

## Junior College Planning Timeline 2016-17

### August

- Visit and consult websites for timelines, resources and answers to questions related to the college planning process. The *Florida Shines* website offers a personalized hub for college planning and is a one-stop resource for all in-state public and private college/universities. *Big Future* is a college planning tool and search engine for colleges/universities throughout the U.S. and the world.
- Study for the PSAT. The junior year PSAT is a good predictor of your future performance on the SAT.
- If you do not participate in many activities outside of class, now is the time to choose an activity, sign up and become involved.
- Note dates and make plans to attend upcoming local or school-sponsored college events.
  - *Florida Shines* website <https://www.floridashines.org/>
  - *Big Future* website <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

### September

- September 8th - Sarasota County College Night at Robarts Arena.
- Determine a schedule for SAT and/or ACT testing during Junior year and start preparing! If paying for the test is a financial hardship ask your counselor about fee waivers.
- Sign up for the SAT and/or ACT.
- Use free web-based study resources.
  - *College Board*/SAT website <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>
  - ACT website <http://www.act.org/>
  - *Khan Academy* SAT preparation <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

### October

- Begin assembling a personal resume- a record of your accomplishments, activities and work experiences. Be sure to save evidence of your high school accomplishments.
- If possible take the PSAT. It is a helpful predictor and study tool for the SAT.

### November-December

- November 9th - South County College Planning Night (Rotary Futures/Venice High School).
- Register for upcoming SAT/ACT test dates.
  - SAT November 5th
  - ACT December 10th

### January

- Research colleges and their programs using various resources found on *Florida Shines* and *Big Future* websites. Remember Match and Fit!
- Meet with your counselor and develop a senior schedule that is rigorous and focuses on your interests.

- Register for upcoming SAT/ACT test dates.
  - SAT January 21st

#### February/March

- Attend college fairs, open houses and other college opportunities (NACAC Tampa College Fair and South County College Night at Venice High School dates TBD).
- Register for upcoming SAT/ACT test dates.
  - ACT February 11th
  - SAT March 11th

#### April

- Continue to research and refine your college list.
- Plan/go on college visits during Spring Break. Virtual tours are available as well.
- Consider your summer options; seminars, internships or employment. Be active!
- If you are interested in college athletics you must register with the *NCAA Clearinghouse* to ensure your eligibility for participation in college sports.
- Register for upcoming SAT/ACT test dates.
  - ACT April 8th
    - *NCAA Eligibility Center* <http://www.eligibilitycenter.org/>

#### May

- Visit the Net Price Calculators for your desired schools to determine approximate out of pocket costs as well as the *FAFSA4caster* for financial aid eligibility.
- If applying to private colleges think about the teachers who you might ask to write letters of recommendation. Make initial teacher requests before summer break in person.
- Register for upcoming SAT/ACT test dates.
  - ACT May 10th
  - SAT May 6th
  - SAT June 3rd
    - *USDOE Net Price Calculator* <http://collegecost.ed.gov/netpricecenter.aspx>
    - *FAFSA4Caster* <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/estimate>

#### June-August

- Continue to research all colleges of interest. Gather information about academics, campus life and financial aid opportunities.
- Visit college campuses if possible.
- Create a checklist for test scores, essays, recommendations, financial aid applications, and deadlines for each college to which you are applying.
- 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.

- Most applications open in August. You may begin Early Action/Early Decision as well as all Florida public university applications now.
- Investigate outside sources for financial aid. Take note of scholarship deadlines and be sure to check in often. There are many tools and websites that help with investigating financial aid eligibility and scholarship opportunities. Also refer to the Scholarship Link.
  - Office of Student Financial Assistance <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/>
  - *Bright Futures* <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/bfmain.htm>
- Attend various Career and College Planning events. Pay attention to dates for upcoming local College Nights and Financial Aid Workshops (dates TBD). Some key dates for 2016-17 include:
  - September 8th – Sarasota College Night, Robarts Arena
  - November 9th - Rotary South County College Planning Night (Venice PAC)
  - Tampa NACAC College Fair – January/February TBD
  - South County College Fair – February TBD (Venice HS)
- Additional links and resources
  - SAT <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/dates-deadlines>
  - ACT <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/taking-the-test.html#testdates>