

Welcome!

Handouts Available:

- Senior Year Checklist
- The Scholarship Search
- 2023 SUS Matrix
- Common App Info
- QuestBridge Flyer
- Bright Futures Scholarship Info

PATHS PRESENTS:
Junior
College
Prep
Night

**FOR CLASS OF 2025
STUDENTS & PARENTS**

APRIL 18TH 5:30 PM

RSVP 

General topics include:
Applying to 4-Year Colleges
SAT / ACT for College Admission
Bright Futures & Scholarships

The poster features a large stylized 'C' logo, a yellow banner with the date and time, a QR code for RSVP, and illustrations of graduation caps and students in gowns. A small logo of a person's head is in the bottom right corner.

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Website: [College & Career Resources /
Welcome \(osceolaschools.net\)](https://osceolaschools.net/College-Career-Resources/)



Finalizing Your School List

- When applying to 4-year schools, we want you to apply to **at least 6**:
 - We call this the 2-2-2 method

Safety	Match	Reach
<p>Schools whose admission requirements are LOWER than your credentials are (<i>GPA, community service, leadership, involvement, test scores</i>).</p>	<p>Schools whose admission requirements are aligned with your credentials!</p>	<p>Schools whose admission requirements are HIGHER than your credentials. You know there isn't a significant chance you'll get in, but you still want to give it your best shot!</p>

The College Search

- SUS Matrix (handout)
- Newsletters / Social Media
- Use Xello to research and compare your stats!



NAME OF INSTITUTION	LOCATION	TOTAL ENROLLMENT	SUMMER AVERAGE GPA	SUMMER AVERAGE SAT	SUMMER AVERAGE ACT	FALL AVERAGE GPA	FALL AVERAGE SAT	FALL AVERAGE ACT	SSAR?
FAMU	TALLAHASSEE	7,803	3.53	990-1140	19-24	3.91	1070-1240	22-27	YES

ACT composite

Your score is **28**
Average ACT score for this school is not available

Score 30 - 36
59% of accepted students

Score 24 - 29
37% of accepted students

Score 18 - 23
4% of accepted students

SAT composite

Your score is **1240**
Average SAT score for this school is not available

Score 1400 - 1600
42% of accepted students

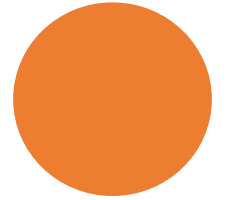
Score 1200 - 1399
52% of accepted students

Score 1000 - 1199
6% of accepted students



It's not about earning the admission. It's about having the skills you need to be successful once you're there.

The minimum high school graduation requirements do not prepare you for academic success in college.

The logo for SDOC4E is displayed on a large blue circular background. The text "SDOC4E" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, with the number "4" highlighted in green. Below this, the words "ENROLL • ENLIST • EMPLOY • EXPLORE" are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

SDOC4E
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Competitive College Admission

- 3+ years of same world language
- 4+ years of history/social science
- 5+ years of math
- 4+years of English
- 4+ years of science
- *Half-day schedules won't cut it*





How Schools Decide Admission

All schools will evaluate your admission based on:

1. Unweighted & weighted GPA
2. Rigor of course load (ideally, minimum of 4-6 DE and/or AP courses for more competitive schools)
3. SAT/ACT scores
4. Leadership & life experience – extracurriculars, service, paid experience - *How did you contribute to your community?*

Admission committees will also consider:

1. Strength of your letters of recommendation
2. Strength of your personal statement/essay

The College Application Process





Senior 4-Year College Application Checklist

Throughout the year, be sure to send your College & Career Counselor proof of every scholarship offer, acceptance, full-time job offer, military enlistment, and FAFSA completion!

