



POST-SECONDARY ADMISSIONS PROCESS

BHS School Counseling

Reviewing your post-secondary options

Credential or Certificate (Trade/Technical/Vocational School)

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

State College – (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 (Four-Year, Bachelor's Degree)

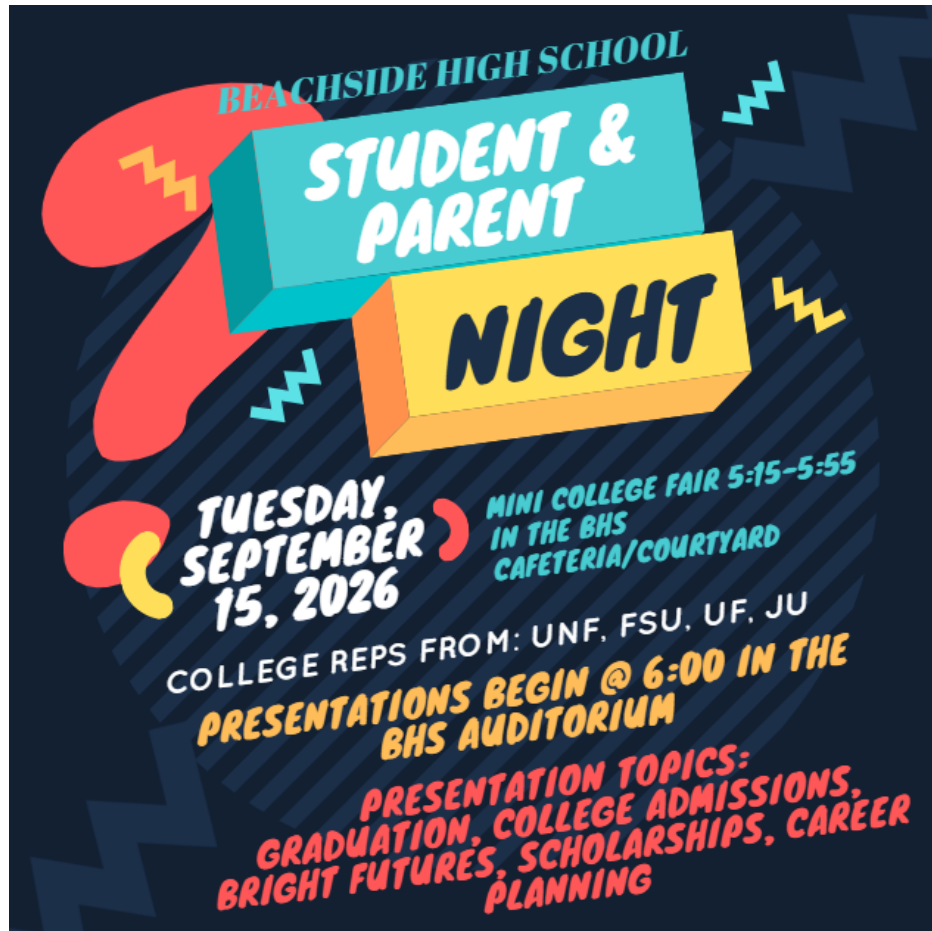
- Master's Degree - Can be obtained after Bachelor's Degree
- Doctorate Degree - Can be obtained after Master's Degree

Military – ASVAB test



No idea what you want to do?

- Many interest inventories to help you find career options
 - Xello – Log in using Clever Links for Students (on BHS homepage)
 - <https://fscj.lightcastcc.com/>
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers>



Post-Secondary Visits to BHS

- **All visits are during your lunch in the courtyard**
- September 24 – University of South Carolina-Columbia, Florida Southern College, United States Coast Guard, United States Coast Guard Academy, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
- September 29 – First Coast Technical College
- October 23 – Penn State University
- October 29 – Electrical Training Alliance of Jacksonville
- December 3 – Aveda Institute
- **NACAC College Fair at UNF** – September 26th 9am – 1pm



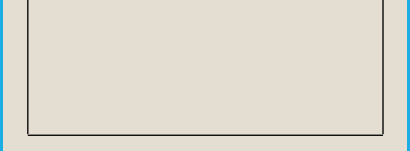
TIME: AMERICA'S BEST COLLEGES 2026-2027
RANKINGS AMONG PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

	4
	17
	23
	55
	58
	76

flbog.edu



SUS RANKINGS



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**
 - By October 15 of senior year **(This is the earliest deadline in Florida for Early Action/Early Decision)**
 - **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 31 for access to scholarships, housing, etc.
 - 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.
- **2 Year College/Trade/Technical/Vocational School**
 - Spring of Senior Year
 - FSCJ and SJRSC will be on campus on March 23 and 25 for FREE application days. Wait until those schools are on our campus to apply.
 - FCTC Field Trip = November 5
 - Vocational schools are recruiting on campus. Check link for when they are on campus: <https://www-bhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/post-secondary-visits/>
- **Military**
 - Start speaking with recruiters. Check link for when they are on campus: <https://www-bhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/post-secondary-visits/>
 - Take the ASVAB

State University System of Florida – Early Action (non-binding) Deadlines – Class of 2027

Why apply Early Action?

