



WELLINGTON
Christian School

College Handbook

2009-2010

September 15, 2009

Dear Students,

The college selection process is often an overwhelming, anxiety producing and rewarding time for you and your family. Trying to sort through over 3,500 potential college choices and find good matches for you is a major decision. For many of you, this will be the first major decision you have ever made and it will be quite challenging. The training you will receive in the college or university you choose will affect your career, future friends, special interests, and spiritual ministry opportunities dramatically. This College Handbook will hopefully answer most of your questions and give you the information needed to begin your college search. The Guidance Office will always be available for any questions or information you may need, so please do stop by.

The most important step in the college search process is to spend time in prayer. Pray specifically for God's direction and guidance for the right college for you. He knows the desires of your heart and He knows your future. Trust Him, seek your parents' guidance, and search your heart for God's calling in your life. "Commit your works to the Lord, and then your plans will succeed." Proverbs 16:3 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

In His service,

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Guidance Director

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Ten Things Every Parent Should Know About The College Admissions Process

1. RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of the students and parents to embark on the college application process. The Guidance Office is here to assist you in this most important task. The students responsibilities are: to register and take the required standardized testing (SAT and /or ACT), and have official scores reported to the colleges of his/her choice, (please note that Wellington Christian cannot send SAT and ACT score to colleges), research colleges and scholarships, obtain and complete college and scholarship applications and send them in advanced of the due dates. The student must also request teacher recommendations and high school transcripts. The guidance office is available to review college applications before they are mailed, but please give the office at least three weeks for this evaluation process. The parents responsibilities are: to assist the student in all aspects of the college application process, to take the student to visit colleges (whenever possible), and to submit all forms that must be completed by parents, particularly financial aid forms. Failure to complete all required tasks within the given deadlines will negatively affect a student's college acceptance.

2. CREATE A MASTER CALENDAR AND STICK TO IT!

Construct an outline for the entire college admissions process, from initial browsing for information to college application deadlines. Create an itinerary for visiting colleges and gather your financial information for filing financial aid forms. Post the calendar in a handy location, touching base periodically with your child to monitor progress.

3. ASSIST YOUR CHILD IN SCHEDULING AND PREPARING FOR TESTS.

At WCS students in 9th and 10th grades take the PLAN test (Pre-ACT) and students in grades 10th and 11th are required to take both the PLAN and PSAT/NMSQT test. These two tests help students prepare for the ACT and SAT tests. In addition, the PSAT/NMSQT taken in the junior year may lead to one of the National Merit Scholarships.

In this competitive admissions environment, standardized tests are important. The SAT and ACT are the two most important tests for college admissions. Students should take both tests because they will do better in one of them.

Some of the more competitive colleges require the SAT II. These are subject specific tests and should be taken when a student completes the corresponding high school course.

Advanced Placement exams are administered in a variety of subjects. Passing the AP test means that students are able to receive college credit or even get exempt from certain prerequisite college courses. Students take AP tests immediately after they have taken AP courses.

4. DO NOT CONTACT COLLEGE ADMISSIONS OFFICES FOR YOUR CHILD.

Colleges track the contacts they have with prospective students and applicants. It doesn't look good if the college has spoken with the parents and has never had any contact with the student, the actual applicant. Thus, let your child contact the colleges himself/herself.

5. KEEP COPIES OF EVERYTHING.

Set up files for each college and scholarship to which your child is applying. Keep a copy of the application. Keep all correspondence within these folders. Document phone calls as well. Always get the names and title of those with whom you have had contact. Quick and comprehensive access to all pertinent materials will pay off in the long run.

6. FILE ALL FINANCIAL AID FORMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER JANUARY 1ST.

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) must be filed soon after January 1st of your child's senior year. Do not wait for this year's income tax forms to be completed. Use last year's data, and file financial aid applications as soon as they become available. Financial aid officers can compile an estimated package that will closely reflect their final, updated package, provided that family financial circumstances have not changed dramatically from the last tax year to the present. **Financial Aid is awarded to students on first come, first served basis.** Waiting until April 15th might result in all of the aid already being given out to others, thus, please file forms early.

7. BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.

Many employers, social clubs, and religious organizations offer scholarships. Be sure to check with these organizations as early as possible. A lot of these programs have selection calendars that do not match with the college admission calendar. Do not miss due dates because of lack of awareness. The Guidance Office will post and inform students of scholarships that come to the school. For local scholarship information, check out www.yourcommunityfoundation.com.

8. TAKE YOUR CHILD TO VISIT HIS/HER TOP COLLEGE OPTIONS.

Take your child to visit all of the colleges where he/she is applying. There is no substitute for a campus visit, and college-produced DVD's are not sufficient. When you do visit never stick to a "packaged" admissions visit consisting of an information session/interview and a DVD show or tour. Balance the experience by lunching on your own in the dining hall and browsing around campus. Make sure that you allow enough time on campus to meet with a financial aid officer.

9. REMEMBER THAT YOUR CHILD IS GOING TO COLLEGE, NOT YOU.

There is no doubt you should have some say in the matter, just remember to keep it in perspective. Parental input should focus on the mechanics of making a choice, not on the choice itself. Be frank and direct about any absolutes, such as financial limitations, but be low-key and reserved about the characteristics you think they want in a college. Think about helping your child choose the best college for him or her by praying daily for God's clear direction in this decision.

10. PRAY: Pray together with your child and for your child

SOUL SEARCHING

Before you begin to make a list of colleges, it is best to spend some quality time thinking truthfully about yourself. Rather than make a list of colleges you think you can get into or that will be acceptable to your friends, answer the following questions regarding what makes you unique. What are your needs and what are you looking for in a college environment. Narrowing down your options will make a great match much easier. If you skip this process, your odds of picking a good match are slim. **Think for yourself and realize that what is right for you may not be what is right for your friends or siblings.**

1. Why do you want to go to college?
2. How academically competitive are you? Do you thrive under pressure? Do you choke? Are you self-motivated or do you need close personal attention?
3. Do you like “being known” or is there more freedom in being anonymous?
4. Do you function best in a place where everyone is “like you” or do you like diversity in a student body? How much diversity have you really experienced?
5. What interests you? (Classes, activities)
6. Do you know or have an idea of the college major you want to pursue? Do you have a strong sense of a calling in a specific area?
7. Would it be more exhilarating to be in a Christian or secular school? What kinds of churches are near the campus? What type of environment would help you grow in your Christian walk? What type of environment would hinder your Christian walk?
8. Do you like to have a lot of options or does that only confuse you? Can you handle frustration and rejection? Can you persist without giving up?
9. Do you like the thought of being near family and friends or does being far away seem better to you?
10. Are you worried about being homesick and/or making new friends?
11. How do you define success? Are you satisfied with your accomplishments to date?
12. What kind of person would you like to become? Which of your gifts and talents would you like to develop?
13. What would you most like to change about yourself? Why?
14. What values are truly important to you (spiritual, political, financial)? How will your college environment affect these values?

NARROWING YOUR OPTIONS

You have just given some serious thought as to why you want to attend college and what “type” of overall college environment you think will bring out the best in you. You are now ready to address some options that met your specific criteria. Please answer each of the following questions with the appropriate response or DM for does not matter.

