

Senior Year College Planning Timeline 2016-17

August

- Research all colleges of interest. Gather information about academics, campus life and financial aid opportunities using *Florida Shines* and *Big Future* websites.
- Create a checklist for test scores, essays, recommendations, financial aid applications, and deadlines for each college to which you are applying.
- Most applications open now. You should begin Early Action/Early Decision as well as all Florida public university applications (see below).
- If applying to Florida Public universities:
 - Apply through the individual university admissions website. You may also navigate to the universities through the *Florida Shines* website or the university websites.
 - Please note the FSU (October 19th) and UF (November 1st) early deadlines. These applications will open by mid-August). UF will be using the *Coalition for Access, Affordability and Success* application exclusively. The Coalition essay topics can be found on the CAAS website.
 - Your transcript is available through the *Florida Shines* website in order for you to complete the *Student Self-Reported Academic Record* (SSAR) component of the UF and FSU applications.
 - Other State University campuses use priority rolling admissions plans. Plan to apply early for priority scholarship consideration.
 - *Florida Shines* website <https://www.floridashines.org/>
 - *Big Future* website <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
 - *Coalition for College Access* <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org>
- If applying to private colleges and many out-of-state public universities you will likely use the *Common Application*. A few select colleges still use their own application.
 - The 2016-17 application cycle for the *CommonApp* opens for submission August 1st.
 - The *Common App* essay prompts remain the same for 2016-17. Begin developing and writing your essay NOW.
 - Think about the teachers you might ask to write letters of recommendation (two are usually required). Make initial requests as soon as possible.
- Fifty-eight colleges plan to use the new *Coalition for Access* application this year (including UF exclusively). Additional information regarding the CAAS application process can be found on their website.
- If you have not done so make an appointment with your counselor to review your transcript, test scores, extracurricular activities and to discuss college questions and plans.
 - *The Common Application* www.commonapp.org
 - *The Coalition for College Access* <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org>

September

- Work on your college essay(s). Spend time revising and developing a strong essay.
- Register for fall SAT, SAT subject area and/or ACT if appropriate.
- The Florida State University early deadline is October 19th.
 - *College Board/SAT* website <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>
 - ACT website <http://www.act.org/>

October

- October 1st – *The Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) opens. File as early as possible using prior, prior year tax information.
- October 19th – Florida State University Priority Deadline. Submit all materials including the SAR by this date.
- Early Action/Early Decision applicants must complete and submit applications on time (most are November 1st).
- Complete all other Florida “rolling admissions” applications as early as possible (note priority scholarship deadlines).
- File the *CSS/Financial Aid Profile* if required by your college(s).
 - *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>
 - Florida State University Admissions <http://admissions.fsu.edu/freshman/>
 - *CSS/Financial Aid Profile* <http://css.collegeboard.org/>

November-December

- November 1st - The UF single deadline. Complete and submit your application. The *Self-Reported Academic Record* (SSAR) must be completed by 12/1).
- Work on remaining Regular Decision college applications, essay(s), and required supplements. Complete and submit January 1st Regular Decision applications early and in all cases by Winter Break.
- You must request SAT and/or ACT send your Official Score Reports to your colleges.
- December 1st - *Bright Futures* Registration opens. Your counselor will provide additional information.
 - University of Florida Admissions <http://www.admissions.ufl.edu/>
 - *The Common Application* www.commonapp.org
 - *The Coalition for College Access* <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org>
 - *Bright Futures* Registration <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/bf/>

January-February

- January 1st - Deadline for most Regular Decision applications.
- Complete and document community service hours and meet other Bright Futures requirements. Online registration process is open.
- Continue exploring scholarship databases. Many local, community and private scholarships open up at this time and appear under the Scholarship Link.
 - *Bright Futures* Registration <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/bf/>

March-April

- Decision letters begin to arrive. Most Regular Decision notification dates occur in late March, early April. Review and compare offers using award comparison websites.
- Make certain you have received the FAFSA acknowledgment and your Student Aid Report.
- Avoid “senior slump” and maintain grades. College offers can be rescinded.

- *Edvisors* <https://www.edvisors.com/fafsa/after-submitting/award-letter/>
- USDOE Federal Aid <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/next-steps/accept-aid>

May

- May 1st – National College Decision Day! Deadline to select the College you will attend and pay deposit (note that housing deposits may occur at state universities much earlier).
- May 15th - Completed Community Service forms must be turned into guidance. Final Bright Futures enrollment opportunity.
- Fill out senior College Acceptance survey card and return to your counselor.
 - *Bright Futures* Registration <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/bf/>