

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Dr. Eric J. Smith  
Commissioner of Education



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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District School Superintendents  
District School Assistant Superintendents  
School Principals

**FROM:** Dr. Frances Haithcock

**DATE:** December 19, 2008

**SUBJECT:** WEEKLY MEMO

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**K-12 2008-213**

The following table contains Department of Education documents for the week of December 15 - 19, 2008.

Title, Link(s)	Action Required and Due Date
<b>Florida’s Guide to Public High School Graduation 2008-2009</b> <a href="http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5238/k12-2008-203.pdf">http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5238/k12-2008-203.pdf</a>	
<b>2009 Kids Weather Survival Week -- High School Essay Contest</b> <a href="http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5237/k12-2008-211.pdf">http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5237/k12-2008-211.pdf</a>	<b>January 20, 2009</b>
<b>Families Building Better Readers Project</b> <a href="http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5234/k12-2008-207.pdf">http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5234/k12-2008-207.pdf</a>	
<b>School Improvement Plan Requirements for Dropout Prevention and Academic Intervention Programs</b> <a href="http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5236/k12-2008-184.pdf">http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5236/k12-2008-184.pdf</a>	

**DR. FRANCES HAITHCOCK**  
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

<p><b>Instructional Materials No Longer On State Contract After March 31, 2009</b>  <a href="http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5229/k12-2008-197.pdf">http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5229/k12-2008-197.pdf</a> (Memo)</p> <p><a href="http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5230/k12-2008-197a.pdf">http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5230/k12-2008-197a.pdf</a> (Attachment A)</p> <p><a href="http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5231/k12-2008-197b.pdf">http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5231/k12-2008-197b.pdf</a> (Attachment B)</p>	
<p><b>2009-10 Challenge Grants for the Gifted Collaborative Curriculum Projects: Call for Applications</b>  <a href="http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5209/k12-2008-170.pdf">http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5209/k12-2008-170.pdf</a> (Memo)</p> <p><a href="http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5210/k12-2008-170a.pdf">http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5210/k12-2008-170a.pdf</a> (Attachment A)</p>	<p><b>February 20, 2009</b></p>
<p><b>Technical Assistance Meeting for Entities Interested in Becoming a State-Approved Supplemental Educational Services Provider for the 2009-2010 School Year</b>  <a href="http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5235/k12-2008-196.pdf">http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5235/k12-2008-196.pdf</a></p>	<p><b>January 15, 2009</b></p>
<p><b>Title I Comparability Report for 2008-2009</b>  <a href="http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5239/k12-2008-176.pdf">http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5239/k12-2008-176.pdf</a> (Memo)</p> <p><a href="http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5240/k12-2008-176a.pdf">http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5240/k12-2008-176a.pdf</a> (Attachment A)</p>	<p><b>January 30, 2009</b></p>

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**K-12:** 2008-203  
**Date:** December 3, 2008

Dr. Eric J. Smith  
Commissioner of Education



## Florida's Guide to Public High School Graduation 2008-2009

**Summary:** Florida's Guide to Public High School Graduation contains information for students who are entering grade 9 during the 2008-2009 school year. This brochure may be found online at <http://www.fldoe.org/APlusPlus/pdf/HighSchoolGrad0809.pdf>.

**Contact:** Sara J. Marchessault  
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**Status:**

- New
- Revises and replaces existing Publication: Florida's Guide to Public High School Graduation 2007-2008 and accompanying memorandum.**

Issued by the  
Florida Department of Education  
Division of Public Schools  
Bureau of School Improvement  
<http://www.flbsi.org>

DR. FRANCES, HAITHCOCK  
*Chancellor, Division of Public Schools*

# Florida's Guide to Public High School Graduation

*It's a Major Opportunity!*

For Students Entering Ninth Grade in 2008-2009



Florida Department of Education 2008



## High School Graduation Programs Overview

If you are the parent of a Florida middle or high school student, this guide is for you. It is designed to explain Florida's high school graduation programs, including two programs that let students graduate from high school in three years. The guide also provides information to help students and their families as they plan and prepare for postsecondary goals, including information on acceleration options and advanced coursework. The guide does not cover the diploma and other graduation options for students with disabilities. For more information, please contact your child's guidance counselor or exceptional student education teacher, or visit [www.fldoe.org/ese/pdf/hs\\_options\\_ese.pdf](http://www.fldoe.org/ese/pdf/hs_options_ese.pdf).

