

Westwood Christian School

920 11th Street Live Oak, FL 32064

386-362-3735

www.wcsliveoak.com



High School Manual

A Guide for WCS Student Success

A Member of the
Florida Coalition of Christian Private Schools Accreditation (FCCPSA)
& the National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA)

Student Signature/Date: _____

Parent Signature/Date: _____

Welcome to High School at Westwood Christian School!



MISSION STATEMENT

Westwood Christian School's mission is to prepare students through innovative, engaging curriculum, enriching spiritual worship, and extra-curricular activities to impact the world through a life of service to God.

VISION STATEMENT

Westwood Christian School is committed to the education of all students by providing a biblically-based curriculum in a Christ-centered environment with the purpose of fulfilling God's plan.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

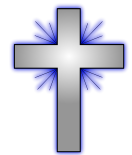
We, at Westwood Christian School, believe the concepts of a true Christian education are:

- God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and Source of truth.
- This truth is revealed in the Bible and personified in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- Education is a Christ-centered, Biblically-integrated process of developing the students spiritually, academically, socially, and physically.
- The ultimate aim of life is conformity to Christ.
- God has given unique abilities to each student. It is the teacher's responsibility to challenge and teach each student according to his ability and academic level.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Westwood Christian School embraces a traditionally conservative position in relation to doctrine and requires teachers and staff members to sign a basic statement of faith as part of the application process. Our position is as follows:

- We believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Bible, that it is infallible, and that it is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 4:8)
- We believe that there is one God eternally existent in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (I John 5:7; II Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 28:19)
- We believe in the deity of Christ, His virgin birth, sinless life, substitutionary death, and bodily resurrection. (Philemon 2:5-8; Romans 5:8; Matthew 1:23; Acts 1:3)
- We believe that all mankind is born with a sinful nature, needing salvation which has been provided freely by the grace of God through faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross and is brought about by the working of the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 2:8; John 16:8; I Corinthians 6:11)
- We believe in a literal heaven prepared for the redeemed to spend eternity and a literal hell prepared for the devil and his angels as well as being the future home of those who reject Christ. (John 14:2,3; Revelation 20:10,15)
- We believe in the bodily return of Christ to the earth. (John 14:3; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Acts 1:11)



MARRIAGE/SEXUALITY/GENDER

- We believe that the term 'marriage' has only one meaning and that is a marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.
- We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other.
- We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual

conduct, any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

- Gender identity is determined by biological sex and not by one's self-perception—a perception which is often influenced by fallen human nature in ways contrary to God's design. (Ephesians 4:17–18)
- We do not believe in “altering the objective, physical reality of our bodies to accommodate the subjective impression of ourselves.” (from The Gospel Coalition)
- WCS will not refer to students by any pronouns other than the pronouns God assigned them at birth.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Westwood Christian School admits students of any race, color, disability, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, disability, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, athletic programs, and other school-administered programs.

ACCREDITATION

FCCPSA Accreditation Westwood Christian School is accredited through the Florida Coalition of Christian Private Schools Accreditation, (www.fccpsa.org) which is a state approved accreditation agency. WCS is also a member of the National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA). Membership enables WCS to be exempt from licensure by the Department of Children and Families. FCCPSA is listed with the Dept. of Education (DOE) and with the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA).

MANDATORY ANNUAL CURRICULUM PLANNING MEETING

All candidates for a Westwood Christian School diploma must have earned a minimum of 24 credits to be eligible for graduation. FCCPSA offers graduation diploma types which are discussed in detail with students and parents each year to determine high school schedules. An appointment will be made by the school secretary for high school students and parents to meet with the WCS High School Curriculum Coordinator during May or June of each year. SAT 10 scores will be reviewed and Remedial classes will be scheduled if needed. Dual Enrollment and/or FLVS classes will be discussed and scheduled if applicable.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is vital in order for a child to derive the most benefits from school. Please contact the office if your child will be absent for more than 2 days. **Any student who misses more than 20 days per school year may jeopardize his/her promotion to the next grade level and/or be recommended to the WCS Board for dismissal after receiving reasons for absences prior to making a decision.**

Students who receive the **Step-Up For Students Scholarships must maintain a good attendance record** to continue receiving those benefits. Any student who misses more than 10 days per semester may not be eligible for promotion to the next grade and may lose their SUFS scholarship.

Students who miss more than 10 days per semester may be reported to the Florida DMV about suspending the student's Driver's Licenses.

