



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

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

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

Standard (Unweighted)	Honors (Weighted)	AP/IB/AICE/D E (Weighted)
A = 4.0	A = 5.0	A = 6.0
B = 3.0	B = 4.0	B = 5.0
C = 2.0	C = 3.0	C = 3.0
D = 1.0	D = 1.0	D = 1.0
F = 0.0	F = 0.0	F = 0.0

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/>
 - ❖ FEBRUARY 23, 2020 – Double Tree 711 NW 72nd Avenue

College Fair and College Visits Questionnaire



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 was 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?

- What is the college's procedure for class placement in English and Mathematics?
- Do you have programs for study abroad?
- How important is student government? Sports? A Greek System?
- When must I choose a major?
- What procedure is used to assign a faculty advisor when the student is undecided as to the major area of study?
- What additional academic services do you offer to students (tutoring, career counseling, study skills)?
- How does your institution place students in their freshmen classes?
- What types of extra-curricular activities are on campus?

Housing Questions:

- Is there adequate housing for all your student? 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:

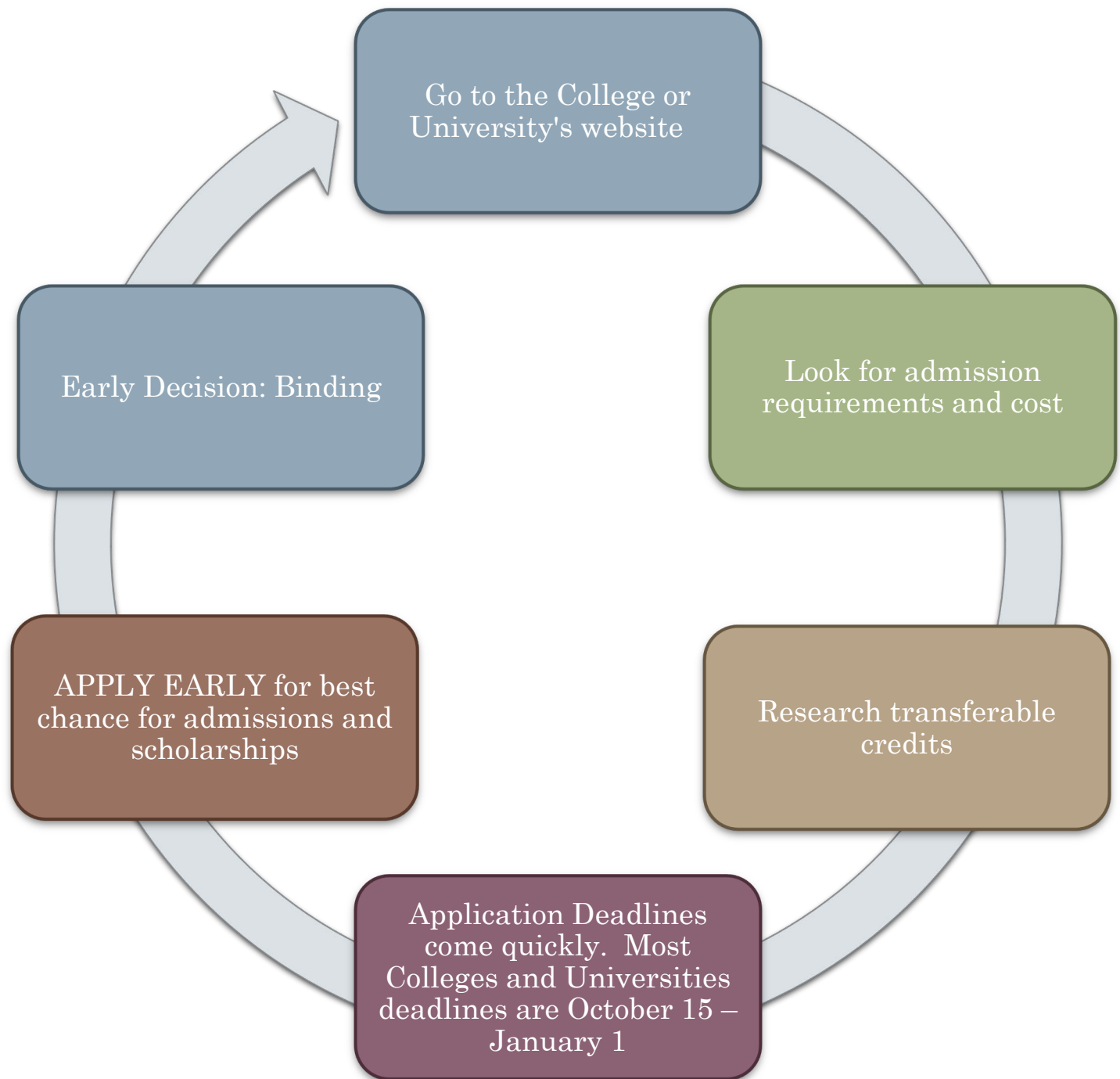
<https://www.nacacfairs.org/learn/prep/college-counseling-questionnaire/>

