

# **Pathways to Success**

## **College and Career Readiness**

### **Middle and High School Planning Guide for Students & Parents**

#### **What Does “College and Career Ready” Mean?**

Students are college and career ready when they have the knowledge, skills, and academic preparation needed to enroll and succeed in introductory college credit-bearing courses within an associate or bachelor level degree program without the need for remedial courses. Students need these same attributes and levels of achievement to enter and succeed in postsecondary workforce education programs or to obtain a job that offers a living wage and the chance for career advancement.

#### **Middle School Promotion to High School**

Promotion from a Florida public middle school to high school requires successful completion of all grade level requirements (grades 6 – 8) in the public school district. Promotion from middle school requires that a student successfully complete the following courses:

- English – 3 middle school or higher courses
- Mathematics – 3 middle school or higher courses
- Social Studies – 3 middle school or higher courses that include one semester of study of state and federal government and civics education
- Science – 3 middle school or higher courses
- Career and Education Planning – 1 course (students will develop an electronic Personal Education Plan [ePEP])

#### **High School Graduation Requirements**

Florida students entering their first year of high school in the 2011–2012 school year and thereafter may choose from several options to earn a standard diploma. They are as follows:

- A 4-year, 24-credit program
- A 3-year, 18-credit college preparatory program
- A 3-year, 18-credit career preparatory program

And all students, regardless of graduation program, must still earn a 2.0 on a 4.0 scale and achieve passing scores on the Grade 10 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test® 2.0 (FCAT) Reading and specific End-of-Course (EOC) assessments to graduate with a standard diploma.

For students who enter 9th grade, course credits required for the 3 graduation program options listed above include the following:

**English** - 4 credits

**Mathematics** - 4 credits to include the following:

Beginning in 2011–2012

- 1 credit in Algebra 1 by passing the EOC assessment
- 1 credit in Geometry (must take EOC – 30% of final course grade)

2012–2013 and beyond

- 1 credit in Algebra 1 by passing the EOC assessment
- 1 credit in Geometry by passing the EOC assessment
- 1 credit in Algebra 2

**Science** - 3 credits to include the following:

Beginning in 2011–2012

- 1 credit in Biology (must take the EOC assessment – 30% of final course grade)

2012–2013

- 1 credit in Biology by passing the EOC assessment

2013–2014 and beyond

- 1 credit in Biology by passing the EOC assessment
- 1 credit in Chemistry or Physics or its equivalent
- 1 credit in an equally rigorous science course

**Social Studies** - 3 credits

- 1 credit in World History
- 1 credit in United States History
- .5 credit in United States Government
- .5 credit in Economics

In addition, credit requirements specific to the graduation program chosen include the following:

**24-Credit Program**

- 1 credit in Fine or Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts
- 1 credit in physical education to include the integration of health
- 8 electives

**3-Year, 18-Credit College Preparatory Program**

- 2 credits in foreign language
- 2 credits in electives

**3-Year, 18-Credit Career Preparatory Program** - 4 electives

- 3 credits in single vocational/career education program and 1 elective credit OR

- 3 credits in single career/technical certificate dual enrollment and 1 elective credit OR
- 4 credits in vocational/career education (including 3 credits in 1 sequential career and technical education program)

## Accelerated Programs for High School Students

Studies show that students who complete a solid academic program in high school, including advanced courses, are more likely to be successful in college. Florida provides several acceleration mechanisms that give students an opportunity to simultaneously earn high school and college credit. For more information on program availability, contact a school counselor.

Examples of acceleration mechanisms and advanced coursework options with specific website resources include the following:

International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program <http://www.ibo.org>

Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Program  
<http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/aice>

- The International General Certificate of Secondary Education (Pre-AICE) Program (IGCSE) is designed for students in grades nine and ten to prepare them for the AICE Program. College credit is typically not awarded for this program level. <http://www.cie.org.uk> (click on Cambridge Secondary 2 14–16 years)

Dual Enrollment and Early Admission <http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/pdf/dualenrollfaqs.pdf>

Advanced Placement (AP) Program <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html>

The Florida Virtual School (FLVS) offers students access to Advanced Placement (AP) courses  
<http://www.flvs.net>

## Planning for Success

It is more important now than ever to plan ahead by selecting the right courses in high school. There are specific requirements for obtaining a high school diploma and qualifying for admission to a college or university. Florida's Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students, [FACTS.org](http://FACTS.org), is an online student advising system the Florida Department of Education provides to help students make informed choices about their education.

