

# Cougars Reality Check

## College Nights!!

9<sup>th</sup> Annual College & Career Fair – Countryside High  
Oct. 2, 2017 ~ 6 to 8 p.m.

Pinellas County College Fair ~ USF St. Petersburg Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>

NACAC College Fair – Tampa Convention Center  
Mar. 18, 2018 ~ Noon to 3 p.m.

Come mingle with college representatives from various colleges and universities all over the nation.

## Bright Futures Scholarship

The Legislature reserves the right to make **changes to the funding and renewal requirements for ALL Bright Futures students** (initial and renewal) each academic year. It is the responsibility of the students and parents to sign up and check qualifications for this scholarship opportunity.

G.P.A., SAT/ACT test score and volunteer hour requirements are found on the Bright Futures Website:

[www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/ssfad/bf/](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/ssfad/bf/)

*\*All Bright Futures information is subject to change by legislature.*

## Visit our State Universities Online

Take time to take a Virtual Tour of the State Universities right here in Florida:

Florida A&M University	<a href="http://www.famu.edu">www.famu.edu</a>
Florida Atlantic University	<a href="http://www.fau.edu">www.fau.edu</a>
FAU/ Honors College	<a href="http://www.honorscollege.edu">www.honorscollege.edu</a>
Florida Gulf Coast University	<a href="http://www.fgcu.edu">www.fgcu.edu</a>
Florida International University	<a href="http://www.fiu.edu">www.fiu.edu</a>
Florida Polytechnic Univ.	<a href="http://www.floridapolytechnic.org">www.floridapolytechnic.org</a>
Florida State University	<a href="http://www.fsu.edu">www.fsu.edu</a>
New College of Florida	<a href="http://www.ncf.edu">www.ncf.edu</a>
University of Central Florida	<a href="http://www.ucf.edu">www.ucf.edu</a>
University of Florida	<a href="http://www.ufl.edu">www.ufl.edu</a>
University of North Florida	<a href="http://www.unf.edu">www.unf.edu</a>
University of South Florida	<a href="http://www.usf.edu">www.usf.edu</a>
University of South Florida St. Pete	<a href="http://www.usfsp.edu">www.usfsp.edu</a>
University of West Florida	<a href="http://www.uwf.edu">www.uwf.edu</a>

## What will college cost??

### COLLEGE COSTS FALL INTO FIVE CATAGORIES:

**Tuition and Fees:** Charge for instruction and services

**Books and Supplies:** Books, pens, pencils, paper, supplies

**Room and Board:** Food and housing

**Personal Expenses:** Laundry, phone bills, supplies, clothing

**Transportation:** Car, gas, tolls, plane, train

### ESTIMATING YOUR EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION:

Use the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) calculator on the [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) web site.

### SCHOLARSHIPS VS FINANCIAL AID

Scholarships are provided from private sources and do not have to be repaid. Visit our school website for scholarship listings or see your School Counselor.

Financial Aid is provided by Federal and State Governments and may or may not have to be repaid.

### FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITES

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

[www.raise.me](http://www.raise.me)

[www.brokescholar.com](http://www.brokescholar.com)

[www.nelnet.com](http://www.nelnet.com)

[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)

[www.bigfutures.com](http://www.bigfutures.com)

[www.collegeweeklive.com](http://www.collegeweeklive.com)

[www.fastaid.com](http://www.fastaid.com)

[www.scholarshipaid.com](http://www.scholarshipaid.com)

[www.college.gov](http://www.college.gov)

[www.FindTuition.com](http://www.FindTuition.com)

[www.collegeXpress.com](http://www.collegeXpress.com)

[www.Zinch.com/scholarshipsearch](http://www.Zinch.com/scholarshipsearch)

<https://apps.facebook.com/mycollegedollars/>

**\*\*NEVER PAY FOR SCHOLARSHIP MONEY\*\***

### HOW TO GET FINANCIAL AID?

1. Apply for admission to your future school. You can't get money if you don't attend that college.
2. Fill out the FAFSA, which is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This is a must! Get it on-line at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). January is the time to do it for fall admission. Complete the form this year for summer admission.
3. Wait for a "package." This is a financial award package from one or more of the colleges/ universities to which you applied. The \$ amount they offer you is based on your FAFSA information. Each school may offer different types of aid through CSS/Profile, <http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>
4. Pick your package. Once you have decided on an offer, send your materials to the financial aid office at your college/university.

# Senior Calendar

## AUGUST 2017

- Review Career Plans
- Complete College research and plan visitation when possible
- Narrow college choices to 5 schools to which you want to apply
- Complete your high school resume or brag sheet
- Submit applications to state universities
- Deadline for September ACT = Aug. 5

## SEPTEMBER 2017

- Ask to send electronic transcripts
- ACT - September 9
- Deadline for Oct. ACT- 9/22
- Meet with college representatives who are set up to visit CHS or local college fairs
- Work on Senior Resume & Letters of Rec.

## OCTOBER 2017

- SAT - October 7
- ACT- \* Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> School Day / October 28
- ASVAB - October 18
- Finalize college choices
- FASFA Application opens Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>
- Check to see if your college/university needs you to have a CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE
- Work on application essays
- Complete Early Decision and Early Action applications
- If needed, complete CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE on Collegeboard.com
- Meet Early Decision or Early Action deadlines
- Work on Senior Resume & Letters of Rec.

## NOVEMBER 2017

- SAT - November 4
- Deadline for Dec. ACT- 11/3
- Work on Senior Resume & Letters of Rec.
- Thanksgiving break - Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>

## DECEMBER 2017

- Complete your Bright Futures Application on line at [www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org)
- SAT- December 2
- ACT - December 9
- Check to see if your college/university needs you to have a CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE
- Complete the FAFSA if attending college summer term 2018
- Winter Break - Dec. 23- Jan. 8
- Check your end of semester grades/credits

## JANUARY 2018

- Submit your FAFSA form for fall term 2018
- Visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for information about financial aid
- Apply for scholarships
- Finalize college choices
- Deadline for Feb. ACT - Jan. 12

## FEBRUARY 2018

- ACT - February 10
- Be sure all necessary materials have been sent to your chosen colleges
- Don't get "senioritis;" colleges want to see strong second semester grades
- Expect to receive your Student Aid Report (SAR), which outlines Expected Family Contributions for 2017-18 school year.
- Apply for scholarships

## MARCH 2018

- Deadline for April ACT = March 9
- Anticipate award letters from financial aid outlining your financial aid assistance
- Be sure your colleges/universities have received all necessary information
- SAT- March 10
- Continue scholarship search
- Apply for scholarships

## APRIL 2018

- ACT - April 14
- Prepare for May AP Examinations, if applicable
- Admissions decisions arrive
- Review college acceptances; perhaps revisit your top choices
- Review financial aid packages; talk with college financial aid officers
- Check dates for housing deposits
- Apply for scholarships

## MAY 2018

- SAT - May 5
- Deadline for June ACT = May 4
- May - Seniors final exams
- \*AP Exams
- \*Graduation Practice (TBD)
- \*Graduation (TBD)
- **Order final transcripts**
- Apply for scholarships
- Update and finalize Bright Futures application
- Last day of school May 24<sup>th</sup>

## JUNE 2018

- SAT - June 2
- ACT - June 9
- Notify colleges you did not choose
- Attend College/University Orientation
- Update and finalize Bright Futures application