

## **HOW TO APPLY TO COLLEGE:**

1. Complete all testing by the end of 11<sup>th</sup> grade. (Students can test through February of their senior year of high school, but don't expect to be accepted to a selective university if testing is not completed sooner.)
2. Decide who (teacher, mentor, etc.) will write your letter of recommendation. Most selective universities require three letters: one from the high school guidance counselor and/or principal and two from your teachers. Choose a math/science teacher and an English/history teacher to write your letters. Finally, have a mentor (coach, club sponsor, clergy member, rabbi, supervisor/boss) available should a third fourth letter be required. Most letters of recommendation are submitted online.
3. Construct your resume starting in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. *(Please refer to the template provided.)*
4. Apply using the following applications (depending upon which colleges/universities you choose): The Common Application (serves approx. 700 schools), the Coalition for Access, Affordability and Success Application (serves approx. 90 schools – but not all members have working applications, i.e. FSU), the University of California (UC) Application (for all UC schools including UCLA and UC-Berkeley), the Universal College Application (serves approx. 33 schools and is generally not used unless a specific school no longer is part of the Common App. or has its own application via its website), and individual applications (generally state universities, such as Indiana University-Bloomington, Penn State University, University of Texas-Austin, UCF, USF, etc.). Create accounts for your applications and keep your login/password in a safe place! *NOTE: 99% of college applications “go live” (open-up) on AUGUST 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the start of senior year!*
5. Draft, edit, review and revise college essays. There will be multiple essays depending upon the amount of colleges/universities to which a student chooses to apply.
6. Draft, edit, review and revise scholarship essays. Students will apply to scholarships and colleges simultaneously. Be prepared to WRITE!
7. Review your high school transcript and have one copy available to refer to during the application process. You will need your transcript to complete the SSAR (Self-Reported Student Academic Record – necessary for UF and FSU applications).
8. After successful testing, SUBMIT test scores to colleges/universities via the College Board and/or ACT.org. Follow this by SUBMITTING college/university applications. In most cases, high school transcripts will also need to be sent (either online or via U.S. Mail depending upon the school).
9. Learn about financial aid: Florida Bright Futures (which opens December 1<sup>st</sup> of the student's senior year and is valid for Florida public and private colleges), the FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (which opens October 1<sup>st</sup> of the

student's senior year), and the CSS Profile (which opens October 1<sup>st</sup> of the student's senior year via the College Board).

*NOTE: Bright Futures requires the following eligibility: Florida Academic Scholarship: SAT-1290; ACT-29; Service Hours-100; GPA-3.5 weighted; value: \$103 per credit hour. Florida Medallion Scholarship: SAT-1170; ACT-26; Service Hours-75; GPA-3.0 weighted; value: \$77 per credit hour. (UCF's In-State Rate per credit hour for 2016-17 will be \$212.48.)*