

# College Planning Timeline

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

### THINGS YOU SHOULD DO

- Meet with your counselor to develop a four(4) year plan
- If you are going to a particular college, get a catalog and plan your high school studies in relation to that college's requirements.
- Make sure you are enrolled in college-preparatory courses.
- Work to your academic potential. The grades you earn in 9<sup>th</sup> grade will be included in your final high school GPA and class rank. This is important for college admission and scholarships
- Students intending to apply to college in the Florida University system are strongly advised to take 19 units in the following 5 core academic areas: English, Math, Science, Social Studies and Foreign Language.
- Develop good study habits
- Explore individual interests and possible careers. Take advantage of career day opportunities
- Important to participate in extracurricular activities and community service activities. Check with your counselor to get ideas for community service.
- Look into National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) if you think you may want to participate in sports in college. The website is [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net)
- Read for pleasure and while you are at it, learn unfamiliar words. Vocabulary skills come in handy on the SAT Reasoning Test
- Keep a record of all your activities.
- Check out [www.FACTS.org](http://www.FACTS.org) Florida's Central Web Resource for high school students

## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

### THINGS YOU SHOULD DO

- Meet with your counselor to make sure your courses fit the program you are interested in following through high school.
- Sign up to take the PSAT (October) and the PLAN (November) These tests will prepare you for the SAT and ACT.
- Be prepared to take and pass the FCAT Reading and Math SSS tests.
- Keep your grades up, so you can have the highest possible GPA and class rank.
- Continue with community service activities.
- Go to the College and Career Fairs
- Continue to check out [www.FACTS.org](http://www.FACTS.org) & Bright Futures pamphlet

## **11<sup>th</sup> grade**

### **THINGS YOU SHOULD DO**

- Meet with your counselor to make sure you are on track to pursue your college plans. Colleges look at a rigorous course load.
- Take the PSAT to practice for the SAT and to qualify for scholarships offered by the National Merit Corporation.
- Start researching scholarships [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and check out the scholarship Bulletin Board.
- Identify the characteristics of a college that matters to you-size, location, cost, academic rigor, social environment and diversity. Create a college comparison checklist.
- Sign up for the College Representative visits in the Guidance office
- Make sure you have signed up to take both the ACT and SAT in the spring of your junior year. The ACT examines knowledge learned in school and the SAT is an aptitude test.
- Visit websites such as [www.facts.org](http://www.facts.org), [www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com), or go to specific college sites. Work up a list of schools you want to visit during Spring Break (or in the summer) with your parents. It's best to plan to be on campus while school is in session.
- Review the Bright Futures pamphlet.
- Think about teachers you would like to write letters of recommendation for you. Start thinking about essay topics for college applications.
- Compile a resume of activities, honors, leadership positions, and job experience. You will need this information for college applications and scholarship forms.

## **12<sup>th</sup> grade**

### **THINGS YOU SHOULD DO**

- Start the application process early (check deadlines!)
- Get your letters of recommendation
- Work on your college essays
- Keep up to date on scholarships. Check out the Scholarship Board in the front hall by the office.
- Request your transcripts be sent to the colleges.
- Register for SAT and or ACT if you haven't taken or you need to raise your test scores for scholarships (Bright Futures) or college acceptance. Make sure scores are sent to the colleges.
- In December you can start working on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form and go on line to apply for the Bright Futures Scholarship. [www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org).
- Attend Financial Aid workshop in January
- Make sure the high school has your correct social security number.
- Maintain high grades and a rigorous course load. Colleges want students that are committed to a strong academic program.