Questions	Response
1. Do you want to attend a 4-year or a 2-year college?	_____
2. Do you want a co-ed or single-sex school?	_____
3. Do you want to attend a small (500-3,000), medium (3,000-10,000) or large (10,000-50,000) college or university?	_____
4. Do you want to attend college in Florida or outside of Florida (Northeast, Midwest or West Coast)?	_____
5. Do you want to live away from home? How far away?	_____
6. Do you want to attend a college where most students are more like you or one where there is a broad range of diversity?	_____
7. Where do you want your college to be located (suburban campus near a city, urban campus in a large city, or in a rural town)?	_____
8. Do you want the college to have an outstanding program in a certain major? If so, in what major (dance, engineering, etc.)?	_____
9. Do you want to attend a private or state college?	_____
10. How academically competitive should your college be? Be realistic about your academic abilities and look for a college that matches them.	_____
11. Do you want to attend a Christian college?	_____
12. Is the cost of room, board, and tuition a major factor?	_____
13. What type of housing do you want? Coed, single sex, on campus, off?	_____
14. Is scholarship money or financial aid a necessity in order for you to attend college?	_____
15. Must the college you attend have an intercollegiate sports program in which you can participate? If so, which sport?	_____
16. How important is the social life on campus? Extremely, mildly, not a priority?	_____
17. Do you want a college with or without fraternities/sororities?	_____
18. Must the college you attend have certain student activity groups on its campus? (Political groups, student government, Christian organizations, intramural sports, etc.) If yes, which one(s)?	_____
19. Must there be a strong Bible teaching church near the college of your choice for you to attend while at college?	_____
20. Must the college offer study abroad programs?	_____

A Timeline for Success: The High School Four Year Plan

Freshman Year

- Begin building a strong academic foundation by taking challenging courses. Look at the Honors and AP courses offered and determined what pre-requisites are needed and plan ahead.
- Transcripts sent to colleges will reflect grades from the freshman year.
- Get involved in extracurricular activities and consider volunteering in your community.
- Visit the Guidance Office to work on a 4 year academic plan.
- If you would like to play sports in college look into the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) requirements.
- You will take the PLAN (pre ACT) test on November 19, 2009, this test will prepare you for the ACT test.
- Read! Read! To build your vocabulary.

Sophomore Year

- Visit college fairs and start compiling a list of colleges. Palm Beach County College Fair will be held on October 14, 2009 at 7:00 pm at Palm Beach Central High School.
- Stop by the Guidance Office and pick up a credit check form. Talk to the Guidance Director about any deficiencies and make arrangements to take courses online at the Florida Virtual School or during the summer.
- You will be taking the PSAT (Pre-SAT) on Oct.14, 2009. You will also take the PLAN (pre ACT) test on November 19, 2009, these tests will prepare you for the SAT and ACT respectively.
- Plan on taking the SAT Subject tests as soon as you complete the courses. (i.e. take the Biology SAT as soon after taking the Biology class.) See the Guidance Office for more information.

Junior Year

- It is important that you select the strongest academic class load and that your grades are as high as possible this year. Be certain to stretch yourself and take honors and AP classes when eligible.
- Begin and maintain a college file of all scored reports, (PSAT, SAT, PLAN, ACT), and College Guide. Don't throw anything away! File all college materials by the College/University name as soon as you receive and read them. Be prepared to receive an enormous amount of mail from colleges, financial aid, and scholarship information.
- Attend local college fairs. Palm Beach County College Fair Night is scheduled for October 14, 2009 at 7:00pm at Palm Beach Central High School.
- Many college representatives will be visiting our school and would like to speak to you. Make every effort to attend.
- **Be aware of any offers for scholarship information and/or financial aid, that require money, they are generally a scam.**
- The PSAT will be administered to all Juniors on **October 14, 2009**. The cost of the test was covered in the grade level fee. This is the qualifying exam for the National Merit Scholarship competition.
- Take both the ACT and SAT in the spring. You will do better on one of them. Repeat the one you score best on to increase your chances for scholarships and college admission.
- Consider visiting colleges during Spring Break.
- If you haven't familiarized yourself with the web sites recommended in this book, please do so.
- You will be taking AP exams, PSAT, SAT, ACT, and final exams. Plan accordingly.
- If Early Decision or Early Action Applications are being considered for next fall, it is imperative that you have completed all of your testing by June of your junior year.
- Plan summer visits and schedule interviews with the colleges at the top of your list.
- Read all mailings from the Guidance Office thoroughly!! Save these for your files. Do not throw anything away.
- Double-check all graduation and Bright Future Scholarship requirements.
- Meet with the Guidance Director before the end of this academic year.

Senior Year

No more gnashing teeth or wringing hands over the college dilemma! The time has come to translate frustration and anxiety into *ACTION*. It will not be nearly as hard as you thought it would be. Remember! We are all involved in this together. Pray about your decision. This is one of the

most important decisions you make in your life and God knows you better than anyone. He has the perfect match for you.

September—December

- Complete college applications. Let the Guidance office know where you are applying and request that transcripts be sent from WCS to the college.
- Check college bulletin boards and announcements often for college representatives who are visiting WCS and other important college information.
- Attend local College Fairs. Palm Beach County College Fair Night is scheduled for October 14, 2009 at 7:00pm at Palm Beach Central High School.
- Write your college essays. We are available and eager to discuss and brainstorm topics. Go over your essays with your English teachers before turning them to the guidance counselor. Do not procrastinate. Plan.
- We encourage students and, especially parents, to stay in close contact with our office. There are no insignificant questions.
- It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and submit Early Action or Early Decision applications to Guidance Office before the deadlines.
- Remember—you can apply “online”. However, notify the Guidance Office so that we can send transcripts and the appropriate paperwork. Private schools cannot transmit transcripts electronically.
- Register for the October, November, or December SAT and ACT, if appropriate.
- Submit all Secondary School Reports and Teacher Recommendations forms to the appropriate teachers as soon as possible after you receive the application.
- Remember your first quarter grades and first semester grades are vital and your last chance to improve your GPA! Your college acceptance(s) may depend on what you do the first semester of your senior year. Many colleges ask for these before making a final decision.
- All completed written applications (with checks where appropriate) should be submitted to the Guidance Office, not sent directly to the college. WCS will gladly mail applications. The reason is because the college will get all the information in one complete package.
- All students applying for any scholarship or Federal Financial Aid must file the FAFSAL (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form as soon as possible after January 1, 2010. This is a critical step in the financial aid process and early submission increases your chances of stronger financial packages.
- Study! Study! Do your best on mid-year exams.
- Seek assistance from the Guidance Office as often as you need.

Senior Year (Cont.)

January—June

- Continue to do your best academic work. All college acceptances are **provisional** until the final transcript is received in June. They expect those grades to continue in the same manner on which your admissions acceptance was based.
- Inform the Guidance Office immediately after receiving notice of college action taken on your application (accept, wait list, denied).
- Last chance to take any required SAT II Subject Test.
- Decisions mailed out to students: Though schools may request that accepted students must commit prior to May 1st, all schools must grant up until May 1st to any student who, in writing, requests an extension of any earlier response date (National Assoc. of College Admissions Counselors official policy). If a student does not request this extension and otherwise does not communicate with a school, which has offered admission, the offer of admissions may be withdrawn.
- May 1st: Notification Deadline. You must notify the college you plan to accept their offer of admission or you will be removed from their list. Acceptance must be confirmed with a deposit.
- Notify the Guidance Office of your final decision.
- Notify schools you will not be attending by letter that you are declining their offer of acceptance.
- AP Exams are in May. Your teachers will discuss these with you in the appropriate course.
- Write a thank you note to the teachers who wrote letters of recommendations on your behalf. Let them know where you have been accepted and where you plan to attend.

