



FRESHMAN TIMELINE

FALL

- Meet with your school counselor to learn which courses meet college entrance requirements and plan your enrollment in these courses
- Create a four year class schedule that meets both high school graduation and college entrance requirements
- Take the most challenging and realistic course load, if possible
- Create a floridashines.org account and complete the assessments to begin thinking about colleges and explore careers that may fit your interests

WINTER

- Talk with your parents about your academic strengths and weaknesses and explore tutoring resources for improvement
- Enroll in honors courses in the subjects you excel at
- Create a folder for college-related materials

SPRING

- Get involved with clubs, activities, and community involvement - all of these things look great on a college application
- Record and track all of your credentials - awards, volunteer hours, etc.
- Look early for summer jobs and internships - preferably those that will help you expand your academic and leadership skills
- Find information in the School Counseling office, library, or online to start learning about college
- Plan a challenging course load for your sophomore year

SUMMER

- Continue to build your credentials over the summer
- Along with completing all summer reading assignments, create a list of other books to read as well
- Continue talking to you parents or any adults in your life about colleges and courses to take in high school
- Build your community service hours needed for graduation and the Bright Futures Scholarship



SOPHOMORE TIMELINE

FALL

- Set-up a free account with collegeboard.org - you can research colleges and prepare for the PSAT/SAT
- Prepare yourself to take the PSAT - link your College Board account to Khan Academy
- Start preparing for the ACT by taking practice tests and studying
- Participate in a college fair/attend a college financial aid workshop
- Get involved with extracurricular and volunteer activities - be a leader inside and outside of school
- Review your PSAT score report and discuss areas that may challenge you, to be prepared for the SAT the following year
- Your GPA counts - stay on track with your courses, and if you are struggling, speak to your teachers or school counselor to explore possible solutions
- With a parent, research and discuss colleges and their costs and take a tour of a local college or university

SPRING

- Begin your search for summer jobs, academic enrichment, and volunteer opportunities early
- Meet with your counselor to discuss summer Dual Enrollment opportunities, Junior year courses and your current GPA
- Plan a challenging course load for your Junior year (AP, AICE, and Honors) and discuss Dual Enrollment opportunities with your counselor

SUMMER

- Along with completing all summer reading assignments create a list of other books to read as well
- Find a summer job that offers valuable work experience and will help you along your path to college and a successful future
- Build your community service hours needed for graduation and the Bright Futures Scholarship



JUNIOR TIMELINE

FALL

- Sign up for the PSAT during lunches at SRHS the end of September
- Continue to stay on track in all of your classes to build up your GPA
- Use your test scores and current GPA to evaluate your college options – make a list and include campus size, location, cost, etc.
- Find out more about college visits around your area and on campus
- Begin researching scholarships <https://www.raise.me/> <https://www.fastweb.com/>
- Look for your PSAT scores in December <https://www.collegeboard.org/>
- Practice the SAT based on weaknesses with www.khanacademy.com

SPRING

- Take at least one practice exam before taking the School-Day SAT in March
- Take the ACT - sign up on www.act.org and practice on <https://academy.act.org>
- Know the dates and locations of all SAT and ACT tests - deadlines pass quickly
- Decide which test is better for you and focus on it - ACT versus SAT
- Make a list of at least three colleges to apply for (dream, reach, and safe school)
- Contact those who may be willing to write a letter of recommendation for you
- Search for scholarships and plan summer college visits
- Apply on time for any summer jobs or internships you might be interested in
- Plan a challenging course load for your senior year - discuss dual enrollment opportunities with your counselor

SUMMER

- Participate in meaningful and valuable educational opportunities, preferably related to your desired major in college
- Keep practicing for the SAT and/or ACT
- Along with completing summer reading assignments, create a list of other books to read as well
- Build your community service hours needed for graduation and the Bright Futures Scholarship
- Start college application essays - finalize resume and essays



SENIOR TIMELINE

FALL

- Finalize your college essays
- Ask references for letter of recommendation so that they can be submitted
- Keep taking the SAT or ACT if needed
- Take the ASVAB test in October to determine your career aptitudes
- Attend the SRCHS College Night in October
- Attend the PBCSD College Fair in October (a lot of out-of-state schools attend)
- Make sure your transcript and records are all up to date
- Familiarize yourself with deadlines for colleges of your choice - November 1st is the early priority deadline for most colleges
- Check www.floridashines.org for Bright Futures eligibility
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) - opens October 1st of senior year <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>
- Complete the Bright Futures Scholarship Application and other state scholarships - opens October 1st of senior year <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org>
- Apply for scholarships and keep track of the deadlines <https://smrh.palmbeachschools.org/scholarshipsandspecialprograms>
- Make sure all community services hours are completed and on your transcript
- Goal - complete all college applications/come up with your after-graduation plan

SPRING

- Maintain second semester grades and be aware of senioritis- if your grades plummet drastically or you make changes to your schedule, colleges can rescind their acceptances
- Watch for admission letter in the mail or email notifications
- Compare financial aid packages
- Make a final choice on which college you will attend and attend orientation
- Look for any summer jobs early
- **GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL!**

SUMMER

- Confirm final transcripts have been sent to the colleges you will attend in the fall
- Confirm AP and AICE test scores have been sent to the college you will attend
- Make preparations for the following school year
- Make sure that everything needed for financial aid is ready to go - check with your college's financial aid office