## Bright Futures Scholarship Requirements for 2012 Graduates

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program's purpose is to reward students for their academic achievements during high school by providing funding to attend postsecondary education in Florida.

### Florida Academic Scholar (FAS) and Florida Medallion Scholar (FMS) Awards

Requirements include the following:

16 credits of college preparatory academic courses

- 4 English (3 with substantial writing)
- 4 mathematics (Algebra 1 level and above)
- 3 natural science (2 with substantial lab)

- 3 social science
- 2 foreign language (sequential, in the same language)

3.5 weighted GPA in the above courses, 100 community service hours, and a best composite score of 1270 on the SAT (based on combined Critical Reading and Math sections only) or 28 on the ACT (excluding the writing section) to be a Florida Academic Scholar

3.0 weighted GPA in the above courses, 75 community service hours, and a minimum score of 980 on the SAT (based on combined Critical Reading and Math sections only) or 21 on the ACT (excluding the writing section) to be a Florida Medallion Scholar

Up to 2 additional credits from courses in the academic areas listed above or in fine arts courses from the student's high school transcript may be used to raise their Bright Futures GPA.

### **Test Score Requirements for Bright Futures**

#### **Academic Scholar**

2012 — SAT 1270 or ACT 28

2013 — SAT 1280 or ACT 28

2014 — SAT 1290 or ACT 29

#### **Medallion Scholar**

2012 — SAT 980 or ACT 21

2013 — SAT 1020 or ACT 22

2014 — SAT 1170 or ACT 26

### **Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) Award**

Requirements include the following:

16 core credits required for high school graduation

- 4 English
- 4 mathematics (including Algebra 1)
- 3 natural science
- 3 social science (U.S. History, World History, U.S. Government, and Economics)
- 1 Fine OR identified Practical Art; OR .5 credit in each
- 1 physical education (to include integration of health)

3.0 weighted GPA in the core credits required for graduation\*

A minimum of 3 career and technical education credits in 1 vocational program taken over at least 2 academic years with an unweighted 3.5 GPA in those courses

Test Scores – Students must earn the minimum score listed below on each section of the College Placement Test (CPT), SAT, or ACT (test sections cannot be combined)

- CPT: Reading 83/Sentence Skills 83/Algebra 72
- SAT: Reading 440/Math 440 (Information at <http://www.collegeboard.org>)
- ACT: English 17/Reading 18/Math 19 (Information at <http://www.act.org>)

30 community service hours

\* College or career preparatory diplomas may be used to qualify for GSV, with appropriate career and technical education electives.

For other ways to qualify for Bright Futures and for more information, visit <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/bf/>. For other financial aid information, visit the Office of Student Financial Assistance at <http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org>.

## Postsecondary Options

### State University System (SUS) Minimum Admissions Requirements

Admission into Florida’s public universities is competitive. Acceptance is determined by enrollment limitations and the qualifications of the freshmen applicant pool. Prospective students should complete a rigorous curriculum in high school and apply to more than one university to increase their chance for acceptance. To qualify to enter one of Florida’s public universities, a first-time-in-college student in summer 2011 or later must meet the following minimum requirements:

- High school graduation with a standard diploma
- Admission test scores
- 16 credits of college preparatory academic courses – see Bright Futures requirements (FAS and FMS)
- 2 approved electives

The high school GPA is calculated by the university using a 4.0 scale from grades earned in high school academic core courses (additional weights may be assigned for grades in AP, dual enrollment, honors, IB diploma program, AICE program, and other advanced courses).

Although the potential for academic success is primary, many other factors may be considered in reviewing a student’s application for admission. These may include, but are not limited to, a combination of test scores and GPA that indicates potential for success, improvement in high school record, family educational background, socioeconomic status, graduation from a low-performing high school, graduation from an IB program, geographic location, military service, special talents or abilities, or other special circumstances.

For more information on individual Florida public universities, visit <http://www.flbog.org/aboutsus/universities>.

