

Postsecondary Planning Timeline for Students

12th Grade



First Quarter

Action Steps

- Review your course schedule and course history to ensure all courses needed for graduation, scholarships, and postsecondary plans are completed.
- Create and maintain a postsecondary planning calendar with important deadlines and events.
- Narrow down your list of "Following" schools on Scoir to create a balanced college list with safety, target, and reach schools included. Update the "Preferences" section on Scoir to add or compare colleges to finalize your list.
- Review the net price calculators for each college you are interested in to assess actual financial affordability.
- Begin finalizing application plans for your balanced college list. Add your college choices to the "Applying" tab in Scoir to keep track of requirements and deadlines required of each application (Common App, Coalition through Scoir, institutional applications).
- Update the "My Profile" section on Scoir so that your resume is accurate for teachers needing information for letters of recommendation.
- Request letters of recommendation through the "Application Documents" tab on Scoir for the schools that require them.
- Gather documents and begin application submission (based on deadlines) for college applications.
- Be sure to have your SAT/ACT scores sent to the colleges to which you are applying IF they require test scores.
- Be aware of which schools require electronic transcripts (added through the Applying/Applied tab of Scoir) or separate student-submitted websites to input course and grade information. Most public schools in Florida use the [SSAR site](#) for students to enter their transcript information manually.
- Review Early Decision/Early Action options and deadlines for schools that offer them. Choose the deadline that allows you to submit the most competitive application possible.
- Be consistent in checking for scholarships and applying to scholarships for which you qualify. Many institutional scholarships have deadlines in early fall, even if their application deadlines extend later.
- Attend M-DCPS' College Month Virtual Workshop series in October.
- Prepare and register for upcoming SAT/ACT exams, if needed.
- Clean up your social media accounts as admissions officers often check your social media networking.
- Attend "Financial Aid Info" night with your parent(s). FAFSA and FFAA (used for Bright Futures) both open October 1st.
- Gather all important financial documents and file your FAFSA application soon after it opens on October 1st.
- Some schools require additional financial information (CSS Profile). If required, gather documents, and submit CSS Profile by deadline (usually specific to private schools).
- Complete the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) after October 1st for consideration for the Bright Futures Scholarship and other State of Florida scholarship opportunities. (Even if you are not yet eligible for these programs, you may complete the application and work toward eligibility throughout senior year.)
- Seek out additional information about postsecondary transition programs to assist students with IEPs in finalizing their plans after graduation. Be sure to learn about disability support services available at postsecondary institutions.

Resources

- [Glossary of Terms and Definitions Related to Student Financial aid.](#)
- [FAFSA Checklist](#)
- [7 Things You Need Before Filling Out the FAFSA Form](#)
- [15 Myths We're Busting About the FAFSA Process](#)
- [Coalition for College- Apply Coalition on Scoir](#)
- [Advice for First Generation and Low Income Students](#)
- [College Essay Resources](#)
- [Florida Financial Aid Application](#)
- [Resource Guide for Undocumented and Mixed Status Families](#)
- [CollegeBoard: Early Decision & Early Action](#)
- [Picking Your College: Early Actions vs Early Decision](#)
- [College Scorecard](#)



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Second Quarter

Action Steps

- Continue submitting college applications and required components by December/January deadlines. (May include personal statements, essays, reporting test scores, or reporting transcript information.)
- Once you have completed the application process, move your college from "Applying" to "Applied" in Scoir to monitor decision updates.
- Complete your Florida Financial Aid Application (includes Bright Futures).
- Dedicate time to searching for scholarships for which you may qualify.
- Prepare and register for upcoming SAT/ACT exams, if you still need to attain a particular score for admissions or scholarship eligibility.
- Prepare thank you letters to teachers/counselors who completed your letters of recommendation.
- Review your first quarter grades and make plans to maintain healthy study habits and grades. First semester grades of senior year are important, and some schools may request updated grades as part of the admissions process. Do not fall prey to senioritis.
- Continually check your college portals/accounts (received after application submission) to ensure all required materials were received correctly.



Resources

- [College Admission Glossary](#)
- [CollegeBoard- Find Your Scholarship Matches](#)
- [CAP Paying for College Webpage](#)
- [Undergraduate College Financing Plan Template](#)



