

Plan for the Future



High School Planning Guide

**2025
Alachua County Public Schools
Student Services**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction.....	2
Registration Suggestions, Information & Procedures	3
Registration Information & Procedures	4
High School & College Terminology, High School Planning.....	5
Florida High School Graduation Options for A Standard Diploma	6
• 24-credit Diploma Program	
• An Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma Program	
• An International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program	
• 18-credit ACCEL Diploma Option	
Standard Diploma Program Chart	9
Sample Traditional Four (4) Year/24 Credit Education Plan	11
Other Information Related to High School Graduation	12
Keeping The Pace Toward Graduation	13
Earning College Credit In High School	14
• Advanced Placement (AP)	
• Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Program	
• International Baccalaureate (IB) Program	
• Dual Enrollment and Early College Admission	
• Career Academy & Career Pathways Programs	
Professional Academies Magnet @ Loften High School	17
Extracurricular Activities	19
Grades, Grade Point Averages, and Grading Scales.....	20
Post-High School Training Options.....	21
Preparing for College – What to Do & When	24
General Scholarship & Financial Aid Information	27
• State of Florida Financial Aid Programs	
• Bright Futures Scholarship Program	
• Other State Grant, Scholarship and Loan Programs	
• Federal Financial Aid Programs	
• Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	
• Local Scholarship Programs	
Glossary of High School & College Terminology	29
Test Your Knowledge: High School & Post-High School Information.....	33
High School & Post-High School Information Test Answer Key	35

INTRODUCTION

Dear Parent and “Rising” Ninth Grade Student:

Welcome to the beginning of your high school career. The next four years will be exciting and very challenging. The first step in preparing you for this new experience is to provide you with information about high school that you will need to consider as you prepare for ninth grade courses. This booklet of information has been prepared to help students and parents understand:

- Terms used by high school and college officials
- High school graduation programs & requirements
- High school diploma options
- How grade point averages are figured
- High school academic & technical education programs that prepare students for college
- Careers with a high employment outlook and opportunity for advancement
- General scholarship and financial aid information

Please be aware that staying up-to-date in each of these areas is a shared responsibility of students, parents and school officials. Each year the policies and rules that govern high school and post-high school (e.g. state college, college/university, career & technical) education programs change as a result of legislative mandates. Parents and students can stay abreast of these changes by being involved with school programs and activities, talking frequently with school counselors, and exploring educational resources developed by the Florida Department of Education that are found on the internet. Four important Florida Department of Education web sites that parents and students can visit on the internet are:

- **Florida Department of Education High School Graduation Requirements** ([Graduation Requirements](#))
- **Florida Shines** (floridashines.org),
- **Florida Office of Student Financial Assistance** (FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org), and
- **Bright Futures** (<https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/>) web sites.

These websites allow parents and students to: log on and gather important up-to-date information; map out a four-year high school course of study; learn about federal and state-funded scholarship & financial aid programs, and evaluate student progress toward a Bright Futures Scholarship starting in the ninth grade.

Students benefit most when parents and school officials work together to provide guidance and maximize educational opportunities. Parents and students need to take time to familiarize themselves with the information found in this guide. Changes to graduation requirements brought about by legislative mandates will require parents, students and counselors, more than ever, to plan together. We look forward to working closely with you over the next four years. Feel free to call upon us for information and support as you transition through high school.

Sincerely,
High School Counselors
Alachua County Public Schools

REGISTRATION SUGGESTIONS

Please read the following registration suggestions and go over everything in this guide. Counselors and teachers at your school are available to help you through the registration process. Students should work closely with their parents, and the counselors and teachers at their school, to make course selections that will help them have a successful ninth grade year both academically and socially.

READ: Read and study everything in this guide. Learn as much as you can about high school programs and requirements. This high school planning guide, guidance from your middle school counselor and teachers, and high school orientation programs will provide you with valuable information about the educational programs and opportunities awaiting you in high school.

TALK: Students should talk with parents, teachers and school counselors about educational and career goals. Each of these individuals can provide valuable information that students can use when selecting ninth grade programs and courses.

STUDY: Remember that ninth grade can be a difficult year for students who are not prepared to work hard and meet the challenges ahead. There are no easy courses in high school. All courses require daily preparation if your plan is to graduate within four years.

BE YOUR OWN PERSON: Take classes based on your interests, goals, and level of skill. Remember each of us is different and have unique needs that are different from that of others. Find academic, technical and fine arts courses that you can successfully complete and that you find challenging. Stretch yourself!

THINK: Begin with the end in mind. Read and think about the various university, state college, and technical college training options. Think about what you must do daily during high school to prepare yourself for the educational and career opportunities that best meet your interest, level of skill, and long-term goals. Students should be encouraged to find something they are passionate about and work hard to make that happen for themselves.

HAVE FUN: High school should be both fun and challenging. In addition to planning academic courses, students should also plan to get involved in some type of extracurricular activity. Participating in school activities helps students feel part of the school and improves the overall quality of school programs. Participating in sports, fine arts programs, student clubs and organizations, and volunteer programs, in addition to being fun, can also help students prepare for adult life.



REGISTRATION INFORMATION & PROCEDURES

1. Your school counselor will receive a registration form for each student from the high school you will be attending.
2. Some high schools will seek teacher recommendations for the academic courses you will be taking in the 9th grade. Other schools will place you in academic courses based on your current courses, grade point average, and Fast Assessment scores. You and your parents should contact the high school you will be attending if you have any questions or concerns about your academic course placement.
3. You will get to select two elective courses and some alternate courses in case your first or second choice is not available, so it is important to know your course options.
4. It is important you are aware of how you have previously performed on the FAST Assessments which may impact the courses that you will be allowed to enroll in as a ninth-grade student.
5. As high school counselors we recommend that most students select a 24-credit diploma program. Doing so maximizes your chance of earning free academic & technical college credit in high school and improves your chance of admission to competitive colleges and universities.
6. Check your registration form carefully. Registration forms should be taken home, discussed with parents, signed (if required), and returned to your school within the timeframe that is specified. Be aware that late registration forms can result in lost opportunities.
7. Stretch yourself. We recommend you challenge yourself with honors and advanced courses in the areas you are strong in academically!

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE TERMINOLOGY: UNDERSTANDING WHAT PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT

To truly benefit from the opportunities available in high school, and to plan effectively for university, state college, and technical college programs, students must understand and be knowledgeable about what high school and college officials are talking about. You can take some time to review the High School and College Terminology glossary found on pages 25-27 of this guide to help you. Then make a point to learn each term. Your success in high school and college depends to a large extent on your understanding of what is going on around you and what the next best step will be for you along the way.

HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING

Few students entering the ninth grade know exactly what they want to do. Most students are just beginning to think seriously about their education and career goals. To be college and career ready students must spend time during high school:

Researching career interests

- Exploring high school and post-high school education & career options
- Talking, listening, and thinking about which courses to take to prepare for various college and career opportunities.
- Developing academic and technical skills that are needed for entry into college and careers with a high employment outlook and opportunities for advancement

Selecting the right courses in high school and planning ahead is more important than ever. High school graduation, Bright Futures Scholarship eligibility, the Talented 20 program, and higher education (e.g. state college, and four-year college or university) admission all depend in part on making the right course selections during high school.

Academic advice from teachers and school counselors is the key to successful planning since specific course training is required for students to advance toward various university, state college, technical college, & career training opportunities. Certainly, all students should aspire to high academic standards, and be encouraged to enroll in courses that both challenge them and prepare them for life after high school. Students entering the ninth grade, and their parents, should gather information on academic, career-technical, and fine arts programs at each school since a well-rounded high school education involves some preparation in these areas. Xello (<https://xello.world/en>) is Florida's official, K-12 career planning and work-based learning coordination provider.

FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION OPTIONS FOR A STANDARD DIPLOMA



Florida students entering high school may choose from the following options to earn a standard diploma:

- 24-credit diploma program
- AICE/Cambridge diploma program
- IB/International Baccalaureate diploma program
- 18 credit-ACCEL diploma option
- 18 credit-Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathway

All of these graduation paths include opportunities to take rigorous academic courses designed to prepare students for their future academic and career choices. All students, regardless of graduation program, must still earn a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale and achieve a passing score on the Grade 10 English/Language Arts Florida Standards Assessment and the Algebra 1 EOC assessment to graduate with a standard diploma.

CHOOSING THE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND GRADUATION OPTION THAT IS BEST FOR YOU

Selecting the high school diploma and graduation option that will best meet your needs is one of the most important decisions that you will make. The diploma option you select should be one that helps provide the maximum opportunity for you to reach your education and career goals and enjoy your high school experience. **24 credit standard diploma graduation programs provide students with the broadest opportunity to generate both academic and technical college credit during high school. It also improves a student's chances of being admitted to a four-year college or university directly out of high school.**

24-CREDIT DIPLOMA PROGRAM

The 24-credit diploma program requires students to take at least 24 credits in subject areas such as English, mathematics, science, social studies, fine arts, and a physical education course to include the integration of health. Foreign language credit is not required for this program, although it is recommended for state college preparation. This program also offers students the chance to take eight elective credits. Students selecting a 24-credit standard diploma program can elect to make this graduation option as academically and technically rigorous as their future education or career plans may demand. Advanced Placement (AP),

Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE/Cambridge), International Baccalaureate (IB), and dual enrollment courses that result in both academic and technical college credit during high school prepare students for entry into state college, four-year college and university settings, as well as careers that require high levels of academic and technical skill.

ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (AICE/CAMBRIDGE) DIPLOMA PROGRAM AT GAINESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

AICE (Cambridge) courses at Gainesville High School (GHS) are demanding pre-university and university courses. At GHS, the first two years in the AICE Program are spent studying a broad curriculum of courses designed to emphasize the development of higher order thinking skills, oral and written skills, and extensive problem solving and teamwork skills. The final two years are spent in the advanced program which comprises college-level courses leading to the Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Diploma. The AICE program offers an international pre-university curriculum and examination system which emphasizes the value of a diverse, rigorous and analytical coursework for the highest achieving students. The AICE curriculum at GHS involves the selection of subjects from three curriculum areas: Mathematics and Science; Languages; and Arts and Humanities. Students supplement the AICE curriculum by choosing additional courses from a wide variety of electives. Advanced Placement (AP) curriculum is also incorporated into most 11th and 12th grade AICE courses. Thus, 11th and 12th grade AICE students prepare to take AICE and/or AP examinations for most courses. Most of the nation's colleges are awarding students advanced standing and academic credit for AICE examinations passed. Cambridge Graduates are currently attending the following colleges and universities: Harvard, University of Pennsylvania, Stanford, Brown, Johns Hopkins, Cornell, Duke, Virginia, UNC Chapel Hill, Wake Forest, University of Michigan, and The University of Florida Honors Program. Today, all students passing AICE examinations will qualify for up to 45 hours of college credit at all public universities. Students who earn an AICE Diploma, complete a Florida Financial Aid Form and community service hours are eligible for a Bright Futures Scholarship. Students can participate in the program at no cost and **bus transportation is provided**. Admission into the Cambridge program is highly-selective. Applications must be completed. Completion of Algebra for high school credit is also an admission requirement. For more information about the AICE/Cambridge Diploma Program at Gainesville High School contact, J. Dupler (duplerj@gm.sbac.edu) or visit the Cambridge website for more information on the Cambridge program - [Cambridge \(AICE\) / Cambridge \(AICE\)](#)

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) DIPLOMA PROGRAM AT EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma program is a rigorous holistic, liberal arts, pre-university course of study, leading to internationally standardized examinations. The program is designed as a comprehensive two-year curriculum (grades 11 and 12) that allows its graduates to fulfill requirements of many different nations' education systems. ***It balances a challenging academic component with a community service requirement and a course in Theory of Knowledge. IB students are also required to complete an independent extended essay under the direction of a mentor teacher.*** Students enroll in Pre-IB courses during 9th and 10th grade in preparation for entry into IB courses as juniors and

seniors. Students completing IB courses and exams ***earn college academic credit which is awarded on the basis of scores achieved on IB exams.*** Students can earn up to 30 postsecondary semester credits by participating in this program at the high school level. Students who earn an IB Diploma, complete a Florida Financial Aid Form and community service hours are eligible for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship. The IB program in Alachua County is housed at Eastside High School. Students must complete the application process. Students who participate do so at no cost and ***bus transportation is provided.*** For more information about the IB Diploma Program contact the IB coordinator, Anne Koon (koonal@gm.sbac.edu) at 955-6704 or visit the IB website at [IB Program](#).

18 CREDIT - ACCEL DIPLOMA OPTION

Students who complete a minimum of 18 credits, achieve a cumulative GPA of a 2.0 on a 4.0 scale and earn a passing score on the statewide assessments required for high school graduation have an option to earn a standard high school diploma. This option requires that a student completes **all standard core curriculum course requirements for the 24-credit program** without the required physical education or online course, and it requires only three elective courses.

The 18 Credit – ACCEL Diploma Option allows students to accelerate high school graduation making it a good choice for some students. Prior to selecting this graduation option, students and their parents must meet with a school administrator or counselor to review specific requirements, advantages and disadvantages related to this graduation option. After meeting with a school administrator or counselor, students and their parents wishing to pursue this diploma option must sign an Alachua County Public Schools ACCEL -18 Credit Diploma Option Request Form.

18 CREDIT – CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) PATHWAY

Students participating in a career technical education program have the option to work toward this 18-credit diploma. This option requires that a student completes **all standard core curriculum course requirements for the 24-credit program**. They are required to earn four elective credits instead of eight. Two elective credits must be in CTE courses resulting in program completion and industry certification. Two additional credits should be in work-based learning programs or other electives. Physical education, fine and performing arts/practical arts and the online course are not required.

Students receiving Exceptional Student Education (ESE) services are referred to their school's Exceptional Student Education department for more information about graduation options for students receiving these services. The IEP team will determine what services and supports are needed to assist a student in working toward a standard diploma. Your school counselor is also an excellent resource.

