

Enroll Planning Checklist



Planning to Enroll in a Post-Secondary College or University

Did you know your college application process begins the moment you earn your first high school credit – even if that’s in 8th grade? Meeting only the minimum requirements for high school graduation may not fully prepare you for academic success in college.

If you’re interested in pursuing any college pathway – whether it’s technical training, a 2-year program, or a 4-year university – be sure to let your Secondary Counselor know. They can help you choose the right courses and opportunities to reach your goals.

You can choose the best path for you, or even combine both types of education!

Learn more:

- [2-Year and Technical Colleges](#)
- 4-Year Colleges/Universities (scroll below)
- [SUS Counselor Guide](#)

There are over 20 four-year colleges in the state of Florida alone, and each one has its own criteria for admission decisions and awarding scholarships.

Reach out to your Secondary Counselor to explore a personalized plan that works best for YOU! Remember:

- Use Xello to explore scholarships, colleges, college majors, costs, and admissions expectations. There are surveys to help you learn more about careers related to your personality, goals, and interests!
- Use [College Board](#) as a resource to expand your search.



How?
Personalized
Education Plan
for Each Student

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4-Year Admission Requirements

The 5 main considerations 4-year schools will look for:

- ☐ **Strong unweighted and weighted GPA**
Your grades matter – both your regular GPA and your weighted GPA with advanced classes included.
- ☐ **Rigor of your course load**
Colleges want to see that you've challenged yourself. Taking AP and/or Dual Enrollment classes will make you more competitive and better prepared for college-level work.
- ☐ **Minimum requirements:**
 - ☐ 4 courses in English (at least three with substantial writing)
 - ☐ 4 courses in math (Algebra I and higher)
 - ☐ 3 courses in natural science (at least two with a lab)
 - ☐ 3 courses in social studies
 - ☐ 2 courses in the same foreign language
 - 2 electives
- ☐ **Competitive SAT or ACT scores**
Strong test scores can help your application stand out.
- ☐ **Leadership and life experience**
This includes having a part-time job and/or meaningful involvement in school clubs, sports, or activities. Colleges want students who will be active members of their campus community.
- ☐ **Project-oriented community service**
Volunteering in your community shows initiative and a commitment to helping others.

Admission committees will also consider

1. Strength of your personal statement/essay
2. Strength of your letters of recommendation (at least one should come from a core academic class)

Check out [Florida Shines](#) for additional college admission requirements.

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Building your College List

Set yourself up for academic success! Research admission information for schools you are interested in to identify whether each school is a reach, match, or safety school for YOU.

- Reach - test scores and GPA encouraged for admission are higher than yours
- Match - test scores and GPA encouraged for admission, match yours
- Safety - test scores and GPA encouraged for admission are lower than yours
 - Explore [4 Year Public School in Florida](#)
 - Explore [4 Year Private Schools in Florida](#)
 - Explore Xello dashboard, click schools to search for different colleges and universities sound the country.



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Letters of Recommendation

Not all colleges require or even accept letters of recommendation. Check each school's application materials to determine if a recommendation is required. If they do, think seriously about who will write your letters of college recommendation.

You should have at least **one** letter from a teacher who can speak to your strengths in an academically rigorous course. It's also important to have at least **one** letter from another teacher who knows you well. You should start asking for letters at the end of your junior year.

Requesting Recommendation Steps:

- ☐ Fill out a detailed brag sheet to share with your letter writer if they agree to write you a strong letter of recommendation.
- ☐ If you are asking a counselor, complete the [Common Application Counselor Brag Sheet](#).
- ☐ If you are asking a teacher, complete the [Common Application Teacher Brag Sheet](#).
- ☐ Ask your potential letter writer if they are comfortable writing you a strong letter of recommendation.
- ☐ Give your letter writer a copy of your brag sheet.
- ☐ Give your letter writer at least one month to write your letter.
- ☐ Be sure to thank your letter writer for their time and support.

Mastery
of
Standards

& CAREER
READY

Citizenship WE
Community
Engagement ME

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