### Choosing a Program

Florida students entering ninth grade in the 2008-2009 school year may choose from the following graduation programs:

- A four-year, 24-credit program
- A three-year, 18-credit college preparatory program
- A three-year, 18-credit career preparatory program

All of these graduation paths include opportunities to take rigorous academic courses designed to prepare students for their future academic and career choices. **All students, regardless of graduation program, must still earn a specific grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale and achieve passing scores on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test® (FCAT) in order to graduate with a standard diploma** (refer to graduation options chart on p. 7).

To assist students and parents with this task, school districts must provide each student in sixth through ninth grade and their parents with information concerning the three-year and four-year high school graduation options, including the respective curriculum requirements for those options, so that students and their parents may select the program that best fits their needs.

The two three-year programs are significantly different than the traditional 24-credit program. The three-year programs are designed for students who are clear about their future goals, who are mature enough to leave high school early, and who are ready to pursue their goals beyond high school. To select a three-year graduation program, students and their parents must meet with designated school personnel to receive an explanation of the requirements, advantages, and disadvantages of each program option. Students must also receive the written consent of their parents.

Students must select a graduation program prior to the end of ninth grade. Each student and his or her family should select the graduation program that will best prepare the student for his or her postsecondary education or career plan.

### ***Four-year, 24-Credit Program – It's a Major Opportunity!***

This program takes the traditional four years to complete high school and requires students to take at least 24 credits in core content areas. Foreign language credit is not required for this program, although it is recommended for community college preparation and is **required** for admission to Florida's state universities. This program requires students to complete certain "Major Areas of Interest" courses. Major Areas of Interest courses allow students to define their interests and use their high school experience to become better prepared for higher education and/or a career. Students who choose this program are required to:

- Complete 12 credits in core content areas
  - 4 English
  - 4 Mathematics
  - 3 Science
  - 3 Social Science
- Complete 1 credit in Fine or Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or specified Practical Arts courses
- Complete 1 credit in Physical Education that includes integration of Health
- Complete 8 elective credits
  - 4 credits in a Major Area of Interest
  - 4 credits in elective courses, which may be combined to allow for a second Major Area of Interest, a minor area of interest (3 credits), individual electives, or intensive Reading or Mathematics intervention courses

See page 7 for more details and to view a comparison chart.

### ***Three-Year, 18-Credit College Preparatory Program***

The requirements of this program are designed to prepare students for entering a postsecondary institution of education. This accelerated graduation program requires fewer credits than the 24-credit program and does not require the student to select a Major Area of Interest. It focuses more on academic courses, which means students take fewer elective courses. Students who select this program are required to:

- Earn 2 credits in a foreign language
- Earn at least 6 of the 18 required credits in specified rigorous courses
- Maintain a cumulative weighted grade point average of a 3.5 on a 4.0 scale
- Earn grades of 3.0 or its equivalent, weighted or unweighted, in each of the 18 required credits for the college preparatory program
- Complete higher-level mathematics courses than the 24-credit program and the three-year career preparatory program
- Satisfy the minimum standards for admission into Florida's state universities  
([www.flbog.org/documents\\_regulations/regulations/6.002.pdf](http://www.flbog.org/documents_regulations/regulations/6.002.pdf))

See page 7 for more details and to view a comparison chart.

### ***Three-Year, 18-Credit Career Preparatory Program***

The requirements of the program are designed to prepare students for entrance into a technical center or community college for career preparation or for entrance into the workforce. This accelerated graduation program requires fewer credits than the traditional 24-credit program and does not require the student to select a Major Area of Interest. It focuses more on academic courses, which means students take fewer elective courses. Students who select this program are required to:

- Earn specific credits in a single vocational or career education program
- Maintain a cumulative weighted grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Earn grades of 2.0 or its equivalent, weighted or unweighted, in each of the 18 required credits for the career preparatory program

See page 7 for more details and to view a comparison chart.

### **Acceleration Options and Advanced Coursework**

Studies show that students who complete a solid academic program in high school, including advanced courses, are more likely to be successful in college. Students in all graduation programs are encouraged to take advantage of advanced course offerings and/or acceleration programs such as:

- Dual enrollment
- Advanced Placement Program (AP)
- International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB)
- Advanced International Certificate of Education Program (AICE)
- International General Certificate of Secondary Education (pre-AICE) Program (IGCSE)
- Florida Virtual School
- Adult Education
- College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)

These options are available to all qualified students, no matter which graduation program they choose.