Any work missed during an absence should be made up as soon as possible. In the case of pre-planned absences (trips, appointments, etc.), arrangements should be made in advance and assignments requested. Zeros may be assigned to work not completed. If a student misses a regularly scheduled/previously announced test or assignment, he/she is expected to complete the test or assignment the day he/she returns to school. For tests or assignments that are not regularly scheduled/previously announced, the student may have up to three days to complete them. Make-Up work is due on the third day after each day the student was absent. For example, if the student is absent on Monday, the make-up work is due on or before Thursday. If the student is absent on Monday and Tuesday, the Monday work is due on or before Thursday, and the Tuesday work is due on or before Friday.

EXCUSED/UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Excused absences will be granted for the following reasons: school related absences and medical excuses; however, administration may choose to excuse for other reasons. Pre-approval is requested for absences known in advance in writing to administration. Written documentation is required for **all** absences. Any absences not approved by WCS administration are considered unexcused absences.

If a student attends the field trip of a sibling, that student will not be excused. For example, if a 3rd grade student wants to go on the 1st grade Sea World field trip with a sibling, the 3rd grader would not be excused.

ACTIVITY/SPORTS ATTENDANCE

To participate in a contest/performance/sports or practice of any co-curricular activity, the student must be in classes for the whole day. Approved pre-arranged appointments such as funerals, medical, dental or orthodontic appointments will qualify as an exception to this rule. Illness will not qualify as a pre-excused absence. A student present for less than a whole day will need special permission from the principal and/or the athletic coach to participate in that day's activity or practice. Students violating this policy will be ineligible to participate in the activity/sport that day.

EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

Students can not learn if they are not at school. At least every quarter, absences are evaluated by WCS administration. Attendance letters are routinely mailed to parents of students who have accumulated 5 or more absences. Parents are given the opportunity to discuss absences with administration if they choose. **If a student exceeds the 20 day limit for absences**, his/her continued enrollment for the next semester will be evaluated by the WCS Board.

Students who receive the **Step-Up For Students Scholarships** must maintain a good attendance record to continue receiving those benefits. Any student who misses more than 10 days per semester may not be eligible for promotion to the next grade and may lose their SUFS scholarship.

Students who miss more than 10 days per semester may be reported to the Florida DMV about suspending the student Driver's Licenses.

Attendance will also affect participation in Field Trips. If a student has too many absences or tardies, the student may not be able to miss school to participate in a Field Trip.

WCS does not provide homebound instruction for students with medical conditions that require excessive or extensive school absences. The WCS Board will be notified when such a case occurs and a "Special" meeting will convene to determine current/future enrollment.

TARDINESS

Tardiness is defined as being late to class/school. Students who are late to class must go to the **WCS front office** for a tardy slip prior to reporting to class. They are not to enter through side doors. Someone in the office staff will escort your child to class when he/she is late. Please do not walk your child to class unless you have signed in at the office. Five tardies per class equates to one absence. **Repeated tardies may result in a meeting with the Administration.**

EXCESSIVE CHECK-OUTS

Too many check-outs cause students to miss important information such as lectures, presentations, class discussions, reviews, quizzes, tests and more. Repeated check-outs from the same class(es) will result in a "o" for the class. This may result in having to retake the class at the parent's expense or repeating the grade if other low grades are included on the report card.

FCCPSA / Graduation Requirements



⇒ GRADUATION STANDARD FOUR YEAR, TWENTY-FOUR CREDIT (MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS)

4 English: Each with substantial writing, i.e., English I, II, III, IV, or English I, II, III, IV Honors or an AP English, or ENC1102, ENC1102 through dual enrollment

4 Mathematics: To include Algebra I and Geometry. (Required) Additional math options include Algebra II, higher-level math and or any courses assigned the MA course category on www.cpalms.org.

3 Natural Sciences: To include Biology, two must include laboratories. All science credits earned at an FCCPSA accredited school must be taught from a Biblical worldview perspective.

3 Social Studies: Required are: World History, U.S. History, .5 American Gov't, .5 Economics, (Economics must include an integration of Financial Literacy.) All Social Studies credits earned at an FCCPSA accredited school must be taught from a Biblical worldview perspective.

1 Personal Fitness: To include an integration of Health (HOPE)

1 Performing Fine Art or Practical Art: (Or combination of the two.)

2 Bible: One, if the student has only attended the school for one year.

Test Requirements:

Using a nationally normed assessment such as the SAT 10, the student must score in the **40th percentile**, or have a grade equivalent **score of 10.1** or above in the three core academic areas. This includes Total Reading, Total English (Language), and Total Mathematics.

If the ACT or SAT assessment is used, the student must meet or exceed each of the individual scores from each sub test.

SAT:

Critical Reading = 430

Mathematics = 430

ACT :

English = 15

Reading = 17

Mathematics = 19

GPA Requirements: 2.0 on a 4.0 Scale using all credits. No grades below 70% (C) in a core academic area can be counted for credit unless the student has demonstrated mastery in a subsequent course.