WHAT DO COLLEGES LOOK FOR IN STUDENTS?

1. College Prep Course Work

At WCS, your course load required to graduate will meet the standards of selective colleges, but you will need to take all of the math, science, and foreign language courses you can if applying to a highly selective institution. We send a Wellington Christian School profile with each transcript, to let colleges know who we are. Complete senior grades are not available for evaluation when you apply, but your course load is. Do not slack up during your senior year, either in grades or in the level of academic course load. Colleges take honors, AP, and Dual Enrolled courses seriously as an indication of your motivation.

2. Grades

Your junior and first semester senior grades are the most important. However, remember that your GPA begins accumulating in ninth grade. Good grades in all subjects show a commitment to work and an interest in a variety of subjects. A few poor grades should not be reason to lower your goals. Significant improvement in your performance, no matter how late, will have a positive effect on your chances of acceptance.

3. Sat I, Sat II, and ACT Scores

A good way to determine if your scores are a good match is to determine the college's middle 50% range of scores. If you fall above or in this range your chances of acceptance are good.

4. Class Rank

Your class rank is an indication of how well you did academically in comparison to your classmates. We do not send class rank unless you are in the top 10% of the class.

5. Counselor/Teacher Recommendations

6. Extracurricular Activities

Committed and dedicated involvement in a few activities is usually better than a little involvement in numerous activities. Colleges know you only have so much time, so find your niches and commit to them.

7. Personal Interview

Be on time, be neatly dressed, be polite, relax and do not be afraid to be yourself. Go prepared to ask as well as answer questions.

8. Essay / Writing Sample

A meaningful, well thought out essay can go beyond "the numbers". The time effort and thought put into the essay often can pay off in tipping the balance towards acceptance for students who are otherwise on the fence of admission. For students with a strong academic record a well written essay can make a strong application even stronger.

Activities that can help:

1. Leadership activities are of interest to most colleges.
2. Significant community service activities are favorably looked upon.
3. Develop a résumé and mail it along with your application. (See the Guidance Office for Assistance)
4. Cover letter—Do not be afraid to write the Director of Admissions stating why you want to attend the college. Take this opportunity to explain anything in your record you believe he/she may be concerned about. Just make certain your letter is well written.
5. If you are a gifted artist, writer, musician, or athlete, let the appropriate college coach or professor know you are applying. Send a cover letter along with your portfolio, video, or cassette tape, etc. to the professor or coach, not to the admissions director.

6. Alumni connections—Your parents, siblings, or close family friends.

Activities that can hurt:

1. Taking a light load of classes and having a poor senior year.
2. Continued lack of effort in your grades.
3. Poor grooming, poor manners and/or an overall lack of interest in a college when visiting a campus.
4. Poorly written essays or essays written in bad taste.
5. Missing deadlines and sloppy and illegible applications.

23 Common Questions about College Admissions Tests

1. **Do all colleges require SAT or ACT tests?** Although there are a few four-year institutions which do NOT require college entrance tests (contact Guidance Office for list if interested), most require either the SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test) or the ACT (American College Test).
2. **Is either the SAT or ACT acceptable?** With very few exceptions, almost every college in America will accept scores from either of these tests. Many colleges will not require the writing portion of the test if the student takes the ACT (Check with individual schools). For the SAT the writing portion is required.
3. **How important are my scores in the admission process? VERY!** Colleges use your SAT/ACT scores along with your class rank and high school courses you have taken and will be taking to make admission decisions. Many colleges also look carefully at the number of advanced courses you have taken, your involvement in extracurricular activities, the quality of your teacher/counselor recommendations, and your personal essays.
4. **What is the purpose of the tests?** Because high school courses, the quality of instruction, and GPA/Ranking vary greatly from school to school, these tests allow colleges to have a standard of comparison between you and other students across the country.
5. **Should I take BOTH the SAT & ACT and how often? YES!** You will do better on one of these tests. In most cases, colleges accept the highest score of either test. On occasion some of the more selective colleges will average scores.
6. **What is the highest score possible?** The ACT composite score ranges from 1 to 36 and the SAT Math/Reading/Writing scores range from 200 to 800 for each section with 2400 being the highest combined score.
7. **How will my scores be used?** The importance and use of SAT/ACT scores varies from college to college. Obviously, some institutions, primarily state universities, place more emphasis on these scores. However, a national poll of admission directors each year indicates the most important factors for admission directors are numbers of college preparatory courses taken and grades in these courses. Admission directors expect that student's SAT/ACT scores will only corroborate his/her high school record. Students who do not test well should work hard to maximize all other areas of their high school record (quality of courses, GPA, recommendations, extracurricular activities, essays, interview, etc.). Students who test very well, but whose academic performance is less than stellar, need to make serious changes or be viewed by an admissions office as a bright, but unmotivated student.

- 8. Do I need to take a “prep course”?** Great controversy exists over whether or not SAT/ACT preparation courses improve student scores. WCS recommends that ALL students prepare as much as possible for these tests. Since admission to college, as well as scholarship opportunities often hinges on your scores, these tests should NOT be taken lightly. Prepare for the SAT/ACT exams just as you would for a final exam.

Preparation Options

- a) Take a course sponsored by a local SAT/ACT test preparation agency (Score at the Top, College Assist, Kaplan, Princeton Review).
 - b) Use a private tutor to work on your areas of weakness.
 - c) Purchase a software program and tutor yourself.
 - d) Purchase a SAT/ACT preparation book from a local bookstore and work through it.
 - e) Online practice tests are available through www.princetonreview.com, www.collegeboard.com and www.act.org.
 - f) Free actual SAT and ACT tests are available in the Guidance Office.
9. **What is the SAT II?** Some highly selective institutions require students to take SAT II tests as well as the SAT or ACT. These tests are offered in fifteen different subject areas and last one hour. The tests are similar to taking a “mini” final exam of the subject. You can take up to three tests on a given test date and you register for the tests using the same materials and process as the SAT I. Once you have made a preliminary list of colleges, check to see if they require SAT II. If they do, the best time to take the tests is as close to completion of the course you have taken at school in the same subject areas as the SAT II. Note: SAT II scores can be “hidden,” allowing you to first receive your scores and later release them to a college. Make sure you get them released early enough to meet all admission deadlines. (See the SAT Registration Bulletin for specifics.) Also, most colleges that require SAT II tests use them in the admission process, so take a look at a sample test in the College Board’s Official Guide to SAT II Subject Tests and make certain you are prepared. If you are a little “rusty,” seek help from a teacher.
- 10. How much do these tests cost and how do I register?**
- a) The cost of the SAT is \$45.00 and ACT plus Writing is \$47.00.
 - b) Registration deadlines range from four to five weeks prior to each test date (Refer to the Important Dates for College Admissions section of this handbook for specific dates). Both the SAT and ACT offer students a late registration deadline, however there is an additional fee.
 - c) Both SAT and ACT allow you to test “standby” if you miss both deadlines. You may “walk-in” to a test center and test, but only if they have space. There is an additional fee.
 - d) If you are assigned to a center you have never been to, drive to it before the test date or get specific directions so that you do not get lost.
 - e) You can register online for the SAT at www.collegeboard.com and for the ACT at www.actstudent.org
11. **What is a high school code number?** You will be asked to provide your high school code number on almost every form you fill out related to the college process. Our school code

number is **101808**. Be sure to write it down and put it in your wallet or purse so you always have it.

