Navigating High School: Destination the World

South Region Office
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
What are Colleges Looking for?
What are Colleges Looking for?

**Competitive GPA and Course Rigor:**
- A challenging curriculum
- High level courses such as Honors, Gifted, AP, DE, IB, and/or AICE.
- Diploma Enhancement
- Class Rank

**Extra-Curricular:**
- Community Service
- Participation in Service Clubs
- Athletics
- Employment / Internships
- Awards / Recognitions

**Recommendation Letters / Essays:**
- Letters obtained from academic counselor, teachers and/or administration
- A well-written college entrance essay

**Test Scores:**
- SAT
- SAT Subject Exams
- ACT
- ASVAB (Military exam)
- AP
- AICE
- IB
High School Roadmap – 9th/10th Grade

- Meet with your counselor to discuss your goals and plans
- Create a 4-year high school plan
- Keep track of your progress with a high school roadmap
- Enroll in the right courses
  - Speak to your counselor to recommend appropriate courses for college readiness
  - Consider enrolling in AP/DE/AICE/IB courses (earn college credit while in high school)
- Research what colleges search for in high school transcripts
- Think about your life after high school
  - What are your interests?
  - What are your goals?
    - Complete a Career Inventory Test
- Plan and study for standardized testing (PSAT-10th Grade)

- Fine tune your study habits!
- Start to develop community service projects (quality over quantity)
- Enroll in a wide variety of clubs, sports, and after-school activities
  - Consider leadership roles
- Consider summer internships (some are paid)
- Begin a plan to visit College Fairs / attend College Tours
- Review your high school GPA and course rigor
- Make great impressions TODAY, you will NEED recommendations TOMORROW
- Start a high school portfolio of achievements, activities, and accomplishments. It’s easy to forget!
- Research scholarships and financial aid
- Learn about need-based financial aid found in the FAFSA
- Start to save money for College
# High School Graduation Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>CREDITS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)</td>
<td>4 CREDITS (MUST PASS THE TENTH GRADE FSA ELA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATHEMATICS</td>
<td>4 CREDITS (MUST PASS THE ALGEBRA I END-OF-COURSE EXAM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
<td>3 CREDITS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL SCIENCES</td>
<td>3 CREDITS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOREIGN LANGUAGE/WORLD LANGUAGE</td>
<td>2 YEARS OF THE SAME FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIRED FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION TO STATE UNIVERSITIES &amp; BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERFORMING ARTS/FINE ARTS/PRACTICAL ARTS</td>
<td>1 CREDIT PERFORMING/FINE ARTS OR PRACTICAL ART</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH</td>
<td>1 CREDIT (.5 IN PERSONAL FITNESS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELECTIVES</td>
<td>8 CREDITS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)</td>
<td>CUMULATIVE 2.0 ON A 4.0 SCALE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TESTING</td>
<td>PASSING SCORE ON TENTH GRADE FSA ELA AND ALL APPLICABLE EOC TESTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY SERVICE</td>
<td>HOURS VARY BY SCHOOL AND POST SECONDARY GOALS (100 HOURS BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONLINE LEARNING - FLVS</td>
<td>AT LEAST ONE ONLINE COURSE IS REQUIRED</td>
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Grade Point Average (GPA)

• Your GPA is the Grade Point Average based on your grades

• Taking high school classes in middle school begins impacting your GPA

• Unweighted vs. Weighted GPA
  • Honors classes give you 1 extra point
  • AP, IB, AICE, and DE classes give you 2 extra points for A's and B's and 1 extra point for C's
  • Dual Enrollment grades are part of your college GPA

• College Bound Hint: Colleges may ask you for your Weighted or Unweighted GPA.

  • Student 1
    • Unweighted GPA 3.68  Class Rank 27 of 242
    • Weighted GPA 4.10  Class Rank 23 of 242
  • Student 2
    • Unweighted GPA 3.96  Class Rank 10 of 242
    • Weighted GPA 4.38  Class Rank 8 of 242

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Standard (Unweighted)</th>
<th>Honors (Weighted)</th>
<th>AP/IB/AICE/DE (Weighted)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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Acceleration Options via Dual Enrollment

• Allows high school students an opportunity to enroll in post-secondary courses and receive both high school and post-secondary credits while still in high school.

• The grades earned in dual enrollment classes will also be calculated toward their post-secondary GPA.

• Courses are free of charge, including textbooks.