(A student who earned a "D" in English II first semester but a "C" in the second would not be required to repeat the first semester half credit. However, a student who earned a "D" in the second semester of World History would have to repeat the semester as there is no "sequential" course after World History.)

(<https://www.fccpsa.org/>)

⇒ COLLEGE PREP/SCHOLARS FOUR YEAR, **TWENTY-FOUR CREDIT (MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS)**



4 English: Each with substantial writing, i.e., English I, II, III, IV, or English I, II, III, IV Honors or an AP English, or ENC1102, ENC1102 through dual enrollment.

4 Mathematics: Algebra I, Geometry, are required, Algebra II is the standard third course. The 4th math must be a "higher level" course. Typical choices for the 4th math include but are not limited to: 1200500 Advanced Algebra with Financial Applications, 1202300 Calculus, MAC1105 College Algebra.

3 Natural Sciences: To include Biology, and one credit in Chemistry or Physics, or one equally rigorous to Chemistry or Physics. All science credits earned at an FCCPSA accredited school must be taught from a Biblical worldview perspective.

3 Social Studies: Required are: World History, U.S. History, .5 American Gov't, .5 Economics, (Economics must include an integration of Financial Literacy.) All Social Studies credits earned at an FCCPSA accredited school must be taught from a Biblical worldview perspective.

2 Foreign Language: Must be sequential, i.e., Spanish I, Spanish II

2 Bible: One, if the student has only attended the school for one year.

1 Personal Fitness: (to include an integration of Health)

1 Performing Fine Art or Practical Art: (Or combination of the two.)

1 Higher Level Elective Recommended: It is recommended that the student complete at least one course through Dual Enrollment or an Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or Advanced International Certificate of Education level.

Test Requirements: Student must meet the requirements from at least one of the tests listed. Sub scores from different tests may not be combined. The student must meet or exceed each of the individual scores from each sub test.

SAT	ACT	PERT	ACCUPLACER
Critical Reading = 460 Writing & Language 25	English = 18	Writing 103	NG Writing 245
Critical Reading = 460 Reading 24	Reading = 19	Reading 106	NG Reading 245
Mathematics = 460 Math 27.5	Mathematics = 20	Mathematics 123	Quantitative Reasoning (QAS) 258 Advanced Algebra Functions (AAF) 200

GPA/Grades Requirements: 3.0 on a 4.0 Scale using the 16 core academic credits. (4-English, 4-Math, 3-Science, 3-Social Studies, 2-Foreign Language. Up to three additional "core" credits can be used for the GPA calculation.)

Students may not have any grades below "C"; (70%) in any of the 24 credits used for graduation.
(<https://www.fccpsa.org/>)

⇒ **ACCEL 18-CREDIT (ACADEMICALLY CHALLENGING CURRICULUM TO ENHANCE LEARNING) (MINIMUM STANDARDS)**



ACCEL options may include, but are not limited to: Enriched science, technology, engineering and mathematics coursework (STEM), enrichment programs, flexible grouping, advanced academic courses, combined classes, self-paced instruction, curriculum compacting, and advanced-content instruction.

4 English: Each with substantial writing, i.e., English I, II, III, IV, or English I, II, III, IV Honors or an AP English, or ENC1102, ENC1102 through dual enrollment.

4 Mathematics: To include Algebra I and Geometry. (Required) Additional math options include Algebra II, or any higher-level math.

3 Natural Sciences: To include Biology, two must include laboratories. All science credits earned at an FCCPSA accredited school must be taught from a Biblical worldview perspective.

3 Social Studies: Required are: World History, U.S. History, .5 American Gov't, .5 Economics, (Economics must include an integration of Financial Literacy.) All Social Studies credits earned at an FCCPSA accredited school must be taught from a Biblical worldview perspective.

1 Performing Fine Art or Practical Art: (Or combination of the two.)

2 Bible: One, if the student has only attended the school for one year.

1 Elective:

Test Requirements: Using a nationally normed assessment, the student must score in the 40th percentile, or have a grade equivalent score of 10.1 or above in the three core academic areas. This includes Total Reading, Total English (Language) and Total Mathematics. If the ACT or SAT assessment is used, the student must meet or exceed each of the individual scores from each sub test.

SAT:

Critical Reading=430

Mathematics=430

ACT or PLAN:

English=15

Reading =17

Mathematics=19

GPA Requirements: 2.0 on a 4.0 Scale using all credits.

No grades below 70% (C) in a core academic area can be counted for credit unless the student has demonstrated mastery in a subsequent course.

(A student who earned a "D" in English II first semester but a "C" in the second would not be required to repeat the first semester half credit. However, a student who earned a "D" in the second semester of World History would have to repeat the semester as there is no "sequential" course after World History.) (<https://www.fccpsa.org/>)

⇒ **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES/GRADUATION**

Waiver of the Standardized Testing Graduation Requirements: Students with disabilities who are working toward a standard high school diploma are expected to participate in and meet the prescribed testing regimen for the diploma type issued.

