: Enter the same grade for semester 1 and 2
  - Current 12<sup>th</sup> grade courses: in progress

# 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**. **If it isn't required, don't ask.**
- 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!

# 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
- CommonApp Essay Prompts for 2026-2027 -  
<https://www.commonapp.org/blog/announcing-2026-2027-common-app-essay-prompts>

# UNF Apply in July!

- Application will open on July 1 - <https://www.unf.edu/apply/index.html>
- Students who submit their application and all required materials—including the application fee, high school transcript, and test scores—by **September 2** will receive an early admission decision by **September 16**.
- Applying early offers several benefits, including:
  - Eligibility to **waive the \$200 admissions deposit** when the application and materials are received by **July 31**
  - **Priority consideration for scholarships**, awarded by October
  - **Priority financial aid packaging** for 2027–2028 FAFSA submitted by **October 15**
  - **Early access** to apply to the Hicks Honors College
  - **Priority consideration for on-campus housing**
  - Reduced stress and more time to prepare for next steps



# US Service Academy Applications



United States  
Military Academy –  
West Point



United States Naval  
Academy



United States Air  
Force Academy



United States  
Merchant Marine  
Academy

- Click link/scan code for required documents and timeline for the nomination process:

- <https://www.rickscott.senate.gov/services/academy-nominations>



# Reminders ....



Use this summer to make sure you are on track for graduation (if you aren't now)



You can't start your college applications until August 1 (except UNF)

- Retake the ACT, SAT, or CLT by September if you want a higher score before applying to colleges
  - Remaining SAT Test Dates
    - May 2 (April 17 registration deadline)
    - June 6 (May 22 registration deadline)
    - August 22 (August 7 registration deadline)
    - September 12 (August 28 registration deadline)
  - Remaining ACT Test Dates
    - June 13 (May 8 registration deadline)
    - July 11 (June 5 registration deadline)
    - September 19 (August 14 registration deadline)
  - Remaining CLT Test Dates
    - May 16 (May 7 registration deadline)
    - June 11 (June 4 registration deadline)
    - July 16 (July 9 registration deadline)
    - August 22 (July 22 registration deadline)

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# SENIOR YEAR CHECKLIST



QUESTIONS?