12. **Is it a good idea to “hide” my SAT/ACT scores from colleges until I see how I do?**
The answer to this question is NO! When you register for the SAT/ACT you are given the opportunity to have your scores sent to four colleges as part of your basic testing fee. Scores may be sent to additional colleges at this same time for an additional fee. It is usually to your advantage to report scores to colleges of interest each time you register. Most colleges will take your highest scores and do not care that one might be lower. It is almost always to your advantage to report your scores! Hint: Make sure, when you finally decide to which colleges you want to apply, that they have your highest score.
13. **What do I do if the college I want to attend is not one of the schools to which I originally reported my SAT/ACT scores?** —Additional score reports may be requested for additional fees by filling out the proper form available in the Guidance Office or on the internet. Rush reporting is also available by phone or the internet for both the SAT and ACT.
14. **Should I guess?** ACT—**Yes, always!** You are not penalized for guessing, so never leave any blank. SAT—**Yes, but** only if you can eliminate at least two or more of the answers as incorrect. Educated guessing is encouraged since only $\frac{1}{4}$ of a point is subtracted for a wrong answer. **NEVER randomly or haphazardly guess on the SAT.**
15. **What type of identification do I need when I take these tests?** Students are always required to bring current official photo ID (driver’s license) with them to gain entrance to either the SAT or ACT. If you do NOT have a driver’s license or photo ID, you must check with the Guidance Office before the test date to discuss other approved ID forms. They are also listed in the SAT/ACT registration bulletins and on your admission ticket.
16. **How will I know where I will be taking the test?** You will receive an admission ticket in the mail or by email that tells you where you will be testing, what time to report, and where the test center is located. If you have not received your admission ticket by the Wednesday preceding the Saturday test, contact the Guidance Office immediately.
17. **Can I change my test center or test date?** Yes. Check online with the ACT and SAT.
18. **Can I use a calculator?** Yes, any handheld four functions, scientific or graphing calculator without paper or sound is acceptable.
19. **How long will it take to get back my scores?** It takes about five weeks to get your SAT/ACT scores. Instructions are also given so that students can access their scores early on the testing web site. Colleges usually receive scores about one week earlier. If you need your scores “rushed” to a college, the SAT does provide a rush grading service, which cuts about two weeks off the normal time.
20. **Can I see my test after I receive my scores?** Yes, for an additional fee. The actual test questions, your answers and an answer key are available. See the SAT/ACT registration bulletins for specific information. Note: These services are only available on certain test dates.
21. **Can I switch from the SAT I to the SAT II?** Yes, by using the SAT’s telephone registration service, but it must be done two and one half weeks before the test date.

22. **Can I cancel my SAT/ACT scores after I have already taken the test?** Yes! Either advise the test center supervisor the day of the test you want to cancel your scores or notify the testing agency by the first Wednesday (SAT)/Thursday (ACT) following your test. SAT requires the request in writing, ACT allows the request to be handled over the phone, but charges \$10.00. See registration bulletins for details.
23. **Can I ask for special accommodations?** Yes, but special forms must be filled out and special documentation of the learning differences and accommodations must be documented. This will need to be done several months before the test date.

STEPS OF THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Request applications from the colleges of your choice. You may request the application by calling, writing or emailing the college. You may also print the application from the college website or apply online.
2. Complete the student section of the application, and arrange for any letter of recommendation that may be required to be sent. Type or print very neatly in black ink. **DO SIGN** the waivers on the applications.
3. If applying online, request that an official copy of your transcript be sent from the Guidance Office to each college that you have applied. If filing the paper application we will include the transcript to the application packet before we mail it.
4. Create a résumé of your high school career. Save it in your computer for easy access as you apply for colleges and scholarships. You may also write a cover letter, do not be afraid to write the Director of Admissions stating why you want to attend the college. Take this opportunity to explain anything in your record you believe he/she may be concerned about or to highlight your accomplishments. Just make certain your letter is well written. You may ask the Guidance office for assistance with a resume and cover letter.
5. Write the college essay or personal statement. Have them proof read by your English teacher before turning it into the Guidance Office. See the Recommended Books section in this handbook for a list of books on college essay writing that can help you.
6. Make copies everything and keep them filed by college name.
7. If SAT or ACT scores are required, arrange to have them sent directly to the colleges when you sign up for the test, or if the scores are needed after you have taken the tests request an official score directly from the SAT and ACT companies. Official scores are not the ones sent with the high school transcript.
8. Bring all sections of the application (If filing a paper application) to the Guidance Office along with a check (if needed) for the application fee **AT LEAST TWO WEEKS** prior to the deadline. Do not include postage. We will mail it as a complete package to the college along with your official transcript, unofficial scores, and a school profile
9. If you are applying Early Decision, please note the application deadline.

10. As soon as possible after January 1, 2008, file the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). If the college has its own financial aid form, you must follow the directions and take note of their deadline.

STEPS FOR COLLEGE BOUND ATHLETES

1. Meet with your coach to discuss college options (NCAA Division I, II, III -NAIA). Ask your coach/Athletic Director to write a brief letter to each college coach about your accomplishments, talents, leadership, etc.
2. Develop an athletic résumé. Be sure to indicate PSAT/SAT/ACT scores and GPA. For team sports indicate state/national ranking, speed, times, etc., also include awards, honors, and copy of newspaper clippings.
3. Develop a videotape of highlights from games and events.
4. You must take the initiative to personally contact each college coach! Early in your junior year write to each coach to indicate your interest. Often decisions about athletes are based on their accomplishments the junior year. Ask for information concerning their program. It is a good idea to include your game schedule and invite the coach to observe you when he/she might be in the area during your season.
5. Visit the colleges and make an appointment to see the facilities. Leave them your packet. Be sure to follow up with a thank-you note. The college coach may not have personal contact with you until you complete your junior year, according to NCAA guidelines.
6. Call or write for all college applications by June!!!
7. Summer is very important! Compete! Compete! Compete! Attend sports camps—get a letter of recommendation from your summer camp coach. Play on summer teams.
8. Ask your coach and Athletic Director to write a brief letter to each college coach about your accomplishments, talents, leadership, etc. We will be happy to make copies and mail them from the Guidance Office.
9. September of your senior year repeat #1 above with an updated letter, résumé, and clippings.
10. Early in September of your senior year complete the NCAA Clearinghouse form requesting that your transcript be sent to them.
11. Check and follow due dates for each application, especially Early Decision applications. Make two copies, one for yourself and one for your coach. Be sure your video, résumé, and newspaper clippings are updated and submitted to the college coach.
12. Keep in contact with the college coach—you may call him as many times as you like. Call to find out if your application, video, SAT scores and other information has been received. Show that you are interested and motivated. Be persistent!
13. Special Hints:
 - a. Call the Athletic Department to get the names of the coaches so that you can personalize each letter. Find out who the recruiter is for South Florida—contact him/her.
 - b. Get organized! Before the end of September of your senior year complete your packets and make any updates as necessary.