Florida Statute provides for a waiver of the public-school ELA testing as a requirement for graduation with a standard high school diploma for students with disabilities whose abilities cannot be accurately measured by the statewide assessment after at least two attempts. Although private school students do not use the ELA, mirror policies can be adopted by the private school substituting the institution's Nationally Normed Referenced Testing regimen.

FCCPSA Approved Assessment Policy for Students with Disabilities:



Provided the school has a full phonics based remedial reading program that has been implemented with the student for a full school term then:

A student with a disability for whom the Service Plan (SP) team determines that the standardized assessments cannot accurately measure the student's abilities, taking into consideration all allowable accommodations, shall have assessment results deferred for the purpose of receiving a standard high school diploma.

All 504 Plans do not fall under this deferment. The student's disability, grade achievement in courses, Dual Enrollment classes, or another standardized test such as the ACT, SAT, or PERT will influence the ability to get a waiver for the SAT 10 Graduation requirement. The 504 Plan Team will meet towards the end of the student's senior year to determine if a waiver will apply.

Such disclaimer shall be designated on the student's transcript. The statement of deferment shall be limited to a statement that performance on a standardized assessment was deferred for the purpose of receiving a standard high school diploma. All other graduation requirements remain in effect. (<https://www.fccpsa.org/>)

BIBLE CLASSES

Bible Classes are required to be taken by all students each year at WCS. These classes teach about characters and events in the Old Testament and New Testament, and about the life, teachings, and miracles of Jesus Christ. Students will learn about how to become a Christian and how to live Christian values. Bob Jones Bible curriculum is used to teach high school Bible classes. Students will use Bibles daily. High school students must take 2 Bible classes in order to graduate, but 4 are recommended if it can fit into a student's schedule. As a Christian school, we prefer our students to take part in Bible class every year. Part-time/Homeschool students are allowed to participate in these courses if there is room.

ELECTIVES

All grades participate in elective classes. They vary by age group and can change year-to-year. Art, chorus, and Journalism are offered for high school students. Part-time/Homeschool students are allowed to participate in these courses if there is room. Full-time students get first priority because those classes are small.

ADDITIONAL CLASSES / CREDIT RECOVERY CLASSES

Students that wish to take additional classes through FLVS will be paid for by the parent/guardian. These include electives or academic courses that are taken in addition to the 7 period day.

For high school students that need to retake a class because of a D or F via FLVS, the Pearson Credit Recovery Program, PACES, or any other program; the class(es) must be paid in full by the parent/guardian.

FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL CLASSES

FLVS may be taken for elective classes, remedial classes, schedule conflict, or for other reasons as approved by WCS Administration. High School Students are required to complete all FLVS classes at the end of the semester. They do not get extended time to complete a course. Students will **NOT** be on their phones during lab time unless they are speaking with their FLVS teacher. Phones will be put away immediately after the phone call. Students that do not finish their course on time or have an “F” or a “D” may not be allowed to participate in field trips, sports, or any extracurricular activities until the student is back on track.

For 2026-27: COURSES TAKEN THROUGH FLVS INSTEAD OF WITH WCS TEACHERS:

WCS prefers that students take classes with our qualified WCS teachers instead of FLVS courses for the same subject. WCS is a Christian school which employs Christian teachers. We want our students to be taught by instructors that follow our Christian beliefs, therefore WCS classes get priority as they use a Christian curriculum. The only exceptions would be if there is a conflict within the student’s schedule OR if the parent/guardian pays for the class. FLVS classes are \$375 per semester (\$750 for the year), but prices may change from year to year. This rule will go into effect for the 2026-26 school year. On campus, WCS teachers take priority over online teachers.

FLVS Course Tuition

- Course fees are \$375 per half-credit (one segment)
- If a class fits into the student’s schedule, but the student requests an FLVS class, the parent/guardian WILL pay for the FLVS tuition. (If the Administration allows the change.)
- Charges apply to courses the student is enrolled in and/or registered for at the time the scholarship becomes effective; including any courses completed after the scholarship's effective date.

FLVS Refund Policy

Refunds are reviewed and processed by request only, and on a case-by-case basis. Following activation in a course, the student has 14-days during which he or she may withdraw and receive a refund. If the student completes 20% or is active in the course beyond the 14 days and then withdraws, a refund will not be issued. The refund will be issued to the entity or individual from whom the payment was received.

Student Athletic Participation

GRADES

All students who wish to participate in sports at WCS must maintain a 2.0 GPA or higher. No D’s or F’s. Any student falling below this GPA will be placed on academic probation. After the probationary period, if the grades have not improved, the student will be placed on academic suspension and will no longer be allowed to participate in sports for the remainder of the year.