SUMMER

- Update your resume
- Create a professional, personal email that you will check regularly. Use that email address for Common App, FAFSA, college applications, College Board, and ACT so all of your college information comes to one place. *Colleges will rely on email and application portals to communicate with you.*
- Begin your personal statement (*Remember, it will take you at least 5 drafts to get it just right!*)
- Narrow down the list of schools you want to apply to – *you ideally want at least 2 stretch, 2 match, and 2 safety schools*
- Decide what type of admission you will apply to for each - *early decision, early action, etc.*
- Create a list of required application materials and application deadlines for each school on your list. *Pay close attention to financial aid priority deadlines for applications. NOT the application deadlines. They will be as early as November 1st!*
- If you plan to apply for schools requiring or suggesting letters of recommendation, think about who will write your letter
- Study for the SAT/ACT if you intend to take it again. *Khan Academy is a proven resource for improving your scores!*

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

- Make sure you are in a contact group with your College & Career Counselor and that you are checking messages regularly! (Remind, Canvas, etc)
- Complete your Beginning of Year Senior Survey
- Be sure you've maintained a rigorous class schedule, even as a senior
- Keep those grades up. *Competitive schools can revoke your admission if your grades drop substantially your senior year, if you suddenly start taking less rigorous classes, or if you suddenly drop to a half-day schedule, depending on your unique circumstances.*
- Be sure you're involved in your community, on campus, and/or working part-time – but do NOT overcommit yourself. *Remember, quality over quantity.*
- Revise and finalize personal statement/admission essays
- Work on college applications – *be sure to send all SAT/ACT scores from your College Board and ACT accounts*
- Check with your College & Career Counselor to see if you are eligible for Application Fee Waivers and ACT/SAT fee waivers

Future Ready!

Step-By-Step Senior Guides 4-Year Colleges



2023-2024 Big Picture Senior Year Timeline

Full list: [Senior 4-Year College Application Checklist \(osceolaschools.net\)](https://osceolaschools.net)

August

- Finalize school list
- Ask for LOR (if you haven't already)
- Confirm application materials needed for each school, semester you'll apply for, type of admission/deadline, and financial aid priority deadline
- Register for SAT/ACT (*make sure you're actively studying*)
- Be sure all hours (work and community service) are submitted thus far

September & October

- Work on application materials
- Be sure you have linked Common App and Xello (under *College Planning* on Xello)
- If not using Common App, add schools to *College Planning* on Xello
- Send your ACT and SAT scores
- Submit application materials
- FAFSA – create FSA ID

November-December

- Apply to Education Foundation scholarship
- Starting in December – complete 24-25 FAFSA (FAFSA usually opens every October 1st, but for JUST this year, it changed)
- Create your FFAA account
- Check application portals

January-May

- Check for mid-year materials needed (even if you've already been accepted!)
- Bring financial aid award letters to your College & Career Counselor
- Pay housing and enrollment deposits



Starting the Application Process – Be Prepared

- Use a professional email **JUST** for college applications, ACT, CollegeBoard, scholarships
 - Be sure email has a professional signature line
- Ask if LOR writer can write **STRONG** letter of recommendation
 - If LOR writer agrees, give **DETAILED** brag sheet
 - Give at least 30 days to write letter
 - 1 core, academic letter minimum
- Decide what semester you are applying for and type of admission (*coming up*)



Starting the Application Process – Be Prepared

Before students begin working in Xello, they should complete the following tasks:

1. Create a Common App account
2. Link their current high school
3. Add a school to the My Colleges list
4. Fill out the preferred start term
5. Sign FERPA Authorization Release

- Start your Common App. Then, link Common App to Xello.
 - Request counselor forms for Common App on Xello **AT LEAST 1 FULL MONTH** before you intend for your application to be submitted for review
- Xello helps you manage: transcript requests, LOR requests, counselor forms, and more (even if you don't use Common App)
- Be SURE your college has all of your materials a **minimum of 3 weeks** before deadline
- **CHECK. YOUR. EMAIL.** *Don't miss additional steps required from your schools!*

Types of Admission

DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?

Regular Decision

DEFINITION:

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Rolling Admission

DEFINITION:

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Early Action (EA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Early Decision (ED)

DEFINITION:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll and withdraw all other applications. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

COMMITMENT:

BINDING

Restrictive Early Action (REA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.