Benefits vary by university ... but some include

- Priority campus consideration
- Priority term consideration
- Automatic/Priority consideration for merit scholarships
- Waived admission deposits
- Early access to on campus housing

Possible Decisions: Admit, Deny, or Defer (If your admissions decision was deferred, you are still being considered for admission)

FAMU

Application Deadline - November 1
Supporting Materials Deadline – November 14
Decision Notification – December 4

FAU

Application Deadline – October 15
Supporting Materials Deadline – October 22
Last Scores Considered – November 20
Decision Notification – December 4

FGCU

Application Deadline – November 1
Supporting Materials Deadline – November 15
Decision Notification – December

FIU

Application Deadline – November 2
Supporting Materials Deadline – November 2
Decision Notification – December 10

Florida POLY

Application Deadline – November 15
Supporting Materials Deadline – November 15

FSU

Application Deadline – October 15
Supporting Materials Deadline – October 22
Last Scores Considered – December 1
Decision Notification – December 17

New College of Florida

Application Deadline – November 1
Supporting Materials Deadline – November 15
Decision Notification – December 15

UCF

Application Deadline – October 15
Supporting Materials Deadline – November 15
Decision Notification – December 4

UF

Application Deadline – October 15
Supporting Materials Deadline – October 22
Decision Notification – December 11

UNF

Application Deadline – September 2
Supporting Materials Deadline – September 2
Decision Notification – September 16

USF

Application Deadline – November 2
Supporting Materials Deadline – November 16
Decision Notification – December 9

UWF

No Early Decision Dates but application fee waiver valid until August 31 – Fee Waiver Code: EARLY

State
University
System Early
Action
Deadlines

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). Put the best stuff first.
- 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)

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)

Applications

- Two ways to apply to colleges:
 - Most colleges have their own online application OR (not both)
 - 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!



College Application Fees

- Colleges charge a fee to apply! Application fees vary but could be between \$30-\$50, depending on college
- SJRSC and FSCJ come to BHS on March 23 and 25 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.

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/>

ACT, SAT and CLT Score Reports

Letter of Recommendation

- Everyone will have to provide a transcript or STARS, 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

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 Transcript Academic Record System (STARS) 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.

- Most public universities in Florida require STARS 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 12th grade courses: in progress

Student Self-reported Transcript and Academic Record System (STARS)

Application Help!

September 15 and October 8 in Media Center during 4th, 5th, and 6th periods. Seniors must have a pass from teacher or come during modified/lunch.

Seniors are always welcome to stop by the counselor's office before school, during lunch, or during a modified period

Decisions! Check your email & university portal!

- 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.

Requesting a teacher evaluation via Common App



Make sure this is required by the college/university



Ask them first, don't just add their name



Give them a resume or brag sheet of your achievements to help them

Not using Common App?



Apply via the application on the college website



Send transcripts via Parchment or fill out STARS



Ask the person directly to write a recommendation letter (if required for application/scholarship).

We want to celebrate you!!!

As they are coming in, send Ms. Cashwell ALL your acceptance and scholarship award letters! All of them, even if you aren't planning to attend that school.

- ***Please remember that we want vocational and military information as well.***

Ways you can turn all your acceptance letters and scholarship offers to Ms. Cashwell:

- *Email PDF of all acceptance letters and scholarship offers from your online portal to Melody.Cashwell@stjohns.k12.fl.us or*
- *Make a copy of the acceptance letters and scholarship offers and drop them by the AICE office on the 3rd floor.*

Resources

- This presentation will be uploaded to our 'presentations and resources' page - <https://www-bhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/presentations-and-resources/>
- Transcript requests via Parchment - <https://www-bhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/transcript-requests/>
- College Application Help Session – September 15 and October 8
- SUS Matrix –
- https://issuu.com/fiupublications/docs/state_university_system_matrix_counselor_guide_202?fr=sTZhNjg0MzAwNTA

We will see you again on either October 6th for Financial Aid information in the media center (via ELA classes)!