- c. Don't wait for college coaches to contact you, you must be motivated enough to make the initial contact and follow-up

GUIDELINES FOR REQUESTING LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Student Guidelines for Seeking Letters of Recommendations for College

Recommendation From HS Counselor

It is the responsibility of the student to provide the Guidance Counselor with the appropriate forms and other college-provided information well in advance of the deadline. Make sure you have met with the guidance counselor and given her your résumé before requesting a counselor recommendation. Also, the student must read the portions of the form addressed to him, and follow the instructions carefully. WCS recommends you always sign the waiver so as not to give a college a negative view of yourself.

Recommendation from Teacher or other Person

In addition, you may be required to submit other recommendations. Choose a person who, not only knows about your ability and personal qualities, but someone who you really like and you feel likes you. Remember, a bad recommendation can really hurt; a generic “He is a nice guy and a good student” probably will not help, but a strong recommendation from someone who knows you well can make a positive difference. The following sources can be used for recommendations:

- Teachers from core subjects—English, math, history, science, or foreign language should be your primary recommenders.
- Teachers in other subjects such as the Fine Arts. Note: if you were applying for an Arts scholarship then this teacher would be one of your primary recommenders.
- A coach or club sponsor.
- An outside adult who has worked with you and supervised you in an activity, e.g., youth pastor, employer.
- A student at the college where you are applying who knows you or an alumnus of the college who you or your parents know well.

Use the following guidelines when asking for a recommendation:

- Give the recommender at least 2 to 3 weeks of lead-time.
- Provide a stamped envelope with the college address on it and a post-it note reminding the recommender when it is due or have them turn it into the Guidance Office.
- If you have a résumé, be sure and give it to the recommender.
- Be sure and let the recommender know if you will be requesting further letters so he/she can keep it on the computer.
- Politely check back with the recommender, before the deadline, to make sure your letter was mailed.
- Follow-up with a thank-you note.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS (2009-2010)

SAT TEST DATES

2009-10 Test Dates	Test	U.S. Registration Deadlines*	
		Regular	Late (a fee applies)
October 10, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	September 9, 2009	September 23, 2009
November 7, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	October 1, 2009	October 15, 2009
December 5, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	October 30, 2009	November 12, 2009
January 23, 2010	SAT & Subject Tests	December 15, 2009	December 30, 2009
March 13, 2010	SAT only	February 4, 2010	February 18, 2010
May 1, 2010	SAT & Subject Tests	March 25, 2010	April 8, 2010
June 5, 2010	SAT & Subject Tests	April 29, 2010	May 13, 2010

ACT TEST DATES

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)*
September 12, 2009	August 7, 2009	August 8 – 21, 2009
October 24, 2009	September 18, 2009	September 19 – October 2, 2009
December 12, 2009	November 6, 2009	November 7 – 20, 2009
February 6, 2010	January 5, 2010	January 6 – 15, 2010
April 10, 2010	March 5, 2010	March 6 – 19, 2010
June 12, 2010	May 7, 2010	May 8 – 21, 2010

* If you miss the regular deadline, you can register during the late period, but you must pay the additional nonrefundable late fee.

NOTE: WCS High School Code is 101808

IMPORTANT DATES (Cont.)

October 14, 2009	PSAT Testing at WCS for all 10th and 11th Graders
October 14, 2009	Palm Beach County College Fair (at Palm Beach Central High School 7:00PM)
November 19, 2009	PLAN Testing at WCS for all 9th and 10th Graders
December 1, 2009	Application for Florida Bright Futures Available Online
January 1, 2010	First Day to File FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
May 1, 2010	Deadline to Respond to Colleges of Your Decision
May 5-13, 2010	AP Testing at WCS
May 17-20, 2010	Senior Exams
May 28, 2010	WCS Graduation

THE COLLEGE VISIT AND THE INTERVIEW

College Visit -- As part of our college-advising program, students are encouraged to visit the campuses of colleges and universities of interest. While there are situations where little advance notice may be known, in the greatest majority of cases advanced planning is what makes the trip of value. Read campus literature prior to the visit. Ask for directions and allow ample travel time. Here are a few tips to make a successful campus visit:

- Arrange for an appointment in advance by writing or calling the college or university's Admissions Office.
- You will get the best view of the college if you arrange your visit when college classes are in regular session. Generally a weekday, but not a Friday, is the best time to get a feel for the school.
- Study the school's internet website, catalog, and your own record of achievements to be sure that the college really seems acceptable to you, and that you might be acceptable to it.
- Take a record of the courses you have completed and are currently taking, the grades earned, and your college entrance examination scores to date if you have an interview scheduled during the visit.
- Meet with the WCS Guidance counselor before you leave to discuss what to expect during an interview, and to review ways to receive the information about the school you are seeking, while also creating a good impression.
- Make a list of questions you want answered before the visit.
- Be prepared to answer questions about yourself, such as why you are interested in this particular school.

On most campuses the tour guide is a student selected by the college for his or her ability to project an acceptable image of the institution to the prospective candidate. Some are a bit short on candor and somewhat hesitant to contradict the catalog or admissions office. Others are very honest and open about their own experiences.

Remember, a campus guide may be down on a particular college because he/she just failed an exam. If you have a negative experience, try to meet other students before leaving campus. Visit the student center, the athletic fields, a dorm, and pick up a school newspaper.

Some questions you might ask your campus guide:

- What is the average class size?
- Who teaches you in these courses, graduate assistants or professors?
- Does this school have a core curriculum? How restrictive is it? Is there a foreign language requirement?
- How adequate is the library? Are you able to get the books you need when you want them?
- When do you have to declare your major? What are the popular majors?

- Are some dorms much better than others? Do many students live off campus? If so, why?
 - Do students seem to work primarily for grades? How competitive is the student body? What is the attitude towards working hard?
 - Have you been in any faculty homes since you've been here? How available are your professors?
 - Can you tell me anything first-hand about the (French, English, History) department?
 - What is the biggest issue in local campus politics?
 - Are students politically active? Aware?
 - What percentage of students study abroad at some time?
 - What impact do fraternities have here? Athletics?
 - What are weekends like? Are there alternatives to the typical party scene?
 - How active is the student government? What activities are popular?
 - What do you think is the greatest shortcoming of this college? What do students complain about?
 - What do you like best about your experience and education here?
 - Where do students come from? Is this a diverse community?
 - If you could attend another college now, where would you go? Why?
 - Why did you choose this school? What others did you apply to?
 - What kind of students do you think are happiest here? Which ones are least happy?
 - Are there Christian organizations that are active on campus?
 - Does the college offer internships for students?
 - Is there a career placement office? Where is it located?
- Stop by the Guidance Office for a Campus Tour checklist.

Other Suggestions:

- Spend the night in the dorm and sit in on several classes.
- Pick up a copy of the latest campus newspaper—go to the newspaper office and ask questions.
- Read the course catalogue and check out the list of faculty, their degrees, and the courses they teach.
- Meet a coach if you are interested in a sport.
- Meet with an advisor/department chair/dean if you have a particular interest you want to pursue in college.
- Talk to everyone you happen to meet on campus about his/her experiences at the college.
- Go to the financial aid office and ask questions.
- Find out about the quality of the career service office (very important).