ACTIVITY/GAME ATTENDANCE

To participate in a practice/game of any co-curricular activity, the student must be in classes for the whole day. Approved pre-arranged appointments such as funerals, medical, dental or orthodontic appointments will qualify as an exception to this rule. Illness will not qualify as a pre-excused absence. A student present for less than a whole day will need special permission from the principal and/or the athletic coach to participate in that day’s activity or practice. Students violating this policy will be ineligible to participate in the activity/sport that day. Students should follow the dress-code guidelines as provided by the coaches. **Please refer to the WCS Student Athletic Handbook for more information.**

Dual Enrollment Programs



DUAL ENROLLMENT

There is no charge for Dual Enrollment courses per Florida Statute 1007.271. Colleges provide the textbooks, so there is no out-of-pocket expense by the parent, student, or private school.

High School students that are interested in taking Dual Enrollment courses will meet with the High School Guidance Counselor in May to discuss and plan those courses for the next school year. Requirements must be met in order to participate.

North Florida College

325 NW Turner Davis Drive Madison, FL 32340

850-973-9407

Windy Gamble, Coordinator of Recruitment

Requirements for Dual Enrollment with NFC:

DUAL ENROLLMENT	PERT	ACT	SAT
Students must meet the minimum reading, writing, AND math scores to dual enroll.	Reading 106 AND Writing 103 AND Math 114	Reading 19 AND Writing 17 AND Math 19	Reading 24 AND Writing/Language 25 AND Math 24

Students wishing to enroll at NFC will do so through the NFC Dual Enrollment Portal.

River Oak Technical College

415 SW Pinewood Drive Live Oak, FL 32064 Ph: (386) 647-4200 Fax: (386) 364-4698

JULIE ULMER, Coordinator of Career & Technical Education Student & Community Affairs 386-647-4231

“Established in 1966-67, RIVEROAK Technical College (RTC) is a postsecondary technical training and adult education institution under the authority of the Suwannee County School Board. The 20-acre campus is located in Live Oak, with easy access from U.S. Highways 129 and 90 and Interstates 75 and 10.

Basic skills remediation, GED preparation, and a high school credit program are available through the comprehensive Learning Resource Center. Continuing Workforce Education courses are available to individuals who are already employed and need technical updating or advanced training. Students have access to personal and career counseling, financial aid, employ-ability skills, and job placement assistance.

RTC serves adults, high school students and dual enrollment students. Admission is open to adults who are at least 16 years old and not presently enrolled in a secondary school. Admission is also open to secondary students grades 9-12 as part of a regular secondary credit earning program. RTC also cooperates with private industry who are interested in the Center’s efforts to produce quality graduates.

Any academic requirement, course or program offering, business policy, fee, and/or information contained in this site is subject to change or revocation, without notice.” (<https://rtc.suwannee.k12.fl.us/about-us>)

Testing Information for Dual Enrollment and/or Bright Futures

PERT:

Tests are administered in multiple locations, but we recommend testing at North Florida College. (WCS utilizes NFC for Dual Enrollment purposes.) They allow students to make 2 attempts per semester and administer the test in both the Live Oak and Madison locations. Call to schedule an appointment.

NFC Testing Centers Contact Information:

Live Oak: 386-364-5093

Madison: 850-973-9451

SAT: (www.collegeboard.org)

Tests are administered at Suwannee HS (Center code: 10336) Register a month in advance.

ACT: (www.act.org)

Tests are administered at Suwannee HS (Center Code: 194030) Register a month in advance.

It is the **student's responsibility** to go to the above websites to register, get test information, and take practice tests. These sites offer great practice exercises.

Bright Futures Scholarship

General Requirements

- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen, as determined by the postsecondary institution.
- Complete the FFAA no later than August 31 after high school graduation.
- Earn a standard Florida high school diploma, or its equivalent, from a Florida public school or a registered Florida Department of Education (FDOE) private high school; or complete a home education program.
- Not have been found guilty of, or pled nolo contendere to, a felony charge, unless the student has been granted clemency by the Governor and Cabinet sitting as the Executive Office of Clemency.
- Be accepted by, and enroll in a degree or certificate program at, an eligible Florida public or independent postsecondary institution.
- Be enrolled for at least 6 non-remedial semester credit hours (or equivalent in quarter/clock hours) per term.
- If not funded in the academic year immediately following high school graduation, apply within five years of high school graduation to have your award reinstated.

