

College Guidance Information for Senior Year



EVANGELICAL
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

What to Expect

As your counselors, we will:



- Work on schedules and academic choices
- Make sure students meet academic requirements for graduation
- Organize opportunities to meet college representatives
- Make students aware of scholarship opportunities
- Guide students in college and career choices
- Send transcripts to prospective colleges
- Work alongside and pray for parents and students

What to Expect

As the Parent of a Senior, you will:



- Discuss college options with your student
- Decide what parameters are appropriate for your family
- Visit prospective colleges and universities
- Help your student apply to colleges and universities
- Discuss major and career expectations
- Look for and apply for scholarships
- Fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and the FFAA (Florida Financial Aid Application)
 - For Private Institutions, fill out the CSS (College Scholarship Service) Profile
- Communicate with college admissions offices

Parents...



- Choosing a college is one of the biggest decisions one can make. Pray about it!
- Have an open dialogue with your student.
- Encourage your student to take the initiative in the process.
- I'll do my part, you do your part, and let's stand back and watch your student grow!

What to Expect

As a Senior, you will:



- Think about what kinds of colleges interest you
- Consider what you eventually want to do professionally
- Devise a list of college choices
- Apply through Common App, Scoir, or the college website
 - Write essays
 - Request teacher recommendation letters
 - Request transcripts
- Send the College Counselor any achievements you have completed as an ECS student

What to Expect

As a Senior, you will:



- Take the SAT and/or ACT (ECS Code: 100-512)
 - Send scores to colleges of your choice and a PUBLIC institution if you want to be eligible to receive a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship
 - You can also send your scores directly to Florida Bright Futures as well
- If you are taking AP courses, you will be responsible for sending your AP exam scores to your future college/university.
- Make sure you are receiving the best grades possible!
- Schedule a meeting with the College Counselor!

SAT, ACT, & CLT



- SAT and ACT are very different tests
 - SAT = Verbal & Math (1600)
 - ACT = Verbal, Math, Science, and Writing (36)
 - Note: Science is optional for Florida Bright Futures
 - CLT = Verbal Reasoning, Grammar/Writing, Quantitative Reasoning (120)
- Visit www.collegeboard.org , www.actstudent.org , or cltexam.com to register.
- ECS school code is 100-512.
- ACT and SAT will superscore!
- ACT/SAT Conversion Chart: <https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/act-to-sat-conversion>
- Reminder: add a PUBLIC Florida University in order for Florida Bright Futures to have access to student scores.
 - You can add the university when registering or wait to send the scores until after you have received them

Transcripts

Transcripts are the official record of high school coursework



- Included on your transcript:
 - Demographic information
 - Cumulative GPA (weighted and unweighted)
 - All High School courses taken with semester grades
 - ECS Achievements
 - Community Service Hours
- SAT, ACT, and CLT scores are NOT reflected on your ECS transcript.
 - You are responsible for sending your scores to the colleges and universities that require them.

Transcripts

Transcripts are the official record of high school coursework



- You can request that your transcript be sent to the colleges you are applying to in multiple ways:
 - Send a message to me via Scoir to request your transcript
 - As you apply to colleges in Scoir/Common App, they will populate into the Scoir system, where transcripts can then be sent.
 - You can email me your transcript request directly.
 - Please allow one week for your transcripts to be sent.
- Your transcripts **WILL NOT** be sent **UNLESS** the College Guidance Office receives a request.

Transcripts

Transcripts are the official record of high school coursework



- You will request transcripts three times per year:
 - Initial Transcript - your current transcript, where your courses and grades are reflected through your Junior year
 - Midyear Transcript - in January, when your courses and grades are reflected through the first semester of your Senior year
 - Final Transcript - after graduation
- This means you **MUST** keep your grades up! Senioritis is **NOT** an option!
- Again, please allow one week for your transcripts to be sent.
- Let your College Counselor know where you decide to go to college!
- Please note: if you are taking Dual Enrollment courses, it is your responsibility to request that your SEU transcript be sent to your future college/university.