College Interview— The emphasis on college interviews has decreased during the past few years, so you will need to inquire about the interviewing policy of each school. The policy will probably be one of the following:

- No interviews—group informational sessions only
- Alumni interviews only—off campus, usually in your own city
- Interviews are optional and for information only
- Interviews are encouraged and do become a part of the student’s application folder

If the college does offer an on campus interview and you are able to visit, please take advantage of the opportunity. It may be very helpful to you. Most Christian colleges interview their students to see why they desire a Christian education. Feel free to ask questions. Just be sure not to ask questions that can be answered by reading the college’s catalogue or website. Be informed about the school. Remember that during the interview you have two goals, first to learn about the college and second, to describe yourself. Be prompt, no gum, and decline offers to include your parents in the interview. Take a note pad, pen, your HS transcript, resume and test scores. It is fine to take a list of questions written in your own handwriting.

Questions you may ask in an interview?

Spiritual questions:

- What percentage of students attends a local church?
- What percentage of students are involved in some kind of church organization (Campus Crusade, RUF, FCA)?
- Are there any chapel attendance requirements?
- If you are looking at a Christian school, ask what percentages of their staff are born again believers.
- What denominational affiliation does the school have?
- What percentages of students come from various denominations?

Academic questions:

- What is the school’s procedure for credit for Advanced Placement high school courses?
- When is it necessary to declare a major?
- Is it possible to have a double major or to declare a major and a minor?
- How does the advising/guidance system work?
- Does this college offer overseas study, cooperative programs, or academic honors programs?
- What is the likelihood of getting closed out of the courses I need?
- Will I be able to graduate in 4 years?
- What technology is used in the classroom?

- How well equipped are the libraries and laboratories?

- Are there internships available?
- How effective is the job placement service of the school?

Social questions:

- What percentages of students go home for the weekend?
- What are the security precautions taken on campus and in the dorms?
- Is the surrounding community safe?
- Are there problems with drug and alcohol abuse on campus?
- Are there dorms designated drug and alcohol free? Smoke free?
- Do faculty members and students mix on an informal basis?
- How important are the sports/arts to student life?
- What percentage of the student body belongs to a sorority/fraternity?
- What is the relationship between those who belong to the Greek system and those who don't?
- Are students involved in the decision-making process at the college? Do they sit on major committees?
- What other activities can students get involved in

FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP

To Be Considered for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship a Student Must:

1. Apply for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship by completing the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)* during his/her last year in high school. A student may apply online at www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org after December 1st of his/her last year in high school. This application gives the Department of Education (DOE) permission to evaluate his/her high school transcripts for eligibility for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship. (Please note that because WCS is a private school the Department of Education cannot access the school's transcripts, we need to manually enter our transcripts into the Florida Bright Futures website. This can only be done at the end of the first semester and after grades are in, around the first week of January.
2. Earn a Florida standard high school diploma or its equivalent.
3. Not have been found guilty of, or plead nolo contendere to, a felony charge.
4. Meet Academic Requirements for the each academic award. (See **Appendix B and Appendix C**)

FINANCIAL AID

For many families, a key piece of the college admission process may center on financial aid. In the next few pages, we would like to identify some of the key pieces of applying, explain how colleges factor financial aid into admissions and award packages, and describe how the typical financial aid package might be developed. These policies will vary from school to school, and we urge you to read the materials provided by each college and encourage you to contact their offices if you have questions.

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

Each school will have specific requirements for financial aid. In many cases this may include a form as part of the application process, or a request to fill out one of several forms.

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

These forms become available between November and December of the student's senior year. All students applying for any Federal financial aid must file this form as soon as possible after January 1, 2010. There is no cost to file this form. Analysis of the data on this form will determine eligibility for Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), Stafford Loans (both subsidized and non-subsidized), Perkins Loans, Work Study and other federal and state programs. Many states will also require the FAFSA to award state grants to students (Florida is one of these states). Since federal aid is a key part to most awards, it is critical that this form is filed in a timely manner. This form is mandatory for everyone applying for Scholarship or Financial Aid. You can apply on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

CSS Financial Aid PROFILE (Only requested by certain schools)

The College Scholarship Service (CSS) has established a new financial analysis system to replace the Financial Aid Form (FAF). This service, CSS Financial Aid PROFILE, is designed to allow both colleges/universities and students to begin the financial aid process much earlier. Information obtained by PROFILE will be used to determine a student's eligibility for a college/university's own funds. Students should complete a PROFILE registration form in early fall by mail, fax, or via computer. Students will answer a core of questions and list the colleges to which they will apply. They will pay an initial registration fee and additional costs per college. Within several weeks, students can expect to receive a PROFILE packet, containing college-specific forms if required. You can apply on-line at <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/pay/scholarships-and-aid/8374.html> or call 1-800-778-6888. Register by January 1, 2010 Apply by February 1, 2010.

THE ACTUAL AID PACKAGE

Financial aid packages can come in all shapes and forms. Many schools fail to give you the bottom line of what you will pay when all costs are calculated. Take the time to go back and see what the basic costs of the school are, add up what the various components of the aid package, and see if it will work for your family. The most important item to remember is not what a school costs, but rather what a school will cost you. Once you have sorted through the various packages, you will be ready to make that determination.

Each college uses the information that it has requested from you and your family to analyze your need. Virtually all colleges use the SAR (Student Aid Report generated by filing the FAFSA) and most private colleges require the CSS Financial Aid PROFILE - the Need Analysis Report prepared by the College Scholarship Service. Many also use information from their own financial aid application forms and copies of your latest Federal Income Tax Returns. The reports offer colleges a preliminary calculation of the amount of money that your family can contribute to cover the costs of your college education.

The PARENTAL CONTRIBUTION is determined after all income and assets are calculated to determine your family's net worth. Home equity is *not* considered when applying for federal aid; however, it is considered by colleges requiring the PROFILE when they consider distributing the college's own funds. Then, allowances are made for the number of family members, the number of children in college, debts, necessary expenses, or taxes. Consideration is also given to special financial circumstances (illness, older parents approaching retirement, or special educational needs). Be certain that colleges are aware of any such circumstances that may exist in your family. The final result of this analysis is the expected family contribution (EFC).

Please be aware that each college can handle situations differently in which parents are separated, divorced and/or remarried. For example, some colleges take into consideration the income and assets of the stepparent with whom the student lives. Others do not. Federal fund eligibility (determined by the FAFSA) is based on "household" income only - which can include a stepparent and exclude a biological parent.

The STUDENT CONTRIBUTION is determined after your earnings and assets are reviewed. Typically, you are asked to contribute a portion of your personal savings and other benefits, such as Veteran's Benefits or Social Security Benefits (normally 35% the first year). You are also expected to contribute a certain amount based on what you could realistically earn during the summer whether or not you actually choose to work. Should you receive merit-based awards from organizations outside of the college, these are considered as part of your available resources, or are applied against the self-help portion of your aid package.

In packaging your financial aid package, most colleges first award a SELF-HELP package based on the FAFSA and Federal Funds. This will include an opportunity to work on campus through a work-study program, and federal (Perkins or Stafford) or school loans. In most cases the first \$4,000 to \$6,000 of an aid package is made up of these awards. In most cases, schools will fill the remaining amount of need, if they meet 100% of your need, with GRANTS, made up of a combination of Federal Grants such as Pell or SEOG Grants, or grants from the actual funds of the college. A MERIT AWARD may also be part of an award and is often a grant that goes beyond the actual need of a student, or even awarded to a student not applying for aid in the hope of attracting a top scholar to that school.