Bright Futures Volunteer Service and Paid Work Hours

Students must complete a program of volunteer service or, beginning with a high school student graduating in the 2022-23 academic year and thereafter, paid work, as approved by the administrators of a nonpublic school. Each school must establish approved activities and the process for documentation of volunteer service or paid work hours including the deadline by which they must be completed. Students must earn either the required volunteer service, paid work hours, or the combination of 100 total hours.

The student may identify a social or civic issue or a professional area that interests them and develop a plan for their personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area. The student must, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon their volunteer service or paid work experience.



Volunteer service or paid work may include, but is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service or paid work must be documented in

writing (letter or pay stub), and the document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the student performed the volunteer service or paid work.

Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)

Students must APPLY for the scholarship by submitting the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) no later than August 31 after high school graduation. The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) strongly encourages students to complete the FFAA if eligibility requirements have not yet been satisfied or if a student chooses to attend an out-of-state postsecondary institution. If a student does not apply for the scholarship by the deadline, a student cannot receive the scholarship! All eligibility requirements must be met by high school graduation; however, scores of ACT®/CLT®/SAT®/PERT tests taken through August 31 are accepted for evaluation purposes.

After submitting the FFAA, the student is responsible for tracking their application and award status online, keeping OSFA informed of any demographic or institutional changes, and ensuring that funding for an academic year is accurate by contacting their institution's financial aid office.

Once disbursed program funds, the Bright Futures Scholarship will renew automatically each year (up to the scholarship limit) if the student maintains renewal requirements. An annual FFAA is not required to be submitted to renew the Bright Futures Scholarship.

High School GPA

Evaluation for Bright Futures includes an unrounded, weighted high school GPA (calculated to two decimal places) in the 16 college preparatory credits. The following courses are weighted 0.25 per semester course or 0.50 per year course in the calculation of the GPA: Advanced Placement (AP), Pre-International Baccalaureate (Pre-IB), International Baccalaureate (IB), Honors, Pre-Advanced International Certificate of Education (Pre-AICE), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), or academic Dual Enrollment. For example, whereas an 'A' equals 4.00 quality points for an un-weighted course, an 'A' would equal 4.50 quality points for a weighted course. If necessary, students may use two additional credits from courses in the above academic areas, or from AP, IB, or AICE fine arts courses to raise their GPA.

Florida Academic Scholars (FAS)

Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)

Florida high school students who wish to qualify for the Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) award or the Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) award must meet the following initial eligibility requirements:

- Graduate high school from a Florida public high school with a standard Florida high school diploma (high school graduation requirements), graduate from a registered Florida Department of Education private high school, earn a GED, complete a home education program, or graduate from a non-Florida high school if specific conditions are met;
- Complete the required high school coursework;
- Achieve the required minimum high school grade point average (GPA);
- Achieve the required minimum score on either the ACT®, CLT®, or SAT® college entrance exam by August 31 of high school graduation year;
- Complete the required number of volunteer service, paid work hours, or the combination of 100 total hours;
- Submit an FFAA no later than August 31 after high school graduation.

TYPE	16 HIGH SCHOOL COURSE CREDITS	HS 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 (three must include substantial writing 4 - Mathematics (at or above the Algebra I level) 3- Natural Science FMS (two must have substantial laboratory) 3 - Social Science 2 - World Language (sequential, in same language)	3.50	2023-24 Graduates: 29/96/1340 2024-25 Graduates: 29/96/1340	100 hours	100 hours	100 hours
TYPE	16 HIGH SCHOOL COURSE CREDITS	HS 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
FMS	4 - English (three must include substantial writing 4 - Mathematics (at or above the Algebra I level) 3- Natural Science FMS (two must have substantial laboratory) 3 - Social Science 2 - World Language (sequential, in same language)	3.00	2023-24 Graduates: 25/84/1210 2024-25 Graduates: 25/84/1210	75 hours	100 hours	100 hours

High School Course Credits for FAS & FMS

For both FAS and FMS award types, the required coursework aligns with the State University System admission requirements. The world language requirement can be met by demonstrating proficiencies based on scores on Credit-By-Exam Equivalencies or other university approved means. Otherwise, the high school transcript must include a world language “completer” course to show that the world language requirement has been met. Please refer to the Bright Futures Course Table for specific information on which courses count toward FAS/FMS requirements.

College Entrance Exams

Students must meet the scores set in statute for either the ACT®, CLT®, or SAT®.

- The ACT® composite score is the average of the best section scores across the four subject area sections from any test sitting: English, Math, Reading and Science. Composite scores ending in 0.50 will be rounded up to the next whole number.
- The SAT® combined score is the sum of the best Reading (Critical Reading or Evidence-Based Reading and Writing) and Math section scores from any test sitting of the SAT®.
- The CLT® combined score is the sum of the best Verbal Reasoning, Grammar/Writing and Quantitative Reasoning from any test sitting of the CLT® for an Overall Score.
- The ACT®, CLT®, or SAT® exams may be taken an unlimited number of times through August 31 of the high school graduation year (or through January 31 for mid-year graduates).
- Students will be evaluated based on official test scores from the FDOE repository.