College Application Overview

- Note Deadlines (Regular vs. Priority)
 - Late applications are not accepted or considered on space-available basis
 - Incomplete applications are NOT reviewed for admission
- Follow-up documentation: mid-year reports, class schedule confirmations, grade reports throughout year



College Application Overview

- Do not be fooled into thinking you have until May 1st for schools with rolling admission.
 - *The longer you wait to apply, the fewer spots remain, and the more competitive the application cycle will be.*
- Schools **used** to automatically offer summer admission if your application wasn't quite competitive for fall admission, but not a definite "no"
 - For most schools, this is no longer the case
 - **Now**, for most schools, you are only considered for admission for the term you apply for
 - Applying for summer term can help you be more competitive (think those reach schools!)

College Application Overview

- Optional essay on application? *Write it.*
- Will the school take letters of recommendation, even if they are not required? *Send them.*
- Do not wait to apply until you have the “perfect” test score to apply.
 - You’ll be able to note on your application that you plan to retake the SAT/ACT in fall of your senior year. (Most applicants do!)

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SAT/ACT Testing

Class of 2025 will have
1 final round of School
Day tests – Fall
semester

- Scores may come in too late!

Saturday Tests –
student signs up in
their CollegeBoard /
My ACT account for a
test date and location

- Some students eligible for testing fee waivers that will waive the cost of a Saturday test

These Test Scores may
be in FOCUS but will
not be included on
your transcript.

- Must officially send those scores from your CollegeBoard / MyACT portals (\$)

Also used for Bright
Futures Scholarship
Eligibility

- Until June test after graduation
- Must send scores to at least 1 FLORIDA State College (Valencia) or Public University (UCF)

Strategies for Success

- Make sure your College & Career Counselor knows what your goals are
- Start EARLY. Check in OFTEN.
- Follow college & career information on Remind – READ THE MESSAGES



Using Xello for Application Season



Adding Colleges to your list for Application Tracking



Common App connection



Transcript Requests



Letter of Recommendation Requests



Scholarship Search

Karen Gill, M.A.

College & Career Counselor

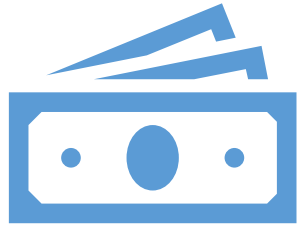
Osceola County School for
the Arts





Sources of Money for College

Financial Aid



NOT JUST LOANS!



Definition: *Money given, paid, or loaned to help pay for college.*

Grants

Scholarships

Loans

Budget/Cost of Attendance (COA)

Tuition and Fees

Room and Board

Books and Supplies

Transportation

Health Care

Miscellaneous Personal Expenses

4 TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

FEDERAL

- **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

STATE

- **Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)**

INSTITUTIONAL

- **Aid from the college itself**

OUTSIDE AGENCIES

- **Education Foundation, [scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com), collegeboard.org, [raise.me](https://www.raise.me)**

FIRST source of money

FAFSA.gov

Even if you are not sure if you are going to college or where you are going, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE fill this out! Some scholarships require this to be done.



To complete the FAFSA, You will need...

First 2 pages of your Tax Return

Social Security Numbers & birthday dates
for parents and student

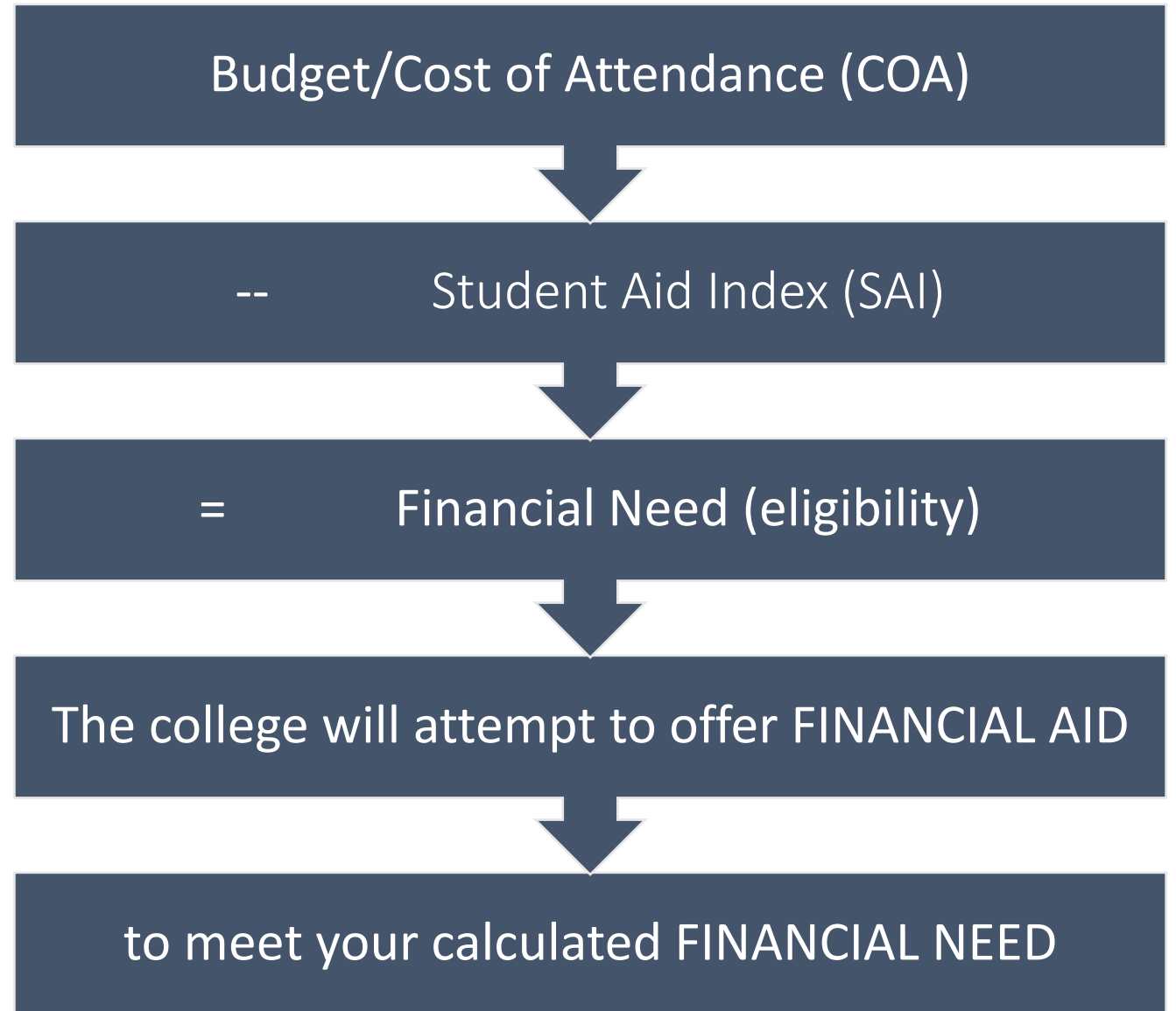
Marriage/divorce information of parents

Dates of when you began living in FL



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Basic Equation of Need



Federal Pell Grant

- **FEDERAL PELL GRANT**
- **Is the primary grant received through the FAFSA. The amount is determined based on the information discussed above.**
- **Amounts can be up to \$7395 per year.**
- **The money does not need to be paid back if you are actively attending and making progress toward a degree or certification.**



Tuition Reimbursement Programs

- **Employment Reimbursements**
- **Many companies offer scholarship or tuition reimbursements.**
 - **Disney**
 - **TacoBell**
 - **UPS**
 - **Target**
 - **Chick-fil-A**
 - **Subway**
 - **HomeDepot**
 - **McDonalds**
 - **Walmart**
- **These are just a few examples. Check with your employer and see if they offer these opportunities.**



Florida Student Financial Aid

Bright Futures and other grants and scholarships, if you stay in Florida.



OSFA
Office of Student Financial Assistance

Florida Student Scholarship & Grant Programs

Login ▾

State Scholarship and Grant Programs

- Access to Better Learning and Education Grant
- Benacquisto Scholarship Program (FAQ)
- Bright Futures Scholarship*
- Effective Access to Student Education
- First Generation Matching Grant
- Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship*
- Florida Student Assistance Grant

First-Time Applicants

Students must submit a completed Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) to OSFA for programs denoted by an asterisk (*). In order to apply for State Scholarship & Grant Programs, a student must first [Create a Student Account](#). After logging into your account, you may proceed to complete the FFAA.

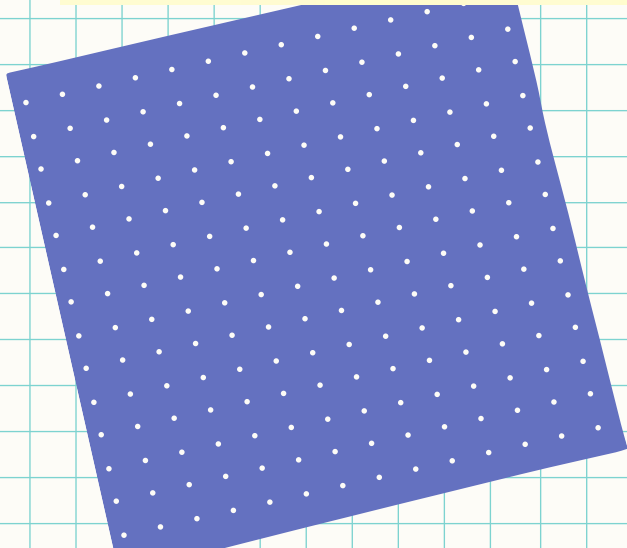


State Aid: FFAA

- **Florida Grants and Scholarships**
 - **Application opens on October 1st of your Senior year**

 - **Bright Futures Scholarship***
 - **Residency Grants**
 - **Jose Marti Grant**
 - **Rosewood Grant**
 - **Other scholarships and grants**

 - ***Special requirements-see your College and Career Counselor or Guidance for more information.**
- 



Opens
November 1-
January 31st

One
application
for 100s of
scholarships

Apply at foundationosceola.org

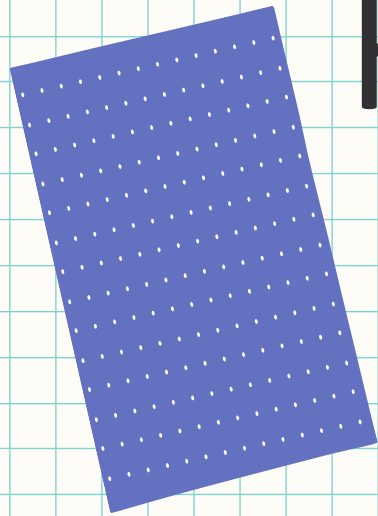
Good luck!

Scholarships

Where do I look?



- Xello
- collegeboard.org – Big Future
- Raise.me
- Education Foundation of Osceola
- www.scholarships.com
- www.chegg.com
- www.unigo.com
- www.goingmerry.com



How to apply?

Update/Create
Resume

Create List of
Eligible
Scholarships

Sort by
deadlines

Complete &
Submit
Applications

Scholarship Essay



- Essays should be on topic and answer the prompt.
- A typical scholarship essay topic will likely ask students about their career goals and plans to achieve those goals.
- Write in order to persuade the selection board that you are the right person to receive the money.



Scholarship Essay



- Follow directions-ANSWER THE PROMPT
- Be concise
- Plan it out
- Don't rush
- Have someone else read it
- Read it out loud
- Keep a good structure
- Show emotions
- Keep the tone positive and inspirational



Tips

Use these tips to start your search for scholarships!



Lunch & Learn Interest Survey

2024 Lunch & Learn / Workshop
Input Survey



Class of 2025 Remind Class

Tell people to text @paths25 to the number 81010

They'll receive a welcome text from Remind.

If anyone has trouble with 81010, they can try texting @paths25 to (415) 813-2646.