STANDARD DIPLOMA PROGRAM CHART

<i>*Subject to change. Visit FLDOE Grad Requirements in August for current requirements.</i>		
Subject Area	24-Credit Program	ACCEL Program/ Diploma Designations
English/ Language Arts (ELA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 credits in ELA 1, 2, 3, 4 ELA honors, AP, AICE, IB and dual enrollment courses may satisfy this requirement (Must pass the Grade 10 ELA Common Core assessment. 	ACCEL Program (18 credits minimum)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical education is not required 3 elective credits <p>All other graduation requirements for a standard diploma must be met (per s. 1003.4282(3)(a)-(e), F.S.</p>
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 credits, one of which must be Algebra 1 and one of which must be Geometry (Algebra 1 EOC <u>must be passed</u> and results count 30% of the final course grade; Geometry EOC results count 30% of the final course grade) Industry certification courses that lead to college credit may substitute for up to two mathematics credits (except for Algebra and Geometry). This must be discussed with a school counselor. 	Career Technical Education Pathway (18 credit min)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 credits in a CTE course resulting in program completion and industry certification 2 credits in work based learning or other electives. PE is not required Performing/Practical art is not required <p>All other graduation requirements for a standard diploma must be met (per s. 1003.4282(3)(a)-(e), F.S.</p>
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 credit in Biology 1 (Biology 1 EOC results count 30% of the final course grade) 2 credits in equally rigorous science courses 2 of the 3 required science credits must have a laboratory component Industry certification courses that lead to college credit may substitute for up to 1 science credit (except Biology) 	Scholar Designation
		<p>In addition to meeting the standard high school diploma requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 credit in Algebra 2 Pass the Geometry EOC 1 credit in statistics or an equally rigorous math course Pass the Biology 1 EOC 1 credit in Chemistry or Physics 1 credit in a course equally rigorous to Chemistry or Physics Pass the U.S. History EOC assessment 2 credits in the same World (Foreign) Language <p>Earn at least 1 credit in AP, IB, AICE or a dual enrollment course</p>
Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 credit in World History 1 credit in U.S. History (U.S. History results count 30% of the final course grade) .5 credit in U.S. government .5 credit in Economics .5 in Financial Literacy 	

Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts	1 credit in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or practical arts (eligible courses specified in the Florida Course Code Directory)	Industry Scholar Diploma Designation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet standard high school diploma requirements • Attain one or more industry certifications from the list established (per s. 1003.492, F.S.)
Physical Education	1 credit in physical education to include the integration of health	
Electives	7.5 credits	
Online Course	1 course within the 24 credits	
Grade Point Average (GPA)	Cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale	
World (Foreign) Language	Not required for high school graduation, but required for admission into state universities	
Industry Certification	Not required. Industry certification courses that lead to college credit may substitute for up to 2 math credits and 1 science credit	
Special Notes: EOC = End of Course Assessments; AP = Advanced Placement; AICE = Advance International Certificate of Education; IB = International Baccalaureate		

**SAMPLE TRADITIONAL FOUR (4) YEAR/24 CREDIT EDUCATIONAL PLAN
STATE COLLEGE, COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PREP**

9TH GRADE	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE
English 1 Adv	English 2 Adv	English 3 - AP Lang	English 4 - AP Lit.
Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus
Physical Science	Biology 1	Chemistry	Physics
World History	World (Foreign) Language I	US History	US Government/ Economics
HOPE PE	Fine/Performing Arts, Speech, Debate or Practical Arts	World (Foreign) Language II	Academic or Career Elective
Academic or Career Elective	Academic or Career Elective	Academic or Career Elective	Academic or Career Elective

**SAMPLE TRADITIONAL FOUR (4) YEAR/24 CREDIT EDUCATIONAL PLAN
CAREER/JOB ENTRY**

9TH GRADE	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE
English 1	English 2	English 3	English 4
Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra 2	Math for College Readiness
Physical Science	Biology	Chemistry	US Government/ Economics
World History	Fine/Performing Arts, Speech, Debate or Practical Arts	US History	Career/Technical Course
HOPE PE	Career/Technical Course	Career/Technical Course	Career/Technical Course
Career/Technical Course	Academic, Career Elective or world language	Academic, Career Elective or world language	Academic or Career Elective

NOTE: These are sample schedules. Individual academic advisement should be conducted with a school counselor, teachers & parent. We recommend students take an advanced/honors course in areas of strength. At least one course within the 24-credit program must be completed through online learning unless the student is pursuing an AICE/Cambridge, IB, ACCEL 18 Credit Diploma or Career Technical Education Pathway Diploma Option.

OTHER INFORMATION RELATED TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

CREDIT ACCELERATION PROGRAM (CAP)

The Credit Acceleration Program is available to allow a secondary student to earn high school credit in Algebra 1, Geometry, U.S. History or biology if the student passes the statewide, standardized assessment (EOC) administered under s. 1008.22, F.S. A school district must award credit to a student who is not enrolled in the course, or who has not completed the course, if the student attains a passing score on the corresponding statewide, standardized assessment. A student is also allowed to earn high school credit in courses required for high school graduation through the passage of an Advanced Placement (AP) examination or a College Level Examination Program (CLEP).

STANDARD DIPLOMA DESIGNATIONS

Students may earn one or more designations on their standard high school diploma: the **scholar designation** and the **merit designation**. Students are encouraged, but are not required, to work toward a designation. The requirements for both designations are in addition to the 24-credit program requirements. Please see the Standard Diploma Program Chart (pgs. 8-9) for the requirements of these designations.

EARLY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

A high school student who pursues the 24-credit high school graduation program may have the option to participate in early graduation (graduating in fewer than eight semesters). A student who completes a minimum of 24 credits, achieves a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale and earns a passing score on the statewide assessments required for high school graduation may have this option (outlined in s. 1003.4281, F.S.).

A student who graduates early may continue to participate in school activities and social events, and attend and participate in graduation events with the student's cohort, as if the student were still enrolled in high school. A student who graduates early will be included in class ranking, honors and award determinations for the student's cohort. A student who graduates early must comply with district school board rules and policies regarding access to the school facilities and grounds during normal operating hours.

A student who graduates from high school midyear may receive an initial Bright Futures Scholarship award (if eligible) during the spring term following the student's graduation, as long as the student applies for the scholarship award no later than August 31 of the student's graduation year.

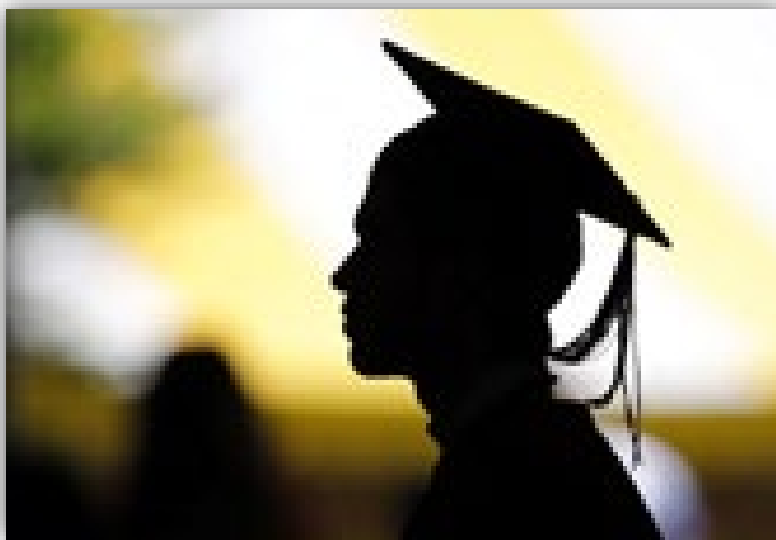
A student who receives an initial award during the spring term will be evaluated for scholarship renewal after a full academic year (fall through spring) of award eligibility has passed. This provides students who graduate from high school midyear and receive an initial award in the spring term a full academic year (potentially three terms of funding) before they will be evaluated for scholarship renewal. For additional information, please refer to the Bright Futures Scholarship Program website - <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/>.

KEEPING THE PACE TOWARD GRADUATION

A standard high school diploma requires 24 credits. Typically, students earn 6 credits each year for 4 years. This leaves no room for error. Every credit/course counts. About 1 out of every 3 students enrolled in the ninth-grade forfeit course credit. This is largely due to inadequate class preparation or attendance by students and ill-advised decisions regarding program and class placement. Students who lose credit during high school should make up the course credit that they have lost as soon as possible. Students can make up credits lost through online credit retrieval (CROP), Adult Education, and Online School programs including Alachua eSchool ([Alachua eSchool / Homepage](#)) or Florida Virtual School (www.flvs.net). Parents and students should be aware that failure to make up course credit immediately after it is lost typically results in delays in student graduation.

