

Senior Newsletter

SENIOR NEWSLETTER, FALL 2019

VOLUME XVI

WELCOME BACK TO THE CLASS OF 2020 SENIORS!

Senior Counselor Assignments

2019-2020

Last names beginning with:

A thru D	Mrs. Bobbie Griffin
E thru K	Mrs. Elaine Crump
L thru Ri	Mrs. Karen Kesler
Ro thru Z	Dr. Sharon Richardson

SEPTEMBER 2019



UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS

Each university has a **Priority Admissions Deadline** for receipt of completed freshman applications. The Directors of Admissions in the Florida State University System emphasize the importance of meeting all deadlines in the freshman application process. Applicants should check the status of each application often and pay close attention to the details of the admissions process specific to each institution. It is the responsibility of the applicant to meet all deadlines. Online applications can take up to 48 hours to officially be received by the Admissions Offices, so don't wait to the last minute of a deadline to submit the application.

Each university also has a **Priority Financial Aid Deadline** for receipt of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid Report (FAFSA). The FAFSA opens October 1, 2019. If parents and students complete the FAFSA by November 1, 2019, most Florida State Universities' deadlines for Priority Financial Aid to include consideration of an Institutional Merit-Based Scholarship will be covered. See www.FAFSA.gov for instructions and application.

Note: Exception is University of North Florida Priority Financial Aid Date is 10/15/19.

REMIND

Due to new Remind limits on group sizes, the previous Guidance Remind accounts are no longer active. Please register for a NEW Remind account in order to receive critical information from your guidance counselors.

Class of 2020 (Current Seniors)

If your last name begins with A-D, text @a4e8hh to 81010.

If your last name begins with E-K, text @377f8c to 81010.

If your last name begins with L-Ri, text @fg88ck to 81010.

If your last name begins with Ro-Z, text @fab88 to 81010.

**FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM ADMISSIONS
& FINANCIAL AID PRIORITY DEADLINES**

<u>PREFERRED TIME TO APPLY BY</u>	<u>INSTITUTIONAL FINANCIAL AID DEADLINE FOR FALL 2019 ADMISSIONS</u>
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FAFSA

Florida State University November 1, 2019	November 1, 2019
University of Florida November 1, 2019	December 15, 2019
University of Central Florida Fall 2019	December 1, 2019
University of South Florida November 1, 2019	January 15, 2020
University of West Florida December 1, 2019	December 1, 2019
Florida Agricultural & Mechanical November 1, 2019	November 1, 2019
Florida Atlantic University Fall, 2019	January 1, 2020
Florida Gulf Coast University November 1, 2019	November 1, 2019
University of North Florida Fall, 2019	October 15, 2019
University of West Florida December 1, 2019	December 1, 2019
Florida International University November 1, 2019	November 1, 2019
Florida Polytechnic University November 1, 2019	November 1, 2019
New College of Florida November 1, 2019	March 1, 2020

THE FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIPS

State Financial Aid Overview

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship program. All enrolled Florida high school students, who meet Florida residency and US citizenship requirements, are considered for a Bright Futures Scholarship Award. The highest academic award will be determined by each student's academic data across all four years of high school. In addition to academic courses and grades, the Bright Futures Scholarship Award has benchmarks that include documented volunteer hours and Test Scores (SAT/ACT/ PERT) specific to the level of award. It is the student's responsibility to track, document, and turn in documentation of their community service hours to their counselor to enter into the official high school transcript. Students' transcripts are reviewed by FL DOE at the end of the 7th semester and at the end of the 8th semester for consideration of a Florida Bright Futures Award. The student will be awarded the highest possible award if they meet the eligibility criteria at the end of either of these semesters.

Student Responsibilities

- Know and meet the requirements of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program before high school graduation as well as throughout your college career.
- Check your application and award status on a regular basis.
- Make sure that your demographic information is kept up to date on your application.
- Keep your "institution of choice" selection updated. This is where your Bright Futures Scholarship award money will be sent.

When to Apply

Seniors can apply after **October 1, 2019** and prior to graduation, or forfeit all future eligibility for a Bright Futures Scholarship.

How to Apply

Visit www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org and select:
 State Grants, Scholarships, & Applications
 Applicant Quick Links
 Student Application

Student / School Counselor Role:

Seniors should schedule an appointment and

meet with their counselor of record to review their Bright Futures Report, and to fully understand their individual Bright Futures Status.

REQUESTS FOR TRANSCRIPTS

Ms. Piazza is the NHS Registrar. Transcript Requests Forms are available at her desk in the Guidance Office. Follow the University Admissions Application guide lines for receipt of transcripts. Several universities in the State University System require students to complete the Student Self-Reported Academic Record (SSAR) in addition to the freshman application. Students should request an unofficial transcript from Ms. Piazza to use as an accurate reporting of courses taken and grades assigned. When completed, students must link the SSAR to the Freshman Application. Directors of Admissions emphasize that students must report all attempted course work on the SSAR. If a course was taken more than once for grade forgiveness, accurately report grades of both attempts.

Students, who are applying through Common App, Coalition, Send Edu or any broad application portal should follow up in person with their counselor of record for details of the Secondary School Report and Counselor Recommendation Report (as may be required by some institutions and not others). If the Counselor Recommendation Report is required, students should provide a resume and sufficient time to write a letter on the student's behalf.

SAT / ACT REGISTRATION DEADLINES

SAT and ACT registration deadlines are very important for all seniors. University admissions require at least one set of SAT and / or ACT scores as an integral piece of the freshman application. Florida Bright Futures Scholarships to include the Florida Academic Scholarship and the Florida Medallion Scholarship require ACT and / or SAT scores for consideration in awarding the merit-based scholarship. Also, carefully review the specifics of the admissions application for each university that you are applying to. The freshman admissions application of each university will provide detailed instructions for sending your test score reports to them and critical deadlines for receipt of the test scores. The tests are costly and must be registered for well in advance of the test date. Seniors should work with their parents to

sign up for the tests and review payment costs. If a student is eligible for free & reduced lunch at school, two fee waivers for each test are available. Please see your counselor of record if you may qualify for the fee waivers. Seniors are strongly encouraged to visit the websites below for registration information and deadlines. Also, the websites provide valuable practice, tutoring resources, and test-taking tips that will benefit students of all ability levels to maximize their scores. There are free practice books for ACT and SAT in the Guidance Office. The ACT and / or SAT are used by university admissions for awarding of merit-based scholarships, admission to Honors Colleges, admission to specific programs and degrees, as well as general admission to the university.

Register for ACT: <http://www.actstudent.org>

Register for SAT: <http://www.sat.org/register>

DEBTS ACCRUED BY SENIORS

This article contains the policy concerning any Monies Owed/Student Debt for students of Okaloosa County. This policy as mandated by Florida law and the Okaloosa County School Board states:

The principal shall collect from each student or the student's parent, the purchase price of any instructional materials the student has lost, destroyed, or unnecessarily damaged. The failure of the student or student's parent to pay such sum upon reasonable effort by the school principal may result in the suspension of the student from participation in extracurricular activities until such debt is satisfied ***or satisfaction of the debt by the student through community service activities at the school site as assigned by the school principal. Community service hours shall be credited against the debt by forgiving \$8.00 per hour of service.

If any such debt is owed by a graduating senior, and is not paid at least by ten (10) days prior to the student's last scheduled day of classes, then that student shall not be allowed to participate in graduation activities and ceremonies unless and until such debt is satisfied. Records and/or grades will not be released, nor diplomas issued until all "Monies Due" are cleared.

Seniors, you **MUST** settle any debts you have accrued during your attendance at Niceville High School (freshman through senior years) in order to participate in any senior activities (senior trip, prom, homecoming, graduation ceremony, etc.). **Returned materials or payments are to be given to Ms. Phillips in the Guidance Department.**

FINAL SENIOR FORMAL SITTINGS



The last day to take final senior formal sitting pictures only will be **October 3, 2019**. Only formal portraits will be taken during this sitting. Any senior who has not had their senior formal taken MUST see Ms. Phillips in the Guidance Department to schedule an appointment! REMEMBER: You MUST have your formal photo taken by Bill Miller Photography in order to be in the 2019-2020 NHS yearbook.

CLASS OF 2020 PANORAMIC PHOTO

Grad Images will be on campus Wednesday, **September 25, 2019** for the Class of 2020 BIG PICTURE Senior Panoramic photo. Seniors will report to the gym at 8:00 a.m. Dual Enrollment and online seniors will need to report to the gym at this time if you wish to participate. Teams, clubs, groups of friends, band, or chorus may wear uniforms or decorated t-shirts for this photo. All attire must follow the school dress code. Decorated t-shirts must be approved by an administrator.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS TO REMEMBER

September

- 9 - 11:30-12 NOVA Southeastern University in the cafeteria
- 10 - 10:30-12 Louisiana University in the cafe
- 11 - 10:30-12 Florida Polytech and Embry Riddle Aeronautical College in the cafeteria
- 11- 11:15-12 Florida Southern College in the cafeteria
- 12- 10:30-12 University of Miami and Auburn college of Engineering in the cafeteria
- 23 - 10:30-12 University of Alabama in the cafeteria
- 25 - 10:30-12 University of South Alabama in the cafeteria

25 - 8:00 **Senior Panoramic in the Gym**

26 - 10:30-12 Troy University in the cafeteria

October

- 1 - FAFSA Applications open for Fall 2020 Admission
- 1 - Registration for Florida Bright Futures Scholarship begins.
- 3 - Senior Formal only (last day) all day in the media center
- 4 - 10:30-11 New York University in the media center
- 8 - 10:30-12 University of Alabama in the media center
- 9 - 10:30-12 University of West Florida in the media center
- 17 - 10:00 Herff Jones All Seniors - Go Over Senior Cap and Gown and Supplies in the Auditorium
- 23 - 9:00-1:00 Herff Jones Order and Sizing for Cap and Gowns and ordering Senior supplies in the media center
- 24 - 10:30-12 Jacksonville University in the cafeteria
- 24 - 11:30-12 Johns Hopkins University in the media center

November

- 5 - Herff Jones and School Spirit Supplies will be in the auditorium to go over Senior supplies and Cap & Gown information from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- 9 - Herff Jones and School Spirit Supplies will be in the main hallway to take cap and gown orders from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

February

- 6 - 7:00-2 Cap & Gown Photos in the Auditorium

May

- 28 - Graduation Ceremony

*****Dates and Times subject to change.**

ACT TEST DATES

October 26, 2019
December 14, 2019
February 8, 2020
April 4, 2020
June 13, 2020

SAT TEST DATES

October 5, 2019
November 2, 2019
December 7, 2019
March 14, 2020
May 2, 2020
June 6, 2020