To ensure OSFA obtains official test scores:

- o Ensure demographics on your test registration and high school transcript match; and
- o Request your official single sitting test scores be sent to one of Florida's public colleges or state universities when registering for the ACT®, CLT®, or SAT®.

Bright Futures Test Requirements	PERT	ACT	SAT
Students must meet the minimum reading, writing, AND math scores to be eligible for Bright Futures.	Reading 106 AND Writing 103 AND Math 114	Reading 19 AND Writing 17 AND Math 19	Reading 24 AND Writing/Language 25 AND Math 24

Other ways to qualify

Students who have demonstrated academic merit through a recognition program may be eligible for Bright Futures without having to meet one or more of the requirements. Note: Both AICE and IB Diplomas must be earned prior to high school graduation. Confirmations may come from AICE and IB as late as September. Please refer to the table below for how to qualify based on one of the merit recognition programs.

Sending Electronic Transcripts

If the student's high school is able to send secure electronic transcripts, or if the high school contracts with a third-party transcript service, an official transcript may be emailed to: OSFA.Transcripts@fldoe.org.



OSFA does not accept unofficial or photocopied transcripts. Only official transcripts sent to FDOE via this secure method from the originating school may be used for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

Notification of Scholarship Eligibility

Early Evaluations (7th Semester) – Postings may begin in March.

All students whose transcripts are submitted electronically to FDOE for an official early evaluation (based on academic progress in the middle of the last year of high school and test scores for tests taken by January 31) will receive an eligibility or ineligibility determination, with the award status notification posted to their online account. Students cannot lose an award based on early evaluation unless they fail to earn a standard Florida high school diploma from a Florida public or FDOE-registered private high school.

Final Evaluations (8th Semester) – Postings may begin in July.

All students whose final transcripts are submitted following the student's last term in high school will receive an award status notification (eligibility or ineligibility determination) posted to their online account.

NOTE: Students awarded an IB or AICE Diploma will receive notifications of eligibility determination in early fall after a list of IB and AICE Diploma recipients has been received from these respective organizations.

The Process

The award (or ineligibility) determination will be posted to a student's online Financial Aid Recipient History (FARH) screen and is viewable by the student. The FARH shows the following information:

- Award status (eligibility determination);
- Demographic information;
- Postsecondary institution;
- Amount disbursed each semester;

- Spring renewal GPA;
- Hours remaining for the year and for the scholarship; and
- Correspondence posted and/or sent from FDOE.

Deferment of the Scholarship

Students who enlist in the military, or engage in a full-time religious or service obligation lasting at least 18 months may defer the commencement of their scholarship. The five-year renewal period will commence upon separation from active duty or the religious or service obligation. The religious or service obligation provision is only valid for initial funding and does NOT allow a student extension of time if they have already received a disbursement.

Scholarship/Testing Website Addresses

Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome>

Track Application and Award Status <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome>

High School Graduation Requirements <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/graduation-requirements/>

State University System admission requirements found in regulation 6.002
<https://www.flbog.edu/regulations/active-regulations/>

National Merit® Finalists and Scholars <http://www.nationalmerit.org/>

National Hispanic Recognition Program

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat10/scholarships-and-recognition/national-hispanic-recognitionprogram>

Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) - Diploma

<http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-andqualifications/cambridge-advanced/cambridge-aice-diploma/>

ACT® <https://www.act.org/> **CLT®** <https://www.cltexam.com>

SAT® <https://sat.collegeboard.org/home>

PERT <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/higher-ed/fl-collegesystem/common-placement-testing.shtml> Florida

Bright Futures Scholarship Program and the Out-of-State Student

<https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/BFOOSGuide.pdf> FDOE

Industry Certifications

<http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/careertechnical-edu-agreements/industry-certification.shtml>

Secure Upload of Documentations to OSFA <https://fldoe.sharefile.com/r-r8992dcdb99948c7a>



Need Help Choosing a College?

Here are 7 Things to Consider:

1. Degree Programs

"What do you want to study in college? Answering that question is the fastest way to narrow your college search. Students interested in unique majors like poultry science or video game design will find that some schools do not offer courses in their field. For students planning to pursue popular majors like business, nursing, and engineering, check school rankings in those fields.

2. Affordability

For many students, cost is a major factor in the college search. When it comes time to pick a college, you want to make sure the school fits your budget. The average public university costs over \$20,000 per year, while private universities cost nearly \$45,000 per year. On top of tuition, fees, and room and board, students should also consider the area's cost of living and expenses like transportation, extracurriculars, and entertainment.