GPA



- Each college will recalculate your GPA. Each college will recalculate differently.
- Most colleges will only use the following academic courses: English, Math, Science, History, and Foreign Language.
- A recalculated GPA is also sometimes called an Academic GPA.
- Weighted GPA includes Honors, AP, and DE credits. (0.5 for honors, 1.0 for AP and DE)
- Unweighted GPA means Honors, AP, and DE weights are not included. (A=4.0, B=3.0, C=2.0, D=1.0)

Scoir



College Applications



- Using Scoir is a great way to streamline your college search and application process. To apply to multiple colleges at once, you can use Scoir or the Common App, if preferred. These apps allow you to input your personal information one time and send your information to all of the colleges you have listed.
 - If a college does not use Scoir or the Common App, you will need to apply directly on the college's website.
- Spelling, punctuation, and grammar matter on your college applications!
- Never leave a section empty. It will only delay the process.
- Application deadlines:
 - Check each college to see its individual deadlines
 - The traditional deadline is November 1

College Applications

Scoir & Common App Integration



- Scoir is now integrated with Common App!
 - College List In-Sync: If you apply through Common App, I'll be able to see it in Scoir.
 - No More Duplicate Recommendation Requests: Common App will recognize students attending a “Scoir school” and will no longer prompt them to request teacher evaluations and counselor recommendations.
 - Application Flexibility: Students may continue to apply in whichever manner best suits them.
- [“Getting started with Scoir + Common App”](#)
 - The link above can be helpful for students ready to start working on college applications, prior to scheduling a meeting with the College Counselor

College Applications

Early Action versus Early Decision



- Early Action
 - Students can apply early (typically between October 15 and November 15) without making a commitment to attend if they are accepted.
 - You will be able to be accepted to multiple colleges/universities, compare financial aid packages, and then decide whether to commit to a college.
- Early Decision
 - A student who is accepted as an early decision applicant MUST attend the college to which they are accepted.
 - We don't normally recommend this, unless the student and family have decided that one college is their DEFINITE first choice.

College Applications

Extracurricular Activities - list all clubs and activities you have been involved in:



- Mission Trips
- Worship Team
- Student Government
- National Honors Society
- Sentinel Scholar Candidate
- Fine Arts
- Athletics
- Musicals and Plays
- Community Service Hours
- Etc.

College Applications

Teacher Letters of Recommendation



- Fill out a Student “Brag” Sheet to help teachers write the letter of recommendation
 - Students were provided a copy during the Junior Year Spring Workshop, but the College Counselor can provide additional copies upon request
- Allow at least two weeks for a teacher to write a letter of recommendation.
- Scoir is where you will request a recommendation from a teacher.
- If there is an option, choose NOT to view the teacher recommendation.
- Ask the teacher in person and/or via email.
- Note: not all colleges will require letters of recommendation.

Scholarships

Where to look?

- Civic organizations
- Scholarship Websites
- Scholarship groups on social media
- www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search
- <https://www.appily.com/scholarships>
- www.bold.org
- www.fastweb.com
- www.floridashines.org/financial-aid
- <https://www.scholarships.com/>
- <https://collegedebtfree.org/>
- More continued on the next page...



Scholarships

Where to look?



- www.myscholly.com/
 - www.nhs.us/scholarship
 - www.rotaryfortmyers.org/scholarships/
 - www.salliemae.com/scholarships/search
 - www.scholarshipowl.com/
 - www.scholarshipsearch.com
 - <https://bold.org/scholarships/by-state/florida-scholarships/>
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- It is the parents' and student's responsibility to apply for scholarships
 - If I am made aware of a scholarship opportunity, I will keep you informed!
 - Remember, there is always a deadline!
 - Check "Counselors' Hub" for additional scholarship opportunities!

Counselors' Hub Website

August 2026 Launch!



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Counselors' Hub

Link: <https://sites.google.com/goecs.org/counselors-hub/home>

Florida Bright Futures Scholarships



- The Florida Bright Futures Scholarships are funded by the lottery.
- There are two possible Florida Bright Futures Scholarships:
 - Florida Academic Scholars Award (FAS)
 - Florida Medallion Scholars Award (FMS)

Florida Bright Futures Scholarships

Florida Academic Scholars Award (FAS)



- Public institution - award recipients will receive 100% tuition and applicable fees
- Private institution - fixed award amount based on the agreement the institution has with the state
 - Some Christian schools do honor the Florida Academic Scholarship

Florida Bright Futures Scholarships

Florida Academic Scholars Award (FAS)



- Requirements:
 - Weighted Grade Point Average (GPA): 3.5 based on the following courses:
 - 4 English, 4 Math, 3 Natural Sciences, 3 Social Sciences, 2 Foreign Languages
 - GPAs are not rounded. Students either have the required GPA or they do not.
 - SAT score of 1330 (Verbal and Math) AND/OR ACT score of 29
 - AND/OR Classical Learning Test (CLT) score of 95
- Community Service:
 - 100 hours