• Depending on availability, some dual enrollment classes can be taken at the high school site or on the college/university campuses.

• Students are encouraged to consult their school counselor to determine eligibility and course selection.
Other Acceleration Options (AP/IB/AICE)

• Enrolling in AP/IB/AICE courses offers:
  • Benefits to students while they are still in high school
  • Positively impacting a student’s GPA
  • Standing out in the college admission process
  • College credit is awarded to students with passing scores

• Research indicates that students who enroll in advanced courses are more likely to graduate college in four years.

• **Students that graduate with an IB/AICE diploma are guaranteed Full Bright Futures Scholarship.**

• Meet with your college advisor or school counselor for guidance and to avoid course repeatability.
Community Service

- High schools require students to earn hours by helping in the community.

- Service should be done through nonprofit organizations and community events.

- Quality over quantity. Project-based service.

College Bound Hint:

- Your college applications will shine if you participate in multiple hours of community service.

- It is recommended to complete 25 hours of community service per school year.

- Community service hours can contribute to college scholarships for example Florida Bright Futures.
College Readiness Exams

- **PSAT - Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test**
  (May be taken as early as 9th Grade)

- **SAT - Scholastic Assessment Test**
  (Spring 11th grade to Fall of 12th Grade)

- **ACT - American College Test**
  (Spring 11th grade to Fall of 12th Grade)

- **PERT - Postsecondary Education Readiness Test**
  (May be taken as early as middle school)
PSAT and Khan Academy

- PSAT results are available mid-December!
- The SAT is the only college admission test that offers FREE SAT practice tailored to each student.
- Students who sign up for Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy get a practice plan built just for them.
- Link the College Board and Khan Academy accounts and get a personalized study plan based on test results from the PSAT/NMSQT or SAT exams.

Students also get access to:
- Thousands of practice questions with instant feedback
- 8 Full-Length practice tests
- 20 hours = average 120-point increase in score
- Video lessons that explain problems step by step
- Strategies for studying and test taking
College Fairs

- Individual High Schools host College Fairs
- The National Association for College Admission Counseling hosts each year in Miami for more information visit: [https://www.nacacnet.org/](https://www.nacacnet.org/)
  - **FEBRUARY 23, 2020 – Double Tree 711 NW 72nd Avenue**
College Fair and College Visits Questionnaire

Use these questions as a guide when meeting with college representatives. Take good notes and really try to get a feel for what the institution offers you. Imagine yourself as a student there for the next four years: What else might you want to know?

Important Dates: Ask about Early Decision deadlines/Regular application deadlines/Financial aid application deadline/Campus housing deadlines.

Admission Questions:
- What was the average GPA of the entering freshman class?
- What were the average SAT/ACT scores of the entering freshman class?
- What are my chances for being accepted? (Show your personal brag sheet of high school resume.)
- Which high school courses are required for admission?
- How many years of a foreign language are required for admission?

General Questions:
- What can this school offer me that is different from, better than, or more unique than similar schools?
- How would you describe the typical student?
- How large is your campus?
- What is the average class size?
- What is the nature of the faculty? (If a large school or university, ask what percent of classes are taught by graduate students.)
- What are the five strongest majors at your institution?
- What type of high school background are you looking for in an applicant?
- How can I arrange a campus visit? Are there any special visitation days on your campus?
- Do you accept Advanced Placement test credits? If so, with what scores?
- What percentage of a typical freshman class will graduate from your college?

Housing Questions:
- Is there adequate housing for all your students? If not, what arrangements are made? How many students reside on campus?
- How are roommates selected?
- What are some of the rules and regulations which govern residence halls?
- Is your school a "suitcase college" on weekends (i.e. commuter school)? If not, what are some popular weekend activities for students on campus?
- How safe is your school? Where can I obtain statistics about crime on campus?

Resources:
- https://www.nacacfairs.org/learn/prep/college-counseling-questionnaire/
- https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/
- https://www.floridaschines.org/
CONTINUE
Your Research After College Fairs and College Visits

Go to the College or University's website

Look for admission requirements and cost

Research transferable credits

Early Decision: Binding

APPLY EARLY for best chance for admissions and scholarships

Application Deadlines come quickly. Most Colleges and Universities deadlines are October 15 – January 1
Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- FAFSA unlocks over $122 billion in aid a year.

- Receiving almost any form of financial aid — including federal, state, and college-sponsored grants, educational loans, and work-study programs — begins with completing the FAFSA.