In these days and times we have been seen wide discrepancies between packages at various colleges. Do not be afraid to discuss these with both our office and the college financial aid office before making a final decision.

Additional Financial Aid Information

How do I apply for FSAG?

FSAG (Florida Student Assistance Grant) is available to Florida students who meet all eligibility criteria and demonstrate substantial need. Application for FSAG is automatic when you complete your FAFSA form and request that the information be sent to a Florida institution. Your eligibility and amount awarded depends on the university you attend.

What is FRAG?

The Florida Resident Access Grant provides tuition assistance for Florida residents attending eligible private non-profit Florida colleges or universities. **This grant is not based on need.** Applications are obtained from the college or university not from WCS.

Understanding the Lifetime Learning Tax Credit

What is it? The Lifetime Learning credit is a tax credit available to individuals who file a tax return and owe taxes. This means that the amount of the credit is subtracted from a family's actual tax liability, rather than reducing taxable income like a tax deduction does. The Lifetime Learning credit is not refundable.

A family may claim a tax credit up to \$2,000 per tax year for the taxpayer, taxpayer's spouse, or any eligible dependents from for an unlimited number of tax years. A family may claim up to 20% of \$10,000 of eligible expenses for expenses paid after January 1, 2004 and after.

The Actual amount of the credit depends on the family's income, the amount of qualified tuition, fees paid and the amount of certain scholarships and allowances subtracted from tuition. This credit is family based (e.g. \$1,000 per family) rather than dependent-based like the Hope credit.

Who qualifies? The taxpayer; an eligible taxpayer must file a tax return and owe taxes to claim the credit. The taxpayer must also claim the eligible student as a dependent unless the credit is for the taxpayer or the taxpayer's spouse. The taxpayer is eligible for the maximum benefit with an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of up to \$40,000 and \$50,000 for single taxpayers or \$80,000 and \$100,000 for married taxpayers.

An eligible student may be enrolled at least half time in an eligible program leading to an undergraduate or graduate degree at an eligible school during the calendar year or may be enrolled at any enrollment level in any course of instruction at an eligible school to acquire/improve the student's job skills during the calendar year. The student may claim the credit if the student is not claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer.

How do you get it? To qualify for the credit, the taxpayer must report the amount of tuition and fees paid, as well as the amount of certain scholarships, grants and untaxed income used to pay the tuition and fees. Current law specifies that schools will supply this information in the form of a "return" to individual taxpayers and to the IRS.

When is it available? The taxpayer may claim the Lifetime Learning credit for qualified expenses paid July 1, 1998 and after.

Can a family claim multiple benefits? A family may claim a Lifetime Learning credit, a Hope credit, and an exclusion from gross income for certain distributions from qualified state tuition programs or education IRAs as long as the same student is not used as the basis for each credit or exclusion and the family does not exceed the Lifetime Learning maximum per family.

Understanding the Hope Scholarship

What is it? The Hope Scholarship is actually a tax credit, not a scholarship. Tax credits are subtracted from the tax a family owes, rather than reducing taxable income like a tax deduction. A family must file a tax return and owe taxes to take advantage of it. The Hope credit is not refundable for families who do not pay taxes or who owe less in taxes than the maximum amount of the Hope tax credit for which the family is eligible.

A family may claim a tax credit up to \$1,500 per tax year for each eligible dependent for up to two tax years. A family may claim up to 100% of the first \$ 1,000 of eligible expenses and 50% of the next \$ 1,000 for a maximum credit of \$1,500.

The actual amount of the credit depends on the family's income, the amount of **qualified** tuition and fees paid, and the amount of certain scholarships and allowances subtracted from tuition. The total maximum credit also is based on the number of eligible dependents, rather than a maximum dollar amount for the family, as with the Lifetime Learning tax credit.

Who qualifies? The taxpayer; an eligible taxpayer must **file** a tax return and owe taxes to claim the credit. The taxpayer must also claim the eligible student as a dependent, unless the credit is for the taxpayer or the taxpayer's spouse. The taxpayer is eligible for the maximum benefit with an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of up to \$40,000 for a single taxpayer (or \$80,000 for married taxpayers). The credit amount is phased-out between \$40,000 and \$50,000 for single taxpayers (or \$80,000 and \$100,000 for married taxpayers).

The student, an eligible student must be enrolled at least half time in an eligible program leading to a degree or certificate at an eligible school during the calendar year AND must not have completed the first two years of such undergraduate study. The student may claim the credit if the student is not claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer; this means the eligible student may also be the eligible taxpayer. In addition, the student may not have been convicted of a Federal or State felony drug offense before the end of the tax year in which the academic period occurs.

How do you get it? To qualify for the credit, the taxpayer must report the amount of tuition and fees paid as well as the amount of certain scholarships, grants, and untaxed income used to pay the tuition and fees. Current law specifies that schools will supply this information in this form of a "return" to individual taxpayers and to the IRS.

When it is available? The taxpayer may claim the Hope credit for qualified expenses paid January 1, 1998 and after for education furnished in academic periods beginning on or after this date.

Taxpayers may pay educational expenses in a tax year for an academic period that begins following the tax year (e.g., paying in December 1998 for an academic period beginning in the first three months of 1999).

Can a family claim multiple benefits? A family may claim a Hope credit, a Lifetime Learning credit and an exclusion from gross income for certain distributions from qualified state tuition programs or education IRAs as long as the same student is not used as the basis for each credit or exclusion AND the family does not exceed the Lifetime Learning maximum per family.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Wellington Christian School – www.wellingtonchristianschool.org

- www.edline.net – Log in, click on Guidance link to the left

TEST REGISTRATION & PREPARATION

www.collegeboard.org

www.act.org

www.onlinetestprep.com

www.act-sat-prep.com

www.powerprep.com

www.kaptest.com

www.4tests.com

www.review.com

www.number2.com

<http://www.princetonreview.com/college/testprep/>

COLLEGE SEARCH SITES

www.review.com

www.collegeboard.org

Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) www.cccu.org

College view – www.collegeview.com

Kaplan – www.kaplan.com

Common Application – www.commonapp.org

College Link – www.collegelink.com

Princeton Review and Apply – <http://www.princetonreview.com/home.asp>

Peterson's online – www.petersons.com

Embark – www.embark.com

U.S. News and World Reports: America's Best Colleges 2008 –

http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/usnews/edu/college/rankings/rankindex_brief.php

INTERNET RESOURCES (Cont.)

Athletics (NCAA) – www.ncaa.org

CAREERS

Occupational Outlook Handbook – stats.bls.gov/ocohome.htm

University Career Centers – www.rpl.edu/dept/cdc/carserv

The Monster Board (job & career information) – www.monsterboard.com

Military Career Guide – www.militarycareers.com

Top jobs, resume tips, and career forecast www.excite.com

INTEREST & SKILL SURVEYS

The College Board Career Search – www.collegeboard.org/career/bin/career

Occupational Outlook Handbook – www.stats.bls.gov/ocohom.htm

Mapping Your Future – www.mapping-your-future.org

Career Services-University of Waterloo – www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infocecs/CRC/manual-home.html

Career Services-Bowling Green Univ. – www.bgsu.edu/offoces/careers/process/step1.html

Personality Tests on the WWW – www.2h.com/Tests/personality.phtml

Career Web – www.cweb.com

Career Mosaic – www.careermosaic.com

Online Career Center – www.occ.com

Future Scan – www.futurescan.com

Fast Web – www.fastweb.com.