Florida Bright Futures Scholarships

Florida Medallion Scholars Award (FMS)



- Public institution - award recipients will receive a scholarship that covers 75% of the tuition fees and applicable fees
- Private institution - fixed award amount based on the agreement the institution has with the state
 - Some Christian schools do honor the Florida Medallion Scholarship

Florida Bright Futures Scholarships

Florida Medallion Scholars Award (FMS)



- Requirements:
 - Weighted Grade Point Average (GPA): 3.0 based on the following courses:
 - 4 English, 4 Math, 3 Natural Sciences, 3 Social Sciences, 2 Foreign Languages
 - GPAs are not rounded. Students either have the required GPA or they do not.
 - SAT score of 1190 (Verbal and Math) AND/OR ACT score of 24
 - AND/OR Classical Learning Test (CLT) score of 82
- Community Service:
 - 75 hours

Florida Bright Futures Scholarships



Type	16 High School Course Credits ¹	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year (ACT®/CLT®/SAT®)	Volunteer Service Only	Paid Work Hours Only	Combination of Volunteer/ Paid Hours
FAS	4 - English <i>(three must include substantial writing)</i> 4 - Mathematics <i>(at or above the Algebra I level)</i> 3 - Natural Science <i>(two must have substantial laboratory)</i>	3.50	2026-27 Graduates ² : 29/95/1330 2027-28 Graduates ³ : 29/96/1350	100 hours	100 hours	100 hours
FMS	3 - Social Science 2 - Foreign/World Language <i>(sequential, in same language)</i>	3.00	2026-27 Graduates ² : 24/82/1190 2027-28 Graduates ³ : 25/83/1200	75 hours	100 hours	100 hours

Florida Bright Futures Scholarships



- To receive either of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarships, parents must complete and submit the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) at:
 - www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org and click the link for “State Grants, Scholarships, and Applications”
 - Completing this step releases transcripts and test scores to FBF
- The FFAA application opens on **October 1st**, and you must submit your FFAA by **August 31** of the year that you graduate from ECS.
- Your College Counselor will put all of your courses, grades, and service hours in the FBF system
- It is YOUR responsibility to ensure you meet the qualifications (SAT and/or ACT scores, weighted GPA, and service hours).
- FBF will notify the college you choose, and the money will be applied.

Financial Information for College

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



- Parents must submit the FAFSA. It is scheduled to open on **October 1st** and is due by **June 30, 2027**.
- It is available at: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- The government determines your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC).
- **If you do not think you will qualify, please still complete the form!**
- You must fill out the FAFSA to qualify for Federal and State aid. Several colleges (both Public and Private) will want to see the FAFSA completed before deciding to award merit-based aid.

Financial Information for College

College Scholarship Service (CSS) Profile



- CSS Profile is used by many private institutions to provide institutional aid. It collects more detailed financial information to help provide access to additional funding opportunities beyond what FAFSA can provide.
 - Note: The FAFSA is free to apply, while the CSS Profile has a \$25 fee for the initial application. Fee waivers might be available based on family income.
- It is scheduled to open on **October 1st**, and each college will determine its own deadline.
- It is available at: cssprofile.collegeboard.org
 - You can check the website to see whether your future college requires the CSS Profile.

Individual Guidance & College Meetings ECS



- There will be a Sign Up Sheet designated for Senior Guidance Meetings down in Counselors' Corner (outside of Mrs. Bischoff and Ms. Collum's offices) starting TOMORROW. It will be updated every two weeks.
- During our first meeting:
 - I will provide copies of your Transcript and Senior Schedule so you have the official course names and your grades for your college applications.
 - We will create a Common App account for you, if desired.
 - We will navigate the Scoir app and explore college search, selection, and application capabilities.
 - We will also use Scoir to begin requesting transcripts from the counseling office and letters of recommendation from teachers.
- Parents, please encourage your student to sign up for a Senior Guidance Meeting with me!
- Students may not sign up during an academic time.