**Dual Enrollment** allows eligible high school students to enroll in postsecondary courses. They earn credit toward high school graduation and, at the same time, earn credit toward a college degree or technical certificate. All 28 public community colleges and some of the state universities in Florida participate in dual enrollment. Students are permitted to take dual enrollment courses on a part-time basis during school hours, after school, or during the summer term. Dual enrollment students do not have to pay registration, matriculation, or laboratory fees. In addition, text books for dual enrollment are provided to students free of charge. Dual enrollment courses will be weighted the same as courses taught through other acceleration mechanisms.

### ***Advanced Placement Program (AP)***

The College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) Program is a nationwide program consisting of more than 30 college-level courses and exams offered at participating high schools. Subjects range from art to statistics. Students who earn a qualifying grade of three or above on an AP exam can earn college credit, or AP credit, or both, depending on the college or university. Students in Florida's public secondary schools enrolled in AP courses do not have to pay to take the exams. For information, visit [www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html).

### ***International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB)***

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program is a rigorous pre-university course of study leading to internationally standardized tests. The program's comprehensive two-year curriculum allows its graduates to fulfill requirements of many different nations' education systems. Students completing IB courses and exams from six subject groups are eligible for college credit. The award of credit is based on scores achieved on IB exams. Students can earn up to 30 postsecondary semester credits by participating in this program at the high school level. Approximately 56 Florida high schools offer an IB Diploma Program. Students in Florida's public secondary schools enrolled in IB courses do not have to pay to take the exams. For information, visit [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org).

### ***Advanced International Certificate of Education Program (AICE)***

The Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Program is an international curriculum and examination program modeled on the British pre-college curriculum. To be considered for an AICE Diploma, a candidate must earn the equivalent of six credits by passing a combination of examinations at either the full (one credit) Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS) or double (two credits) International Advanced Level (A), with at least one course coming from each of the three curriculum areas. Florida's public community colleges and universities provide college credit for successfully passing the exams. Students in Florida's public secondary schools enrolled in AICE courses do not have to pay to take the exams. For information, visit [www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/aice](http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/aice) and [www.cie.org.uk/docs/qualifications/aice/AICE\\_introduction.pdf](http://www.cie.org.uk/docs/qualifications/aice/AICE_introduction.pdf).

### ***International General Certificate of Secondary Education (pre-AICE) Program (IGCSE)***

The International General Certificate of Secondary Education Program is an international curriculum and examination program designed for 14 to 16 year-old students. Participants who obtain an IGCSE qualification from Cambridge are prepared for further academic success, including progression to the British pre-college curriculum "A-Level" study (AICE Program). Students in Florida's public secondary schools enrolled in pre-AICE courses do not have to pay to take the exams. For information, visit [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk) and click on "Qualifications and Diplomas," then "IGCSE."

### ***Florida Virtual School***

The Florida Virtual School offers high-quality, online high school curricula, including Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Florida Virtual School can be a resource for students with limited access to AP offerings in their traditional schools. For information, visit [www.flvs.net](http://www.flvs.net).

### ***Adult Education***

Many school districts let high school students take courses through their adult education program. Credits earned may be applied to requirements for high school graduation, subject to the local school board's policies. For information, visit [www.fldoe.org/workforce/adult\\_ed.asp](http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/adult_ed.asp).

### ***College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)***

Students with strong content background in a subject area can earn credit through an examination program administered by the college they attend. One such program is the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP). Candidates for the CLEP are postsecondary students who have completed an advanced placement (AP) course but did not take or earn a qualifying score on the AP exam. Other students who have taken several high school courses in one particular subject area may wish to take a CLEP exam when they begin selecting college courses. For more information on CLEP testing sites and dates, contact the admissions or registrar's office at the postsecondary institution in your area or visit [www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/clep/about.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/clep/about.html).

## Making the Right Choice

The right graduation program for a particular student is the one that best fits the abilities, interests, and goals of that individual student. Families should consider the educational benefits of each program and choose the one that will best prepare the student for his or her postsecondary education or career plan. Here are some things that students and families should consider.