Students also put themselves at risk for not graduating on time when they miss classes and/or earn grades below a “C” in their classes. High school students with excessive absences in a class are at risk for losing course credit even if they earn a passing grade in the class. Unexcused absences can result in the loss of credit unless the final exam for the course is passed. For more information about the relationship between class attendance and course credit, high school students and their parents are referred to the School Board of Alachua County Public Schools Code of Student Conduct and Student Progression Plan. Both of these documents can be found on the school board website (<https://fl02219191.schoolwires.net/domain/125>) under Families tab located at the top of the page. Students and parents are reminded that a “C” (2.0) grade point average is required for students to earn a high school diploma. This means that any grades of D or F place students at risk for graduation.

For more information about how students can recover course credits that are lost, and improve school attendance and/or grades, parents and students should visit with a school counselor.



EARNING COLLEGE CREDIT IN HIGH SCHOOL



To be competitive in today's world market students may wish to leave high school with college level academic and technical skills. Lacking one or the other puts students at a competitive disadvantage for college admission and high demand, high paying jobs.

Research has shown that students perform better in high school when they experience their classes as both rigorous and relevant. High school students are also more likely to graduate from high school and enter state college, four-year college, and university settings if they have generated college credit as a high school student.

Alachua County is a state and national leader in providing academic and technical college credit opportunities to high school students through our: (1) Advanced Placement (AP), AICE/Cambridge, and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs; (2) articulation agreements that allow students to enter high school dual enrollment/early admission programs on the Santa Fe College and University of Florida campuses, and/or; (3) by taking college level career and technical education classes offered on our high school campuses.

Academic college credit can be earned during high school by: (1) enrolling in Advanced Placement (AP), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE/Cambridge), International Baccalaureate (IB), or Dual Enrollment and Early College Admission English, math, science, social studies and foreign language courses, (2) earning course credit, and (3) passing college level exams in these subject areas.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

The College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) program is a nationwide program consisting of over 30 college-level courses and exams in subjects ranging from art to statistics offered at participating high schools, including Florida Virtual School. Students earning a qualifying grade on an AP exam can earn credit or advanced placement for their efforts in more than 90 percent of the four-year colleges and universities in the United States.

Each high school in Alachua County offers Advanced Placement (AP) courses. For more information about AP course offerings available on each high school campus, students and parents should contact a school counselor.

ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (AICE/CAMBRIDGE) PROGRAM: GAINESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

The AICE/Cambridge program offers students the opportunity to earn academic college credit during high school. For more information about the AICE/Cambridge Program at Gainesville

High School students and parents should contact J. Dupler (duplerrj@gm.sbac.edu) at 955-6707, or visit the Cambridge website - [Cambridge \(AICE\) / Cambridge \(AICE\)](#).

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) PROGRAM: EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

The IB program offers students the opportunity to earn academic college credit during high school. For more information about the IB Diploma Program students and parents should contact the IB coordinator Anne Koon (koonal@gm.sbac.edu) at 955-6704 or visit the IB website at [IB Program](#).

DUAL ENROLLMENT & EARLY ADMISSIONS PROGRAMS

Dual Enrollment is a program that allows high school students to simultaneously earn college academic, technology and applied science (career related), or fine arts credit toward a postsecondary diploma, certificate, or degree at a Florida public institution, and credit toward a high school diploma. Academic, technology and applied science, and fine arts dual enrollment courses are offered to qualified 11th and 12th grade students at Santa Fe College and the University of Florida. Dual enrollment courses are free to students; this includes registration, matriculation, or laboratory fees for courses taken through dual enrollment. Instructional materials (such as books) are provided to students free of charge.

College Credit

College credit can be earned during high school by: (1) entering a Career Academy program or by selecting career & technical education classes that teach college level technical skills for which there is an articulated agreement between the Alachua County Public School System and the post-secondary institution; (2) passing the course with a “B” or better grade; (3) obtaining a teacher recommendation to take the postsecondary institution’s final exam ; and (4) passing the post-secondary institution’s final exam for that course; OR passing an industry certification that is articulated with Santa Fe College.

Leaving high school with high level academic and technical skills takes careful planning and hard work. Students who have an interest in enrolling in courses that can generate college credit during high school should speak with a school counselor.

CAREER ACADEMY AND CAREER PATHWAYS PROGRAMS

Our high school Career Academy and Career Pathways programs provide students with extraordinary educational and career training opportunities. These programs educate students for entry into high employment, high salary careers.

High school Career Academy and Career Pathways programs are unique in several ways:

- Classrooms are actual work environments like those that students would find in the career area they are training to enter. For example, the Academy of Finance is a branch of the Florida Credit Union housed on the Buchholz High School campus.
- Teachers are professionals who are currently working or have previously worked in the career area that they are training students to enter. For example, the teachers in the Academy of Health Professions at Gainesville High School are registered nurses.
- Students acquire academic and career skills that were traditionally reserved for state college and university students, and can generate both academic & technical college

credit while they are in high school. This saves students time and money after graduation from high school.

- Students are provided with career and internship experiences (e.g. rotations with allied health professionals like respiratory therapists, nurses, physical therapists, pharmacy technicians) in settings like those they are likely to ultimately work in.
- Students have the chance to leave high school with the academic and technical training needed to make them more competitive for employment, and for career specific college programs and scholarships.
- Students leave Career Academy and Career Pathways programs, college and career ready.

Career Academy program opportunities are offered at most high schools in Alachua County that transition to post-secondary institutions, including Santa Fe College, the College of Central Florida, and Johnson and Wales University. Course offerings are also available at various high schools throughout the district and through the Santa Fe College High School Dual Enrollment program. A list of **Career Academy programs** and the high schools housing these programs can be found below: For more information about Career Academy and Career Pathways programs students and parents are encouraged to contact the district Career and Technical Education office at (352) 955-6847

Buchholz High School

Academy of Entrepreneurship
Academy of Finance

Eastside High School

Institute of Culinary Arts

Professional Academies Magnet at Lofton High School

Academy of Automotive Technology
Academy of Gaming and Mobile Apps
Institute of Graphic Arts and Design
Academy of Robotics and Engineering
Academy of Fire & Emergency Medical Services
Academy of Media Production Technology

Gainesville High School

Academy of Health Professions
Academy of Future Teachers

Newberry High School

Academy of Criminal Justice

Santa Fe High School

Academy of Agriscience
Academy of Veterinary Assisting
Institute of Biotechnology

Hawthorne High School

Academy of Agribusiness



PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIES MAGNET @Loften High School



The mission of the Professional Academies Magnet is to provide innovative and relevant academic and career-related instruction designed to prepare students for continued education at the postsecondary level and for the workforce of the 21st century.

Students who attend the Professional Academies Magnet select a program of study in a career cluster that interests them and plan their four-year high school program around that area of interest. Upon graduation, all students have completed a rigorous and relevant program of study specifically designed to meet their own individual needs and aspirations. Administrators, faculty, and staff work together as a team to provide learning experiences that foster student growth and achievement.

Curriculum: A complete high school curriculum is offered to students at the Professional Academies Magnet. Each student selects a specific career cluster area and builds an academic schedule to provide the best foundation skills required for success in the workforce and in postsecondary (university, state college, technical college) educational programs. AP and other Honors level courses are available for students to enable them to build a strong foundation for future education. All core curriculum graduation requirements are part of the four-year plan.