STARS (formerly known as SSAR/SRAR)

- This is the Student Self-reported Academic Record.
 - It is a website form where students input their courses and grades manually, including their 12th grade courses.
 - You may complete it at any time — before, during, or after applying. It will only be linked to your application after it has been submitted.
- Note: SPARK - UCF's own version of STARS/SSARS



Helpful Websites

- Information on SAT: www.collegeboard.org
- Information on ACT: www.act.org
- Request your transcript to be sent to these Athletic Associations:
 - National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA): www.naia.org
 - National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA): www.ncaa.org
- College and career news: <https://usnews.com/education>
- Choosing a major: www.mymajors.com
- US Department of Education: www.ed.gov

Semester 1: Dates to Remember



- September 10: Christian College Fair (12:50pm-2:22pm)
- September 28–October 2: Homecoming Week
- October 9: First Quarter Ends
- October 20: PSAT & SAT Testing on a School Day
- October 28-October 30: Fall Break (College Visits?)
- November 3: ACT (with Science) on a School Day
- December 17-18: First Semester Exams
- December 18: First Semester Ends

Semester 2: Dates to Remember



- January 5: Start of Second Semester
- January 10-14: Senior Trip
- **March 9: PreACT & ACT on a School Day (pending for seniors)**
- March 19: Third Quarter Ends
- March 22-29: Spring Break
- **TBD: SAT on a School Day (pending for seniors)**
- May 10-11: Senior Exams
- May 12: Last Day for Seniors
- May 13: Graduation Rehearsal 10:00 am
- May 14: 12th Grade Commencement 7:00 pm

SENIOR YEAR GUIDE



SUMMER

- ☐ Schedule college visits.
- ☐ Take the ACT/SAT/CLT as desired.
- ☐ Keep extracurricular and community service efforts going.
- ☐ Research and apply for scholarships.
- ☐ Start brainstorming and drafting college essay.
- ☐ Participate in summer jobs, internships, or volunteer opportunities.

SEPTEMBER

- ☐ Attend Christian College Fair at ECS.
- ☐ Consider attending "College Night" Fair hosted by FSW.
- ☐ Schedule a Senior Guidance meeting with your ECS College Counselor.
- ☐ Work on college applications.
- ☐ Request teacher letters of recommendation (allow teachers at least two weeks to complete letters).

NOVEMBER

- ☐ ALERT: Early Action deadlines are generally November 1!
- ☐ Take the ACT on a school day at ECS.
- ☐ Take the ACT/SAT/CLT as desired.

AUGUST

- ☐ Refine your college list (have a list of at least 3-5 colleges you wish to apply to).
- ☐ Attend the 12th Grade Parent Night at ECS.
- ☐ Complete your college essay.
- ☐ Make sure to have your Scoir login information.
- ☐ Create a Common App account.

OCTOBER

- ☐ Schedule college visits during Fall Break.
- ☐ Take the SAT on a school day at ECS.
- ☐ Take the ACT/SAT/CLT as desired.
- ☐ ALERT: Early Action deadlines approaching!
- ☐ Request Initial Transcripts to be sent to colleges by your ECS College Counselor.
- ☐ Work on college applications.
- ☐ Fill out FAFSA.
- ☐ Fill out FFAA Form for Florida Bright Futures.
- ☐ Complete CSS Profile, if required.
- ☐ Fill out SPARK and/or STARS (Self-Reported Transcript), if applicable.

SENIOR YEAR GUIDE



DECEMBER

- ☐ Study for Midterm Exams!
- ☐ Research and apply for scholarships.
- ☐ ALERT: Regular Decision deadlines are approaching!
- ☐ Double-check college portals to confirm application materials were received.

JANUARY

- ☐ Request Midyear Transcripts to be sent to colleges by your ECS College Counselor.
- ☐ SENIOR TRIP!
- ☐ Update SPARK and/or STARS (Self-Reported Transcript), if applicable.

FEBRUARY

- ☐ Take the ACT/SAT/CLT, if necessary.
- ☐ Research and apply for scholarships.
- ☐ Continue to keep your grades up!

MARCH

- ☐ Take the ACT on a school day at ECS, if necessary.
- ☐ Take the ACT/SAT/CLT, if necessary.
- ☐ Schedule college visits during spring break.

APRIL

- ☐ Take the SAT on a school day at ECS, if necessary.
- ☐ Update the ECS College Counselor on your college/major, trade school, military, or career commitments.
- ☐ Update the ECS College Counselor on scholarship amounts.

MAY

- ☐ Study for Final Exams!
- ☐ GRADUATION!
- ☐ Request your Final Transcript to be sent to the college by your ECS College Counselor.
- ☐ Update SPARK and/or STARS (Self-Reported Transcript), if applicable.

College Counselor Information



You've got this! Praying for each and every one of you!

If you have any questions, please contact:

Mrs. Taylor Bischoff

College Counselor

tbischoff@goecs.org

(239)-936-3319 ext. 1512