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

<https://www.floridashines.org/>



CONTINUE
Your Research
After College
Fairs and
College Visits





FAFSA

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

Florida Academic Scholars

GPA: 3.5 (weighted)

Course credits

4 English
4 Mathematics
3 Natural Science
3 Social Studies
2 Foreign Languages

100 Community Service Hours

SAT: 1290 (math/reading only)
ACT: 29

Award:
100% tuition of tuition and fees, including
summer sessions, \$300 book stipend per
semester

Florida Medallion Scholars

GPA: 3.0 (weighted)

Course credits

4 English
4 Mathematics
3 Natural Science
3 Social Studies
2 Foreign Languages

75 Community Service Hours

SAT: 1170 (math/reading only)
ACT: 26

Award:
75% tuition of tuition and fees, including
summer sessions

Gold Seal Vocational (not accepted at most universities)

GPA: 3.0 (weighted)

Course credits

4 English
4 Mathematics
3 Natural Science
3 Social Studies

3 single Career and Technical Education
Program credits (3.5 weighted GPA)

30 Community Service Hours

SAT: R(24) / W(25) / M(24)
ACT: R(19) / E(17) / M(19)
PERT: R(106) / W(103) / M(114)

Award:
\$39-\$48 per credit hour depending on
program and degree

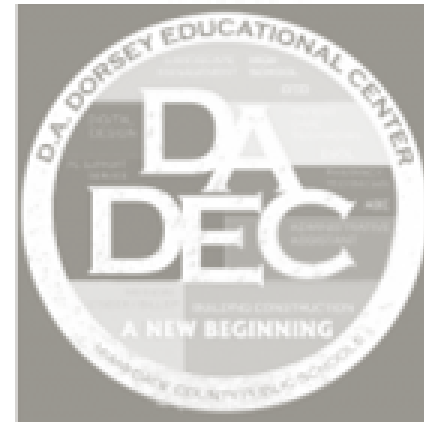


Additional Post-Secondary Educational Options

Vocational and Technical Programs

Vocational

- 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

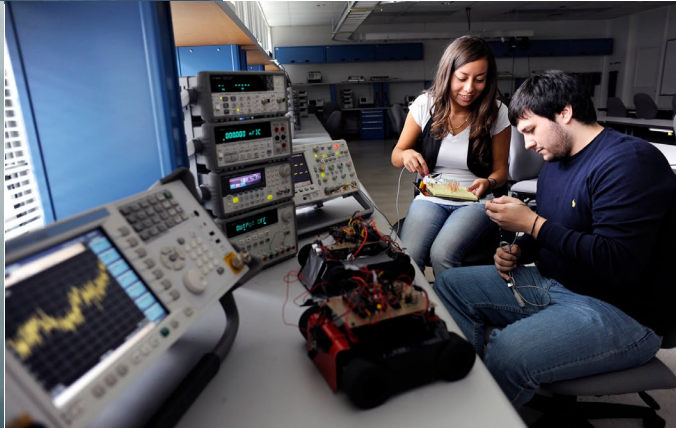
Students may
qualify for
Pell Grants

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 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> for additional details.



fastweb



MyCareerShines



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](#)

A group of graduates in blue caps and gowns, holding rolled-up diplomas tied with red ribbons. The image is semi-transparent, serving as a background for the text.

*"The best way to predict your
future is to **create** it."*

Abraham Lincoln

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