Block Scheduling: Block scheduling provides students with the opportunity to earn 8 credits per year or 32 credits while in high school rather than the traditional 24. Students on the block schedule are enrolled in four full credit courses each semester.

Student Advisory Program: Each student is assigned a teacher advisor who works closely with them to help them develop the academic, social and career skills necessary to be a successful high school student and prepare for entry into adult life.

Academy Advisory Boards: Each career & technical academy has an Advisory Board that includes professionals from businesses in the community related to the career pathway. The Boards provide valuable guidance to ensure that each academy adequately provides students with the knowledge and skills needed in their career fields.

Articulation: Most Professional Academies provide articulated linkages to postsecondary education with clearly defined pathways. Students have the opportunity to earn college credit(s) through their career courses at post-secondary institutions.

Sports: Participation in athletics teaches life-long lessons such as hard work, teamwork and sportsmanship. The Professional Academies Magnet offers students the opportunity to participate in any extra-curricular activity such as football, basketball, baseball, cheerleading, ROTC, etc., at any public school in the school district in which the student resides.

Internships: In the senior year of school, eligible students have opportunities for cooperative education and/or internship programs. Career and technical education program teachers work to develop worksites for cooperative education, and maintain contact with local employers in the related career area.

Student Organizations: Every student participates in Career and Technical Student Organizations through co-curricular activities in order to provide leadership training and reinforce specific career and technical skills. Career and Technical Student Organizations are an integral part of the career and technical instructional program.

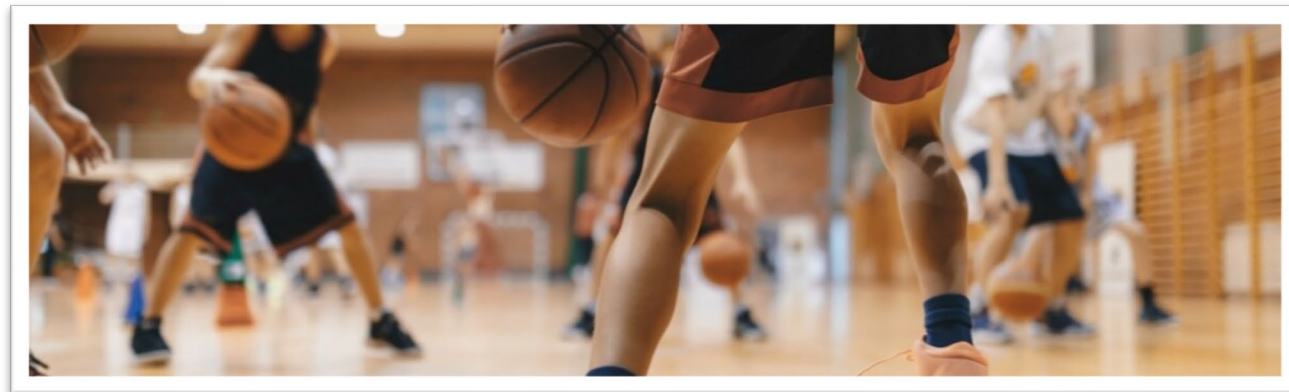
Student Uniforms: Students enrolled in the Professional Academies Magnet have an academy shirt related to the Professional Academy in which they are enrolled, which is worn 1 day a week. On the other days, students follow the ACPS dress code policy.

Honors Courses: Academic instruction challenges students to achieve their greatest potential. Integrated contextual learning activities facilitate student engagement and understanding, and cause teachers to interact regularly across subject areas. Honors and AP level courses are provided in academic subject areas. Career and Technical courses in 10th – 12th grades carry honors level weight.

Industry Credentialed Programs: Career and Technical programs at the Professional Academies Magnet have the highest available level of industry certification. When possible, where no national or state certification exists, the advisory committees establish a local certification in conjunction with the local workforce development board, the chamber of commerce, or the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

High School students need to be involved in extracurricular activities. Social and emotional health is strengthened by involvement with others. Extracurricular activities provide experiences for students to develop talents, leadership, and interpersonal skills that employers, colleges, and scholarship programs look for as proof that a high school student has had a well-rounded high school experience. Students should check with the high school they plan to attend for a list of student & career organizations, clubs, sports, fine arts, and other activities. Activities directors, athletic directors, and school counselors at each high school can help identify extracurricular activities that may interest individual students.



GRADES, GRADE POINT AVERAGES, AND GRADING SCALE

In high school, grades are given at the end of each nine weeks. Each grade will be given a numerical value. Your grade point average (GPA) will be computed by assigning the following weights to letter grades A=4.0, B/B+=3.0, C/C+=2.0, D/D+=1.0 and F=0. Please be aware that your cumulative grade point average is based on your semester grades.

Computing Your GPA. Below is an example of how to compute your GPA. First, assign a number value to the letter grade then add up the numbers and divide by the number of courses taken. Compute your GPA from first semester or last nine weeks below:

<u>COURSES</u>	<u>SAMPLE GPA</u>	<u>COURSES</u>	<u>COMPUTE YOUR GPA</u>
English I	A = <u>4.0</u>	_____	=
World History	C = <u>2.0</u>	_____	=
Algebra I	C = <u>2.0</u>	_____	=
Information Technology	B = <u>3.0</u>	_____	=
Integrated Science	B = <u>3.0</u>	_____	=
Physical Education	A = <u>4.0</u>	_____	=
Grade Points Earned	= <u>18.0</u>	Grade points earned:	= _____
Courses Taken	= <u>6.0</u>	Courses taken:	= _____
18.0 divided by 6	= <u>3.0</u>	___ divided by ___	= _____
GPA	= <u>3.0</u>	GPA:	= _____

Grading Scale	
A = 90 - 100	D+ = 67 - 69
B+ = 87 - 89	D = 60 - 66
B = 80 - 86	F = 0 - 59
C+ = 77 - 79	I = 0
C = 70 - 76	

- Additional weight is **not** given for pluses (+) when tallying your cumulative grade point average.
- Honors, Advanced Placement, IB and AICE courses are weighted.

POST HIGH SCHOOL TRAINING OPTIONS



Thinking about and planning for what you will do after high school is probably one of the most important projects ninth grade students can work on to insure a bright future for themselves. There are several different paths that students can take after high school. It is important to become familiar with each of these options since no one option is appropriate for all students. Students should select high school courses based on the post-high school career path they plan to pursue. All students, regardless of the post high school career option(s) they intend to pursue, should aspire to high academic standards, and be encouraged to enroll in courses that challenge and prepare them for life after high school. Students entering the ninth grade, and their parents, should gather information on academic, career-technical, and fine arts programs that prepare a student for entry into each of the post-high school career paths below.

Setting post-high school educational and career goals early helps many students focus and become more motivated in their school work. Remember, the earlier a student makes a decision about the general career direction they plan to pursue, the more directed and focused he or she will be. It is wise for students to discuss interests and choices with their parent(s) and to contact their school counselor early in their high school years for academic and career advisement.

WORKFORCE: ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

Students planning on entering the workforce directly after graduation from high school would benefit from looking into a Career Academy or Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Transition Services. These programs provide high school students with employment skills and work experiences in career areas of interest to them. Job shadowing opportunities can also be coordinated by career & technical education teachers or through high school counseling offices. For more information about workforce opportunities available to students after high school, students and parents should visit with their school counselor, or your student's ESE Individual Education Plan manager.