### SUS Admissions Matrix (Fall 2010 Admits)

#### Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU)

Middle Range GPA	2.744–3.412
Middle Range SAT	1300–1540
Middle Range ACT	18–22

**Florida Atlantic University (FAU)**

Middle Range GPA 3.2–3.8  
Middle Range SAT 1510–1720  
Middle Range ACT 22–26

**Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU)**

Middle Range GPA 3.07–3.73  
Middle Range SAT 1450–1680  
Middle Range ACT 20–24

**Florida International University (FIU)**

Middle Range GPA 3.4–4.1  
Middle Range SAT 1630–1810  
Middle Range ACT 24–27

**Florida State University (FSU)**

Middle Range GPA 3.6–4.2  
Middle Range SAT 1750–1970  
Middle Range ACT 26–30

**New College of Florida (NCF)**

Middle Range GPA 3.73–4.28  
Middle Range SAT 1220–1390  
Middle Range ACT 27–31

**University of Central Florida (UCF)**

Middle Range GPA 3.5–4.2  
Middle Range SAT 1700–1890  
Middle Range ACT 25–28

**University of Florida (UF)**

Middle Range GPA 4.1–4.4  
Middle Range SAT 1870–2100  
Middle Range ACT 28–32

**University of North Florida (UNF)**

Middle Range GPA 3.41–4.1  
Middle Range SAT 1140–1270  
Middle Range ACT 23–26

### **University of South Florida (USF)**

Middle Range GPA	3.51–4.12
Middle Range SAT	1090–1290
Middle Range ACT	24–28

### **University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USFSP)**

Middle Range GPA	3.21–3.85
Middle Range SAT	1020–1180
Middle Range ACT	21–26

### **University of West Florida (UWF)**

Middle Range GPA	3.1–4.0
Middle Range SAT	1000–1180
Middle Range ACT	21–26

## **The Florida College System**

The Florida College System includes 28 state colleges, colleges, and community colleges (Florida colleges). These colleges offer career-related certificates and two-year associate degrees that prepare students to transfer to a bachelor's degree program or to enter jobs requiring specific skills. Over half now also offer 4-year degrees in high demand fields, allowing students to transfer from a 2-year program to a baccalaureate degree-granting institution without changing institutions.

Florida colleges have an open door policy. This means that students who have earned a standard high school diploma, have earned a high school equivalency diploma, have demonstrated success in postsecondary coursework, or have earned a College Placement Test-eligible Certificate of Completion will be admitted to an associate degree program. However, students may be required to take some non-credit remedial classes in English and math if test scores show that their skills in these areas are not yet at college level.

For more information on Florida colleges, visit <http://www.fldoe.org/CC>.

## **Florida's 2 + 2 Articulation System**

Florida is nationally recognized for its highly effective articulation between and among institutions. Students can begin their postsecondary studies at a Florida college and, after earning a 2-year associate degree, transfer to a 4-year degree program at a state university, a Florida college that offers 4-year programs, or a private university.

Students who choose to transfer to a state university are guaranteed admission, although not necessarily to the university or program of their choice. About 40% of juniors and seniors in the state universities began their postsecondary studies at a Florida college.

## Transition Services for Individuals with Disabilities

As students exit high school and begin postsecondary education, they transition from the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) to the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA). This transition affects the types of services provided and the responsibilities of students and educational institutions. College students with documented disabilities are eligible to receive support services and accommodations. Resources related to postsecondary transition services for individuals with disabilities include the following:

*Transition Planning for Students with Disabilities: A Guide for Families*

<http://www.fldoe.org/ese/rtf/TransitionGuide.rtf>

Florida Colleges – Disability Support Services <http://www.fldoe.org/cc/educators/Disability/dss.asp>

State University System of Florida – Services for Students with Disabilities

<http://www.flbog.org/forstudents/ati/disabilities.php>

## U.S. Military Entrance

The U.S. Military branches offer another option for a student after high school graduation. The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is the required entrance test to enlist in the U.S. Military. For more information on the ASVAB, please visit <http://www.military.com/ASVAB>.

Please visit the websites below for more information related to entrance requirements:

United States Air Force <http://www.airforce.com/>

United States Army <http://www.goarmy.com/cl5.html>

United States Coast Guard <http://www.uscg.mil/>

United States Marine Corps <http://www.marines.com/-default>

United States Navy <http://www.navy.com/>

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Florida Department of Education

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