Selective Service Registration—www.sss.gov

Under federal law junior and senior boys are required to register for the Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday or as soon as they turn 17.

INTERNET RESOURCES (Cont.)

SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL AID WEBSITES

Florida Bright Futures <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/home/uamain.htm>

Free application for Federal Student Aid: FAFSA www.fafsa.ed.gov

Fastweb.com

Choice of majors, careers, links to colleges, scholarship search <http://www.embark.com/>

Local, federal, state, and private sources of grants through links www.easi.ed.gov

College search, info of financial aid, a chance to win \$2,000 scholarship www.targetusa.com

Financial aid calendar, selecting a college, finding aid www.faam.org

Financial aid and scholarships; Apply to over 1299 colleges www.collegequest.com

The free scholarship search and information www.freschinfo.com

[Money Magazine](http://MoneyMagazine.com)'s guide to making college affordable www.pathfinder.com/money/college98

Apply for scholarships up to \$1,000 <http://www.salliemae.com/scholar/slmcashe.html>

Provides links and info about companies that give aid www.yahoo.com/education/financial_aid/

Comparative college information from College View: www.collegeview.com

2,000 scholarships, internships, and loan programs www.collegescholarships.com

SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL AID WEBSITES

Minority Online Information Services www.sciencewise.com/molis

Scholarships sponsored by the Coca-Cola Company www.coca-colacompany.com

The Gates Millennium Scholars Program www.gmsp.org

Database including thousands of private scholarships, grants, and fellowships www.sashe.com

Provides scholarship services of 8,000 programs national organizations www.smexpress.com

Information from the national bank about paying for college www.chase.com/educationfirst

Apply for student loans on line www.plato.org

Comprehensive program serving Black students www.blackstudentfund.org

Information from NASFAA about applying for grants and loans www.nasfaa.org

Financial aid from the United Negro College Fund www.uncf.org

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

College Search Books

The College Handbook, 2010 Edition

Barron's Profile of American Colleges, 2009 Edition

Peterson's Competitive Colleges.

Handbook for College Admission by Thomas C. Hayden

Arco Field Guide to Colleges by Shannon Turlington

Rand McNally Tripmaker—Guide to College Visits

The Princeton Review: Best 371 Colleges, 2010 Edition

The Fiske Guide to the Colleges by Edward B. Fiske

Looking Beyond the Ivy League, by Loren Pope

Colleges that Change Lives, by Loren Pope

K & W Guide to Colleges for the Learning Disabled by Marybeth Kravets and Imy Max

Peterson's Colleges with Programs for Students with Learning Disabilities or Attention Deficit Disorder, Edited by Charles t. Mangrum and Stephen S. Strichart

Essay Writing Books

Barron's Essays that Will Get You into College, Second Edition by Dan Kaufman, Chris Dowhan and Adrienne Dowhan

50 Successful Harvard Application Essays, by Staff of the Harvard Crimson

How to Write a Winning College Application Essay, Revised 4th Edition by Michael James Mason

On Writing the College Application Essay by Harry Bauld

Appendix A

NCAA DIVISION I

Freshman Eligibility Standards, College Entrants

All student athletes must register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse.

Qualifier:

Students are allowed to practice, compete, and receive athletic scholarships as a freshman.

Requirements:

- Graduation from high school
- Completion of 13 core courses
- The following GPA in core courses with the corresponding SAT combined score or ACT sub-test sum:

Core Course GPA	ACT sum	SAT	High School Core Courses
2.500+	68	820	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 4 years of English; • At least 2 years of math (at the level of Algebra I or above); • At least 2 years natural or physical science (including one lab course, if offered by any high school you attended); • At least 1 year of additional courses in English, math, or natural or physical science; • At least 2 years social science • Additional 2 years of academic courses in any of the above areas, or foreign language, computer science, philosophy, or comparative religion.
2.475	69	830	
2.450	70	840-850	
2.425	70	860	
2.400	71	860	
2.375	72	870	
2.350	73	880	
2.325	74	890	
2.300	75	900	
2.275	76	910	
2.250	77	920	
2.225	78	930	
2.200	79	940	
2.175	80	950	
2.150	80	960	
2.125	81	960	
2.100	82	970	
2.075	83	980	
2.050	84	990	
2.025	85	1,000	
2.000	86	1,010	

All Student athletes must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse if they plan to participate in collegiate sports. College coaches may not contact an athlete who has not been cleared by the NCAA. Registration forms are available in the Guidance Office.

Appendix B

FLORIDA ACADEMIC SCHOLARS AWARD

Award Level

Public Institution – 100% of tuition and those fees determined by DOE (including lab fees up to \$300 per semester) and an annual \$600 for college-related expenses prorated by term and hours.

Private Institution – Fixed award amount based on 100% of the average tuition and fees covered at a comparable Florida public institution, which includes the annual \$600 for college-related expenses prorated by term and hours.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

3.5-weighted GPA (based on the Bright Futures Scholarship Program Weighting System which may be different from your school's weighting system) using the credits listed below, combined with test scores and community service hours listed below.

Required Credits

Courses must be those identified by the State University System and the State Board of Community Colleges as college preparatory courses.

- 4 English (3 substantial writing)
- 3 Mathematics (Algebra I and above)
- 3 Natural Sciences (2 with substantial labs)
- 3 Social Sciences
- 2 Foreign Languages (in the same language)
- 15 Total Credits

May use up to 4 additional credits from courses in the academic areas listed above and/or AP fine arts courses to raise the GPA.

Community Service

75 hours

Test Scores

Best composite score of 1270 SAT or 28 ACT. Subsections of the SAT or ACT from different test dates may be used to meet the test criteria.

For spring eligibility evaluations, test dates through the end of January will be admissible.

For summer eligibility evaluations, test dates through the end of June will be admissible.

Appendix C

FLORIDA MEDALLION SCHOLARS AWARD

Award Level

Public Institution – 75% of tuition and those fees (including lab fees up to \$300 per semester).

Private Institution – Fixed award amount based on 75% of the average tuition and fees covered at a comparable Florida public institution prorated by term and hours.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

3.0 weighted GPA (based on the Bright Futures Scholarship Program Weighting System which may be different from your school's weighting system) using the credits and test scores listed below.

Required Credits

Courses must be those identified by the State University System and the State Board of Community Colleges as college preparatory courses.

- 4 English (3 substantial writing)
- 3 Mathematics (Algebra I and above)
- 3 Natural Sciences (2 with substantial labs)
- 3 Social Sciences
- 2 Foreign Languages (in the same language)
- 15 Total Credits

May use up to 4 additional credits from courses in the academic areas listed above and/or AP fine arts courses to raise the GPA.

Community Service

No minimum requirements.

Test Scores

Best composite score of 970 SAT or 20 ACT. Subsections of the SAT or ACT from different test dates may be used to meet the test criteria.

For spring eligibility evaluations, test dates through the end of January will be admissible.

For summer eligibility evaluations, test dates through the end of June will be admissible.