APPRENTICESHIP: ON-THE-JOB & CLASSROOM TRAINING

Apprenticeships by definition combine supervised on-the-job experience with related classroom studies. Often the classroom training is offered by technical centers and state colleges. Apprenticeships are sponsored by employers or trade unions. For more information about apprenticeship programs available to students after high school, students and parents should visit their school counselor, talk to someone in the local CareerSource, or check with an employer or union engaged in the trade you wish to enter. Information about apprenticeship programs can also be obtained through the Construction & Technical

Education program office at Santa Fe College (352-395-5362 or <http://www.sfcollege.edu/construction/?section=apprenticeship>).

MILITARY TRAINING

The Armed Services offer many valuable lessons for students after graduation from high school. Both college and career & technical training are available in the military. The number and type of educational and career opportunities available to a student depends on his or her grades and test scores. Participation in a school-based military program like ROTC is an excellent exploratory experience for students who think they would like the military. Students interested in educational and career opportunities offered by the various branches of the military, or information about military college funds, can contact a local military recruiter through their school counseling office, or visit <http://www.todaysmilitary.com/military-careers> for information. Students interested in pursuing a career opportunity through the military should plan to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) during their junior or senior year. The ASVAB is administered on high school campuses each year to interested high school juniors and seniors.

TECHNICAL COLLEGE TRAINING

Technical colleges offer specialized educational training in a wide variety of career interest areas. These schools award post-secondary certificates in occupational, vocational, and technical fields within a relatively short period of time which can range from a few weeks to two years depending on the program. ***Specialized career training offers the greatest opportunity for employment according to the U.S. Department of Labor & Employment.***

Students can begin classes in many of these areas of training while in high school by enrolling in a Career Academy, Career Pathway program, or the Santa Fe College High School Dual Enrollment program. For more information contact your high school counselor, or career and technical education teacher.

STATE COLLEGE (Formerly Called Community College)

Like technical colleges, state colleges offer specialized career & technical training through certificate, associate of applied science and associate of science programs that are designed to provide career training typically within a time period of a few weeks to two years. State colleges now provide opportunities to earn bachelor's degrees as well. In addition to this, state colleges also provide academic training for students interested in preparing for entry into a four-year college or university. State colleges are educational institutions that have something for everyone. Becoming familiar with educational opportunities offered in a state college setting during high school is an important step in the career planning process since most students continue their education beyond high school in a state college setting. Here in Gainesville we have a highly rated college, Santa Fe College - <https://www.sfcollege.edu/>

FOUR YEAR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Students planning on entering a four-year college or university after graduating from high school should take academics and extracurricular activities very seriously. In order to be prepared for entry into a four-year college or university, high school students should pursue

the most rigorous academic course of study available to them during high school. Four-year colleges & universities expect students who are applying for admission to be well-versed in English, math, science, social studies, foreign (world) language, and information technology. This means that students must not only take challenging academic courses, but they must also demonstrate mastery of that coursework as measured by their grades and standardized test scores. Honors, Advanced Placement, AICE/Cambridge, IB and dual enrollment courses are college preparatory courses.

Certainly, all students should aspire to high academic standards. However, a good rule-of-thumb is that students should take as difficult a course load as they can handle while maintaining a balance with their ability, study habits and extracurricular activities. When colleges and universities screen students for admission they look not only at grade point average but also at the student's academic curriculum, test scores and extracurricular activities. They are looking for well-rounded students showing leadership skills and community service.

Many students leaving high school require additional academic preparation after graduation from high school to be ready for the academic demands of a university curriculum. This academic preparation is typically obtained in a state college setting by students interested in careers that require four or more years of educational preparation.

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE: WHAT TO DO & WHEN

Confused about what you should be doing to prepare for college and when? Here's a brief description of things you can do:

8TH GRADE

- Start looking at possible careers and education requirements for entering those careers using Xello (<https://xello.world/en/florida-college-career-ready/>). Information from this website can help you explore career opportunities and map out a four-year high school Academic and Career Plan.
- Think ahead about the high school graduation programs that might best meet your needs. Explore graduation options with your parent(s) and school counselor.
- Explore opportunities to earn academic and technical college credit in high school with your parent(s) and school counselor.
- Attend Academic and Career Academy Open House programs in January and apply to the academy programs that most interest you by the application deadline.
- Start planning your ninth-grade class schedule and complete a 9th grade course registration form.
- Develop a four year Academic and Career Plan with your school counselor. Share your four-year high school plan with your parents.

9TH GRADE

- Take high school coursework seriously because every year counts.
- Check your grades and evaluate your progress every semester toward high school graduation, college admission and Bright Futures Scholarships.
- Meet with your school counselor about placement into AP, AICE/Cambridge, IB, dual enrollment, Career Academies, and other programs that allow you to earn high school and college credit.
- Update your high school Academic and Career course plan for all your high school years to improve your chances of qualifying for Bright Futures scholarships, the Talented 20 program, and higher education admissions. All of these opportunities depend in part on high school courses.
- Start looking at admission requirements for different postsecondary (e.g. state college, four-year college or university, or career & technical) institutions.
- Apply for a social security number if you don't already have one. You will need a social security number to complete PSAT, SAT, PLAN, ACT, admissions and financial aid applications.

10TH GRADE

- Check your grades and evaluate your progress every semester toward high school graduation, college admission and Bright Futures Scholarships.
- Meet with your school counselor about placement into AP, AICE/Cambridge, IB, dual enrollment, Career Academy, Career Pathways, and other programs that allow you to earn high school and college credit.

- Register (in September) to take the PSAT test in October. It's the SAT practice test and the 11th grade PSAT is the National Merit Scholarship qualifying test.
- Use the college & career planning programs on the My Career Shines website (<https://www.floridashines.org/find-a-career>) and meet with your school counselor to help identify colleges and careers of interest to you.
- Attend college and career fairs held at your high school and in the area (College Night at Santa Fe College).
- Visit college campuses and talk with college representatives and students.
- Start looking for scholarships and financial aid opportunities. Visit your school counselor, and search the internet sites to find scholarship and financial aid information. Request applications and keep track of deadlines.

11TH GRADE

- Check your grades and evaluate your progress every semester toward high school graduation, college admission and Bright Futures Scholarships.
- Meet with your school counselor about placement into AP, AICE/Cambridge, IB, dual enrollment, career courses and other programs that allow you to earn high school and college credit.
- Register (in September) to take the PSAT test in October as it is the qualifying test for National Merit Scholarship.
- Be aware of requirements for admission to state colleges, universities or career/technical schools, such as test scores, high school transcripts, letters of recommendation, essays, portfolio items, resumes, etc. You may want to start putting some of these things together.
- Attend college and career fairs held at your high school and in the area
 - (College Night at Santa Fe College).
- Take the SAT and/or ACT tests in the spring.
- After completing the advanced coursework, take the AP/AICE/ IB exams to earn college credit.
- If you're ready, start applying for college this year.
- Start looking for scholarships and financial aid opportunities. Visit your school counselor, and search the internet to find scholarship and financial aid information. Request applications and keep track of deadlines.
- Interested in an athletic scholarship? Talk to your coaches, contact the athletic departments of your favorite colleges, or go to the NCAA Clearinghouse web site (<http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/eligibility-center>) for more information.
- Plan visits to college campuses. Visiting college campuses allows you to have first-hand experience with the campus and admissions directors. Make appointments, especially if you are planning to visit a campus during the summer.

12TH GRADE

- Check your grades and evaluate your progress every semester toward high school graduation, college admission and Bright Futures Scholarships.
- Enroll in AP, AICE/Cambridge, IB, dual enrollment, career courses, and other programs that allow you to earn both high school and college credit.
- After completing the advanced coursework, take the AP/AICE/IB exams to earn college credit.