- Most financial aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, so submit your FAFSA as soon as possible after **October 1st**.

- The Department of Education recommends **1-2 hours** to fill out the application, and there’s a toll-free help hotline: **1-800-433-3243**.

- A FAFSA can be submitted **electronically** or **by mail**.
# Bright Futures Scholarships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Florida Academic Scholars</th>
<th>Florida Medallion Scholars</th>
<th>Gold Seal Vocational (not accepted at most universities)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GPA:</strong> 3.5 (weighted)</td>
<td><strong>GPA:</strong> 3.0 (weighted)</td>
<td><strong>GPA:</strong> 3.0 (weighted)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>Course credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>Course credits</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 English</td>
<td>4 English</td>
<td>4 English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Mathematics</td>
<td>4 Mathematics</td>
<td>4 Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Natural Science</td>
<td>3 Natural Science</td>
<td>3 Natural Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Social Studies</td>
<td>3 Social Studies</td>
<td>3 Social Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Foreign Languages</td>
<td>2 Foreign Languages</td>
<td>3 single Career and Technical Education Program credits (3.5 weighted GPA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>100 Community Service Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>75 Community Service Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>30 Community Service Hours</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SAT:</strong> 1290 (math/reading only)</td>
<td><strong>SAT:</strong> 1170 (math/reading only)</td>
<td><strong>SAT:</strong> R(24) / W(25) / M(24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACT:</strong> 29</td>
<td><strong>ACT:</strong> 26</td>
<td><strong>ACT:</strong> R(19) / E(17) / M(19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Award:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Award:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Award:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100% tuition of tuition and fees, including summer sessions, $300 book stipend per semester</td>
<td>75% tuition of tuition and fees, including summer sessions</td>
<td>$39-$48 per credit hour depending on program and degree</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- SAT and ACT scores indicate performance in math and reading only.
- PERT scores are given in the context of other standardized tests.
- Award amounts are dependent on various factors including program and degree level.
Additional Post-Secondary Educational Options

Vocational and Technical Programs
Vocational opportunities can be obtained by attending a technical college

Technical Colleges within the Miami Dade County Public School System (M-DCPS)

- D A Dorsey Technical College
- George T. Baker Aviation Technical College
- Lindsey Hopkins Technical College
- Miami Lakes Educational Center and Technical College
- Robert Morgan Educational Center and Technical College
- South Dade Technical College
- William Turner Tech College
Vocational/Technical College Benefits

1. Schooling is shorter and faster than a 4-year institution. Course completion depending on program may vary 6 months – 2 years.

2. Industry certification programs allow for faster employability upon completion of courses.

3. Cost is significantly lower. Tuition starts under $3.00/credit hour (i.e., Nursing Program will cost $3456.00). Students must complete FAFSA.

4. Students may qualify for Pell Grants.

Meet with your counselor for additional information and assistance.
Vocational Programs Offerings via MDCPS

- Automotive (HONDA PACT)
- Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Heating Technology
- Baking & Pastry Arts
- Cosmetology
- Dental Assisting
- Early Childhood
- Medical Assisting
- Practical Nursing

Please visit our MDCPS Technical College Website for complete course offerings
Additional Local Vocational Programs

**Miami Dade College (MDC)** offers College Credit Certificates (C.C.C.)
- These College Credit programs are certified by the FLDOE and require fewer credits than an Associates degree. These credits can also be applied towards an Associates degree.
- MDC will award students with an institutional College Credit Certificate upon completion.
- MDC currently offer 87 programs, including: Accounting Technology Management, Air Cargo Management, Banking Operations, Digital Forensics, Enterprise Cloud Computing, and Paramedic, just to name a few.
- Visit [www.mdc.edu/academics/programs/certificate.aspx](http://www.mdc.edu/academics/programs/certificate.aspx) for a detailed listing of course offerings.

**Florida International University (FIU)** offers online Professional Certificate Programs
- There are 3 Professional Certificate offerings: Paralegal Studies, Strategic Facilitation, and Trade & Logistics
- Programs vary in duration but can typically be completed within 10 weeks.
- Visit [https://cpe.fiu.edu](https://cpe.fiu.edu) for additional details.
Resources

- Student Financial Information
- FAFSA Information
- RAISE Me
- FastWeb
- KHAN Academy
- Big Future
- AP College Credit Policy Search
- International Baccalaureate
- Advanced International Certificate of Education
- Military Options
"The best way to predict your future is to create it."
Abraham Lincoln