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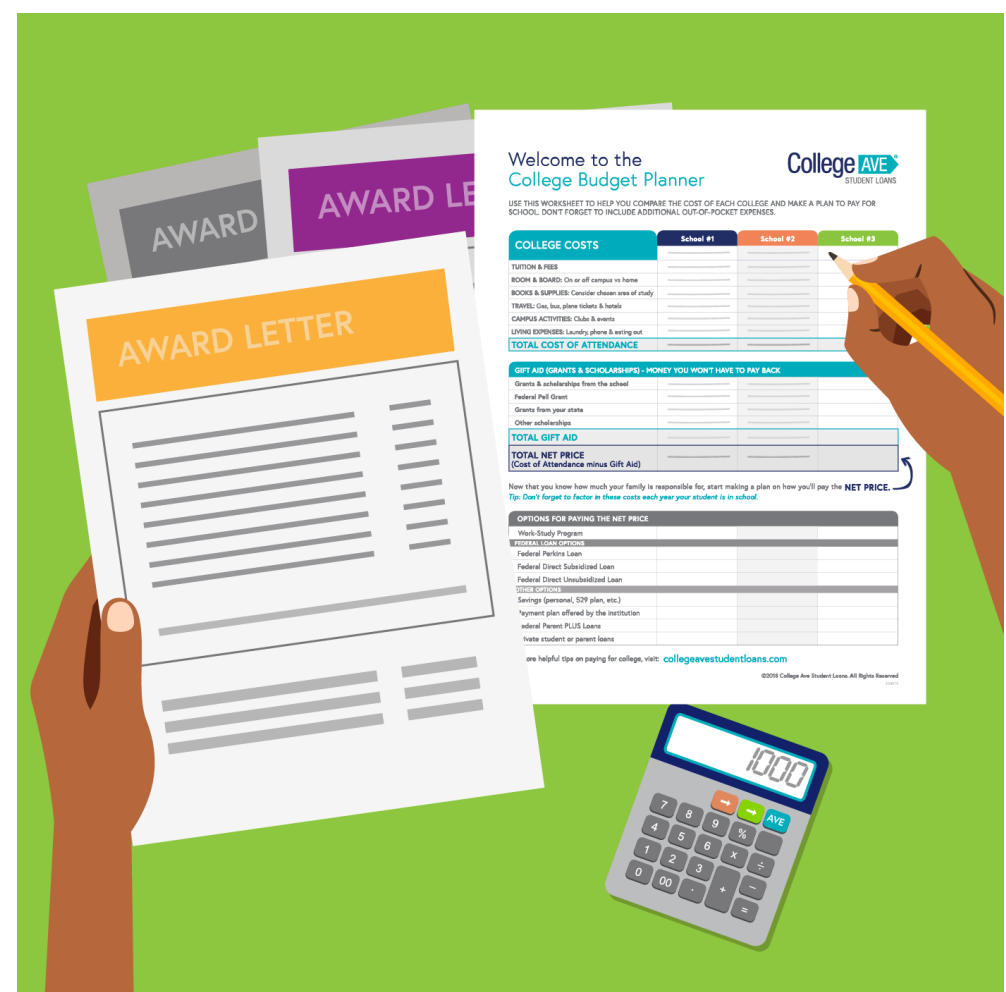
Third Quarter

Action Steps

- Complete the FAFSA, and inform your parents to complete it as well.
- Continue seeking scholarships for which you may qualify, including the CAP, Inc. last-dollar grant and other opportunities from The Miami Foundation.
- Check through mail or electronic notifications about general admission decisions which will be released around this time.
- As schools begin to release admissions decisions, update your Scoir profile to reflect your status of Accepted/Denied/Waitlisted/Deferred in the "Applied" tab.
- Research housing options and deposit deadlines for schools to which you were accepted.
- Review your financial aid award letter carefully with your parent(s). Wait until all school acceptances and financial aid awards are received before you commit to a school. Choose wisely based on preference and affordability.
- If waitlisted, follow directions from the admissions office to continue with the application. Seek ways to strengthen your application.
- Ensure you are still maintaining good study habits and grades as schools will review your final transcript.
- Continue with SAT/ACT testing, if needed for Bright Futures Scholarship eligibility.

Resources

- [After the FAFSA: What Happens Next?](#)
- [Your Financial Aid Award Letter - Review, Evaluate, Appeal Webinar - English](#)
- [College Waitlists: What to Do If You're Waitlisted](#)
- [The Miami Foundation Scholarships](#)



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Fourth Quarter

Action Steps

- Review your financial aid award letter carefully with your parent(s). Wait until all school acceptances and financial aid awards are received before you commit to a school. Choose wisely based on preference and affordability.
- Continue seeking scholarships for which you may qualify.
- Prepare for AP/IB/AICE Exams. Many schools award college credit for passing scores.
- Work with your advisor to resolve problems you may have with admissions, financial aid, or scholarship applications.
- Be sure to plan for all required housing and tuition deposits.
- Based on fit and affordability, accept your school! It is good practice to also notify the schools that you will not be attending.
- Indicate your chosen school by selecting "Enrolling" in the Applied section of your Scoir account. This will allow your high school to submit your final transcript and any other necessary documents to your college after graduation.
- Submit additional documents to your chosen school as needed. These may include residency forms, immunization documents, and orientation registration.
- Seek assistance to connect with disability support services at the postsecondary institution or program you will be attending if you have an IEP or 504 Plan.
- Take time to celebrate your journey and participate in decision day. You've earned it!



Resources

- [How to Choose a College](#)
- [13 Things to Know When Evaluating Your Financial Aid Award Letter](#)
- [Understanding Federal Student Loans for College or Career School](#)
- [OSFA's Federal Family Education Loan Program](#)