- Take the SAT or ACT in the fall, and retake these tests if necessary.
- Prepare admissions application packages and begin applying in September.
- After October 1, but before the end of your senior year, **complete the Florida Financial Aid application online**. This application must be completed to be eligible for any State of Florida financial assistance (including Bright Futures Scholarships). This application is available online through the Florida Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) web site (www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org). For Bright Futures Scholarship eligibility, now or in the future, this application MUST be completed prior to high school graduation.
- Before the earliest college deadline, **complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application**. This application is available online on the FAFSA web site (<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>). Be sure to complete and send in the FAFSA application early (prior to March 1st) to maximize your chances for receiving financial aid. **Information from a FAFSA form is what most colleges use to identify students for need-based scholarships.**
- Wait for college admission decisions and financial aid award letters. You need to determine the college that best meets your personal academic goals and financial needs. Many colleges and universities have an early-May decision deadline to accept or decline applicants.
- Work with school counselors to find colleges and universities with openings if your top choices are not available.
- Be aware, after acceptance there may still be things to do such as arranging for final transcripts, housing applications, and immunizations to be sent to the college(s) of your choice.

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP & FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

More money than ever before is available for students interested in continuing their education beyond high school. This money is available in the form of free money (scholarships, grants, and work-study programs) that students do not have to pay back, scholarship-loan programs that provide free money to students interested in majoring in high need career areas, and loans which require students and parents to pay back money they have borrowed.

Students and parents should be aware that there are a variety of different types of scholarships. These include academically-based scholarships, like Bright Futures Scholarships, need-based scholarships, private organization and corporate scholarships, institutional scholarships, military & ROTC scholarships, minority scholarships, and talent-based scholarships like those awarded to students with special athletic or performing arts talent.

Parents and students should begin exploring scholarship opportunities as early as ninth grade and actively pursue scholarship information and opportunities during each of the student's high school years. Scholarship information is advertised through the district website www.goingmerry.com. Scholarship information can also be obtained from the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA - <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/>), scholarship & financial aid offices at post-high school educational institutions (like Santa Fe College - www.sfcollge.edu/scholarships/), the Education Foundation (<http://edfoundationac.org/>), and through a variety of scholarship search programs like FASTWEB.com (www.fastweb.com).

STATE OF FLORIDA FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS:

Bright Futures Scholarship Program

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship program establishes four lottery-funded scholarships for Florida high school graduates who demonstrate high academic achievement, complete community service, and enroll in eligible Florida public or private postsecondary institutions. There are four award levels for which high school seniors may qualify. The scholarship may be used for either full-time or part-time enrollment and is renewable. All initial applicants must meet the general requirements for participation in this program and specific requirements for the individual award. High school students can check their progress toward each of these scholarships with the Bright Futures Scholarship Eligibility by meeting with their school counselor. **A student must apply during his/her last year in high school or all future eligibility for a Bright Futures Scholarship is forfeited.** To apply, students must complete the Florida Financial Aid Application and make sure that a final transcript is sent to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship office. **The Florida Financial Aid Application is available for students to complete no later than August 31st, after graduation.** For specific information about the Bright Futures Scholarship program, parents and students should visit their school counselor, or contact the Bright Futures Scholarship office directly at <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/bf/> or 1-888-827-2004.

Other state grant, scholarship and loan programs

There are a number of other state grant, scholarship and loan programs that are available to students through the Florida Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA). To access information about these scholarship and financial aid opportunities parents and students can visit the OSFA web site online at <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/>. **A Florida Financial Aid Application must also be completed for students to be considered for Florida grant, scholarship, and loan opportunities no later than August 31st, after graduation.**

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS:

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

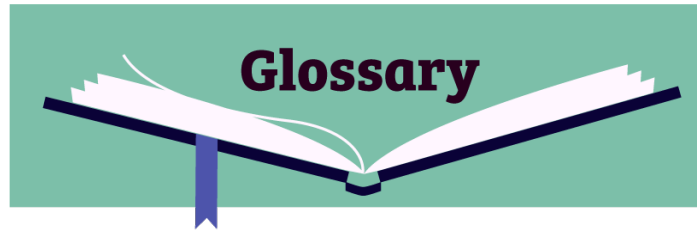
FAFSA opens the door to the federal student financial aid process. The FAFSA web site can be found at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>. **Over half of the current seniors in Alachua County can qualify for free money in the form of grants and work-study by completing a FAFSA form.** Seniors who are on free or reduced lunch, or whose families can demonstrate financial need, have a good chance of receiving financial assistance in the form of grants and work-study money that does not have to be paid back, as well as, low interest parent and student loans. Some post-high school financial aid offices and scholarship programs require parents to complete a FAFSA form prior to awarding money. Parent and student financial aid information from a completed 1040 tax form, social security records, retirement income, public assistance income, and other forms of financial information are required to complete the form. Students should complete a FAFSA form during December of their senior year. Senior-Parent Financial Aid programs are held at most high schools and through Santa Fe College to help seniors and their parents complete a FAFSA form.

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Santa Fe College and the Education Foundation of Alachua County provide hundreds of scholarship opportunities worth several hundred thousand dollars each year to local high school graduates who apply. For more information students and parents should visit the Santa Fe College Scholarship website at <https://www.sfcollege.edu/foundation/scholarships/inde> or call the Santa Fe College Financial Aid office at (352) 395-5000, and visit the Education Foundation of Alachua County website at <http://edfoundationac.org/> or call the Education Foundation at (352) 955-7250.

Please see your high school counselor for specific financial aid or scholarship information

GLOSSARY OF HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE TERMINOLOGY



UNDERSTANDING WHAT PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT

Academic Advisement: Academic advisement is advice obtained from a school counselor, teachers and parents about appropriate classes to take to obtain a specific education or career goal like earning a high school diploma or learning skills needed for a specific career.

Academic and Career Plan: An Academic and Career Plan is a four-year high school course of study that maps out the courses that a student plans to take during their four years in high school to achieve a specific academic or career goal.

Advanced Courses: Advanced courses are classes which are presented in an accelerated manner and are generally more challenging than regular courses in the same content areas. This includes honors, Advanced Placement (AP), AICE (Cambridge), IB (International Baccalaureate), dual enrollment and early admission courses.

Bright Futures Scholarship Program: The Bright Futures Scholarship Program is a state of Florida Department of Education program that rewards students with a scholarship to Florida public and private colleges, and state (community) colleges who set and achieve high academic standards during high school. There are four Bright Futures Scholarships: Florida Academic Scholars, Florida Medallion Scholars, the Gold Seal Vocational Scholars and the Gold Seal CAPE Scholars awards.

Career or Professional Academy: Career or Professional Academies are high school academic & career training programs that educate students for entry into high employment careers and advanced career training in a university, state (community) college or technical college setting. Alachua County career academies train students to enter careers or advanced training.

Course: A course is a class in a particular content area. A semester course meets five periods per week for 18 weeks. A year-long course meets five periods per week for 36 weeks.

Credit: A credit is earned for the successful completion of a semester or year-long course. A student generally earns a 1/2 credit for each semester-long class that they pass, and 1 full credit for each year-long class they pass. Students who pass six year-long courses would earn six credits. Students enrolled in block scheduling can earn 4 credits per semester or 8 credits each school year.

CROP: CROP is an online credit retrieval program that students can enroll in to make up credits in courses that are required for graduation from high school.

Curriculum: A school's curriculum is composed of courses offered by a school or the courses which make up a specific program in a school.

Dual Enrollment: Dual enrollment is a program that allows a student to earn both high school and college credit at the same time. The program is open to students in grades 11 and 12 who apply and meet specific requirements at Santa Fe College and the University of Florida.