3. Location

Some students prefer an urban college in the center of a major city, while others want a rural, small-town college experience. Some students prefer sticking close to home, while others want to explore a new place. Location can affect the cost of college substantially. Students can save thousands by choosing a public, in-state school. Location also affects your ability to receive state financial aid, including grants that support state residents.

4. School Size

Small Campus: Campuses come in many sizes, and some students prefer the feel of a small campus. At a small campus, students can build relationships with faculty and friends. For others, a small campus can feel limiting.

Mid-Size Campus: Mid-size campuses typically enroll 5,000-15,000 students. A medium-size school offers a balance between the intimate feel of a small school and the variety of activities and sports at a large campus.

Large Campus: A large campus generally means more than 15,000 students. While a large campus can be overwhelming for some students, others see it as an opportunity to explore and meet many different people. Large universities also tend to offer more specialized classes, unique majors, and research opportunities.

5. Extracurriculars

College isn't only about the classroom, so your college criteria should include extracurriculars. Some schools even offer scholarships for students based on extracurricular interests. Undergraduates can join fraternities or sororities to participate in Greek life. Most universities have athletics programs. Many schools also offer more niche sports, like golf, lacrosse, or crew. Choir or debate team, volunteer opportunities, or theater productions, special interest clubs for things like cooking or film studies could be options. .



6. Prestige

For some students, prestige is an important factor during the college search. Earning a degree from a prestigious college can help alumni in the job market or when applying to graduate programs. A school's academic reputation can tell you about the value of your future degree.

7. Education Statistics

College brochures do not always tell the whole story. Prospective students need to research colleges. Start with data on admissions, retention, and graduation rates. This information reveals the school's selectivity and the availability of student support services. Consider financial information, including the percentage of students who receive financial aid. Finally, research student outcomes. How many students pass certification exams in their field? What is the school's job placement record? How many alumni believe they received a strong education? "

<https://thebestschools.org/resources/how-to-pick-a-college/>

What About Trade School?

“The initial cost of attending trade school is one of the biggest benefits this type of education has to offer. Where the average cost of attending a public, four year school worked out to \$10,740 for in-state students during the 2021-22 school year per *CollegeBoard* figures, you can attend trade school for as little as \$5,000 per year. Not only that, but you can often learn a trade and enter a related profession in 18 months to 24 months.

While trade school costs less in general, and while trades typically require less than four years of higher education, jobs in various trades also pay more, too. A quick look at May 2020 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates from BLS.gov makes this readily apparent. While there are many different trades and educational paths to consider, here are some of the highest paying trades students could enter plus how many years of higher education they require.”

Career	Education Required	Annual Mean Wage, May 2020
Avionics Technician	Two-year degree	\$69,180
Boilermakers	Apprenticeship	\$67,430
Cardiovascular technologists and technicians	Certificate or two-year degree	\$60,940
Carpenters	Apprenticeship	\$54,200
Dental Hygienists	Two-year degree	\$78,050
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	Two-year degree	\$77,790
Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	Apprenticeship	\$74,410
Elevator and Escalator Installers and Repairers	Apprenticeship	\$86,200
Occupational Therapy Assistants	Two-year degree	\$63,420
Pile Driver Operator	Apprenticeship	\$71,880
Plumbers	Apprenticeship	\$61,100
Radiation Therapists	Two-year degree	\$94,300
Respiratory Therapists	Two-year degree	\$65,640

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/robertfarrington/2022/02/21/trade-schools-vs-traditional-college-what-you-should-know/?sh=1d687f577638>

WCS is here to help! Come and see the Counselor or an Administrator!

Westwood Christian School

HIGH SCHOOL CAREER AND COLLEGE TRACKING FORM

Name of Student:

Graduation Year:

9th Grade Interview Date:

Interests:

Future plan/ideas:

Track: Circle: College Technical School Military Other

FLVS Classes?

Student Signature:

Administration Signature:

10th Grade Interview Date:



Future plans/ideas:

Circle: College Technical School Military Other

Dual Enrollment: Yes No

FLVS Classes?

Student Signature:

Administration Signature:

Westwood Christian School

HIGH SCHOOL CAREER AND COLLEGE TRACKING FORM

Name of Student:

Graduation Year:

11th Grade Interview Date:

Future plans/ideas:

Circle: College Technical School Military Other

Dual Enrollment: Yes No

Which classes have been taken?

FLVS Classes?

Which ones have been taken?

Student Signature:

Administration Signature:



12th Grade Interview Date:

Future plans:

Circle: College Technical School Military Other

Dual Enrollment: Yes No

Which classes have been taken?

FLVS Classes?

Which ones have been taken?

Applied for colleges, technical school, military?

Applied for Scholarships? Which ones?

Student Signature:

Administration Signature: