



Senior Timeline/Application Checklist

August/September

- ✓ Work with your College & Career Center team! We can't help you if we don't see you. We have worked very hard to develop relationships with all of the colleges and we would be delighted to share with you what we know about the schools and advocate for you if we communicate early on in the process. We will be available to you all summer by appointment, please book online through this link: <https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/BRACEMeetings@browardcountyschools.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>
- ✓ Start applications. It is never too soon to start loading the applications with the background information (address, parents, etc.). Applications are available:
 - UF: First week of September
 - FSU, UCF, USF, FAMU: Early August
 - FGCU: June 1 for summer, Sept 1 for fall
 - FAU, UNF, FIU, FL Poly: Early July
 - Common App: opens Aug. 1
- ✓ Make sure you have your list of colleges. We like to see a balance of dream schools, safety schools and several in between (good fits). This is also the time to decide if you are applying early decision, early action or single choice early action. Make sure you know the pros and cons of applying early. There are many ways to decide which schools to apply to. If you are conflicted on selecting a major, come visit us and we can help by sharing career exploration resources.
- ✓ Check college admissions websites for applications, deadlines, financial aid, separate scholarship applications, and housing information. Make a checklist with your specific schools so you don't miss any critical dates. Checklist should include: test scores sent, application sent, financial aid forms or separate applications sent, recommendations sent, transcripts sent, fee paid.
- ✓ Sign up for any last minute SAT's or ACT's or subject tests. We will be sending the schedule and you can sign up on www.collegeboard.com or www.act.org
- ✓ If you are done testing, make sure your scores are sent to the colleges. Colleges need applications, scores and transcripts (or SSAR) to make decisions.
- ✓ Make sure all communication with a college comes from you...never a parent.
- ✓ Make sure your senior year schedule shows rigor.
- ✓ Address the “blips” on your application. If there was a poor grade or two, and a

reason for this, colleges need to know. They see blips all the time, but they need to understand what happened.

- ✓ Don't make changes to your schedule once your applications have gone out....it may be tempting to send some Florida applications out this month to get a jump on things, but **DO NOT hit the send button until you are set on your senior year schedule**. They will be looking heavily at that and once the applications go out, and if you make a change, you will need to notify the admissions office...not a fun phone call!
- ✓ Finalize your activities and essay. The applications will be much easier if you have everything in front of you.
- ✓ Keep a running list of any passwords or user ids you set up for applications, scholarships or websites, we promise you will forget them.
- ✓ If this has not been done, now is the time to change your email address if you have a ridiculous email address. This is not the time for honeybabe@icloud.com or kittycatlvr@gmail.com .
- ✓ Ask teachers for letter of recommendation. Give them plenty of notice!!! Make sure you ask a teacher of a core subject from junior or senior year. Don't ask a teacher where you say in the back of the room and quietly got your A. Ask someone who will write about your work ethic, integrity or character. You will not need a letter of recommendation for ANY Florida public college or university, but it is almost guaranteed you will need them for scholarship applications.
- ✓ Make sure applications have gone out early to Florida schools on rolling admission.
- ✓ Transcripts. Make sure you understand the various ways the colleges need them. You will need to ask your Guidance Counselor to upload it into the Common and Coalition App (if applicable). They will not automatically know to do that.
- ✓ Finalize your college essay. The essays and letters of recommendation are an important part of the application and your only opportunity to show how you are different than everyone else. Make sure you love every word, it is authentic and your voice, and it addresses the prompt! **WE WILL NOT READ ANY PERSONAL STATEMENTS AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL-TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR SUMMER HOURS.**
- ✓ **You can use the same SSAR for all Florida schools using the SSAR. Just make sure you link it to the individual schools.**

October

- ✓ The Bright Futures application opens October 1st. Go to www.floridastudentfinancial.org and fill it out.
- ✓ FAFSA opens in the Fall. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov and fill it out. If you are planning to start college in the Summer you need to do TWO FAFSA applications (2024-2025 and 2025-2026)
- ✓ Senior year grades matter! If you are in jeopardy of getting a D or F, the colleges must be notified. They will not like surprises.
- ✓ Attend college fairs, school visits, and college tours. This is an invaluable time to make a personal connection with the person reading your application. We realize you will not want to leave your AP classes to come to the College & Career Center for school visits, but we promise you it matters to them that you were there.
- ✓ Read your weekly newsletter to stay in the loop about scholarship opportunities and be sure that you are taking advantage of them- stop leaving money on the table!
- ✓ Set up any interviews. If the colleges are willing to provide them, you should take advantage of that. Anything in an application that is optional means DO IT!
- ✓ FSU's early action application is due by October 15th.
- ✓ UF's early action application is due by November 1st.

November

- ✓ Keep checking websites to make sure everything is in. Colleges won't text or tweet you and often things will go to your spam. Check every night.
- ✓ Utilize the net price calculator on every college website. That will help you figure out if that college is a viable option for you financially.
- ✓ Make sure you don't miss the November 1st deadline for early decision or early action.
- ✓ CSS profile...if that is not in by the deadline (depends on the school), the school does not need to tell you what your EFC (expected family contribution) will be at the time of acceptance. Some schools require it if apply early but it is usually hard to find on the website. Find it, fill it out, and send it in.
- ✓ University of Florida early action is due on November 1st. The SSAR (student

self-academic report) is due November 15th. **Last date scores will be accepted is November.**

- ✓ FSU regular application is due by December 1st. They must have the application and a set of scores by this date or you will slip to the second deadline. It is okay to keep testing. SSAR is due by Nov. 1st, as well. **December is the last date test scores will be accepted.** February ACT for those deferred with a test score already on file or new applicant.

December

- ✓ Early Decisions are sent out mid-December.
- ✓ December 15th: FSU Early Action Decision Day
- ✓ FAFSA is due for most schools at the beginning of this month (please confirm with the individual schools).
- ✓ Early action decisions for FSU come out on December 15th.

January

- ✓ Regular decision applications are due usually by January 1st.
- ✓ Now that applications are out, it is time to start looking for obscure scholarships you never thought would happen. This is our favorite website for finding scholarships: <https://immigrantsrising.org/resource/list-of-scholarships-and-fellowships/>
- ✓ January 30th: Regular decision for FSU
- ✓ January 24th: UF Early Action Decision Day

February

- ✓ If you are wait listed or deferred, the colleges will want to be updated. Make sure you are continuing to stay strong in your clubs and activities and of course, your grades are staying up. No senioritis! It will come back to hurt you.
- ✓ You can communicate new information with the colleges, but you never send an email just saying you are still interested.

March

- ✓ March 14th: UF Regular Decision Day
- ✓ Second deadline for FSU is this month...March 1st...decisions are rolling.

April

- ✓ Regular decisions are revealed this month.

May

- ✓ May 1st is College Decision Day!!! Seniors, you must have decided where you are attending by then. Make sure you inform the schools you will not be attending, as well.
- ✓ Fill out final transcript so we know where to send them.
- ✓ Senior Survey must be completed in Xello.
- ✓ Make sure you completed your Bright Futures application.
- ✓ Try and do as well on your AP exams as possible. It is a shame to sit in a college class all year and not get the college credit.

Summer

- ✓ If applicable....Make sure you final transcripts from Broward College, Cambridge (AICE classes), and College Board AP Score Report are sent to the university you will be attending.