Early Admission: Early admission is an early college entry program for academically-talented seniors.

Elective: An elective is any course selected at the option of the student which is not specifically required for graduation.

Extracurricular: Extracurricular activities include student and career organizations, clubs, sports, fine arts, and other school or community activities.

FAFSA: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form is a federal financial aid form which must be completed by seniors and their parents to access federal and state grants, work-study and loan money to pay for educational expenses after graduation from high school. Completion of an accurate FAFSA form is now required for students to be eligible for a Bright Futures Scholarship as well.

FAST English/Language Arts Assessment: Grade 10 ELA Assessment that students are required to pass with a score of Level 3 or higher or earn a concordant score to earn a standard high school diploma.

Financial Aid: Financial aid is money made available to students to pay for their education at a university, state (community) college, or technical college after graduation from high school. Financial aid comes in the form of free money that does not have to be paid back called scholarships and grants, money that students earn by working called college-work study, and money that students borrow that has to be paid back called loans.

Fine Arts Course: Fine arts courses include visual and performing arts courses in art, music, dance, drama, debate, speech, or practical arts courses found on the state approved comprehensive course list.

Florida Virtual Campus: Florida Virtual Campus is an online website with a wealth of information for high school and college students. The site contains high school, college and career planning information; financial aid and scholarship information; online course and degree information, a connection to library services and more. The web site is designed to help students, parents and school counselors make informed choices, and plan and track a student's educational progress.

Florida Financial Aid Application: The Florida Financial Aid Application is an online form that can be found on the Florida Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) web site (<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/>). Seniors must complete a Florida Financial Aid

Application after October 1st of their senior year and prior to graduation from high school to receive a Bright Futures Scholarship, other state scholarships, and financial aid.

Grade Point Average (GPA): A numerical average of all the grades a student has earned in high school. In computing a GPA, letter grades carry the following weights: A = 4.0, B/B+ = 3.0, C/C+ = 2.0, D/D+ = 1.0, and F = 0. A **2.0 or higher** GPA (C average) is required for graduation.

Graduation Program: 3 Year/18 credit or 4 Year/24 credit diploma option selected by the student.

Graduation Requirement: Graduation requirements include courses, credits, grade point average or test standards that students must meet to graduate from high school with a diploma.

Xello: Xello is an online career information & planning system to help students identify and develop career interests and sound educational plans. It can be found at <https://xello.world/en/florida-college-career-ready/>

Online Courses: Alachua eSchool and Florida Virtual School are online high school programs from which a high school student can earn course credit.

PSAT Test: The PSAT test is a practice college admission & placement tests developed by College Board (SAT) to assess high school students' readiness for college coursework.

Post-High School Training Options: Post-high school training options include educational and career training opportunities that are available after graduation from high school like university, state (community) college, technical college, military training, and apprenticeship or on- the-job training.

Prerequisite: A prerequisite is a course that is required prior to taking a more advanced course. For example, Algebra I must be taken and passed prior to taking Algebra II.

Semester: A semester is an 18-week period which makes up half of the regular school year; ½ credit per course; one credit for courses taken as a two-period block; ½ year of school.

Standard Diploma: A standard diploma is a regular or most common type of high school diploma

Talented 20 Program: The Talented 20 Program is a Florida Department of Education program that guarantees admission into one of the eleven state universities for graduates from Florida public high schools who rank in the top 20% of their class, have completed the required 18 units of core courses, 2 years of foreign language and submitted a college ready SAT or ACT test score.

Technical College Credit: Technical college credit is credit earned in college level technical education classes by high school students as part of a career & professional academy, dual enrollment or Career Pathways program in areas like agriculture & veterinary sciences, automotive technology, building construction, business, criminal justice/law enforcement, culinary arts, education, emergency medical services & firefighting, entrepreneurship, finance, health care, graphic design and information technology.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

HIGH SCHOOL & POST-HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

1. _____ Important Florida Department of Education web sites that allow parents and students to log on, gather important up-to-date information, map out a high school educational plan, learn about state-funded scholarship and financial aid programs, and evaluate student progress toward a Bright Futures Scholarship starting in the ninth grade are the:
 - A. Bright Futures Scholarship websites
 - B. Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) websites
 - C. Dual enrollment and Early Admission websites
 - D. A & B above

2. _____ True or False: All 4 Year/24 Credit and 3 Year/18 Credit standard high school diploma options require students to earn 4 math credits and include a passing grade in Algebra 1 and Geometry?

3. _____ True or False: A 24 credit graduation option, in most cases, improves a student's chances of admission to out-of-state colleges (who may require more than 18 credits) and colleges worldwide with highly competitive admission standards?

4. _____ In addition to meeting the course credit requirements for a standard diploma, students must earn a cumulative unweighted grade point average of _____ (C) to earn a standard diploma.
 - A. 3.0
 - B. 2.5
 - C. 2.0
 - D. 3.5

5. _____ To earn a standard high school diploma, students must pass which of the following tests?
 - A. Florida Standards Assessment Reading Test (FSA ELA) with a Level 3 or higher score
 - B. End of Course Exam in Algebra 1
 - C. PSAT
 - D. A & B above

6. _____ True or False: Students can make up course credits that are lost through Alachua eSchool, Florida Virtual School, CROP, Adult Education and GED Prep.

7. _____ True or False: Parents and students must meet with a school administrator or counselor and sign an Alachua County Public Schools Accelerated Graduation/18 Credit Program Request Form prior to selecting a Three Year/18 credit college or career preparatory diploma program.

8. _____ Which of the following provide high school students with a vehicle for earning academic college credit?
- A. Advanced Placement (AP) courses
 - B. Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE/Cambridge) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses
 - C. Dual Enrollment
 - D. All of the above
9. _____ True or False: Some Career Academy programs allow students to earn both academic and technical college credit?
10. _____ True or False: Career Academy classrooms resemble the actual work environments students are training to work in, and courses are taught by teachers who are currently or have previously worked in the career area for which they are training students?
11. _____ Which of the following is TRUE about the Professional Academies Magnet at Loften High School?
- A. Students are on block scheduling which allows students to earn 32 credits instead of 24 credits in four years
 - B. Each student will select a specific career cluster area, and professional academy.
 - C. Internship opportunities will be available to seniors in industry credentialed certification programs
 - D. All of the above
12. _____ True or False: State colleges (like Santa Fe College) provide apprenticeship, technical, and academic career training opportunities?
13. _____ Which of the following is a financial aid form that seniors and their parents should complete to get federal and state scholarships, grants (free money), work-study (earned money) and student loans for college?
- A. Florida Financial Aid form
 - B. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form
 - C. SAT or ACT form
 - D. A & B above
14. _____ True or False: Seniors must complete the Florida Financial Aid form PRIOR to high school graduation or they lose their Bright Futures Eligibility forever?
15. _____ Which of the following is NOT the name of a Bright Futures Scholarship?
- A. Florida Academic Scholars
 - B. Santa Fe College Scholars
 - C. Florida Medallion Scholars
 - D. Gold Seal Vocational Scholars

HIGH SCHOOL & POST-HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION TEST ANSWER KEY

1. A
2. True
3. True
4. C
5. D
6. False
7. True
8. D
9. True
10. True
11. D
12. True
13. D
14. True
15. B

NOTES

Superintendent

Dr Kamela Patton, Superintendent

Board Members

Tina Certain, Vice-Chair

Dr. Sarah Rockwell, Chair

Dr. Leanetta McNealy, Vice Chair

Thomas Vu