- What is the student's postsecondary education and/or career goal?
- Is the student prepared to make a choice about postsecondary education and possible career paths?
- If the student is planning to attend a postsecondary institution away from home, does he or she have the mature decision-making skills needed to make informed, safe choices required for independent living?
- Are three electives enough or is the student interested in taking additional courses to explore their interests?
- Does the student want to participate in sports or other extracurricular activities for four years, or are three years enough?
- Can the student meet admissions requirements for postsecondary education institutions of his or her choice by choosing an 18-credit graduation program?
- Has the family considered expenses and possible financial aid needs that may result from the student starting postsecondary education a year early?
- Is the student going to compete for scholarships that require certain academic core courses, community service experiences, demonstrated leadership skills, or participation in extracurricular activities?
- Has the family considered that the student has the option of taking an additional year of academic or technical courses through dual enrollment or to earn additional advanced placement course credit and/or college credit by choosing the 24-credit program?
- Is the student planning to play college-level sports and needs to meet NCAA course eligibility requirements?
- If the student is enrolled in a prepaid college tuition plan, can the family pay off the balance of the plan a year early?

To help them make this important decision, families are encouraged to contact the guidance counselor or career specialist at their child's school to get more information about graduation programs, financial aid opportunities, accelerated programs, and college or career plans. Students and parents are also encouraged to continue to discuss their plans with the school counselor on a regular basis during the middle school and high school years. Students need to be interested and involved in their academic progress and in planning for their futures in order to ensure that they will be prepared to achieve their postsecondary goals. For more information about graduation programs, contact your child's guidance counselor.

## Points to Remember When Choosing a Graduation Program

- Students who choose a three-year graduation program may still qualify for acceleration programs (e.g., Advanced Placement, dual enrollment, International Baccalaureate, Advanced International Certificate of Education) and for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship if they meet the eligibility and/or admissions requirements for those programs and scholarships.
- Students who choose a three-year graduation program can participate in the National Merit Scholarship Program if they take the PSAT/NMSQT in either the next-to-last year or the last year they are enrolled in high school. Those who take the PSAT/NMSQT in their last year of high school will be entering competition for awards to be offered as they are completing their first year of college.
- Students who choose the three-year program, complete the 18 credits, earn a cumulative weighted GPA (with individual course credit GPA requirements), and pass the FCAT must graduate at the end of the three years. They cannot remain in school for a fourth year. Students will lose a year of potential athletics eligibility by opting for a three-year program. Issues such as continued eligibility for high school athletics or other extracurricular activities should be taken into consideration when making the decision.
- Students who choose a three-year program will automatically move to the four-year, 24-credit program if they do not earn five credits by the end of grade nine or 11 credits by the end of grade ten; do not achieve a score of three or higher on the grade 10 FCAT Writing assessment; do not pass the grade 10 FCAT; or do not meet credit or GPA requirements by the end of their third year. Passing the Grade 10 FCAT is critical.
- Students who meet specified requirements for a comprehensive program of study in career education may be recognized with a career education certification on his or her high school diploma.
- High school credits awarded before ninth grade can be counted toward the required credits for all graduation programs.
- Students must remain in high school at least three years regardless of how many credits they earn before that time.
- Students and parents are required to sign a graduation program option form prior to selecting a three-year program.
- The three-year graduation programs are only available to students who will receive a standard diploma.
- Out-of-state and out-of-country students are eligible for all graduation programs as long as they fulfill the credit requirements, maintain the required GPA, and pass the FCAT.
- Students who complete the three-year college preparatory program must still satisfy minimum academic core credit requirements for State University System (SUS) admissions.
- Students who choose the three-year career preparatory program must take their electives in career and technical education courses.
- Students who plan to apply to an out-of-state or private in-state college or university and who are interested in one of the three-year graduation programs should contact those institutions as early as possible for specific admissions requirements.
- Students who choose a three-year graduation program must be treated equally in all ways with students who choose the traditional 24-credit option, including eligibility for valedictorian or salutatorian ranking, Talented 20, and Bright Futures.

## STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE NINE IN THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR

Subject Area	Graduation Requirements of 24 Credit Program	Graduation Requirements of Three Year, 18 Credit College Preparatory Program <sup>1</sup>	Graduation Requirements of Three Year, 18 Credit Career Preparatory Program
English	4 credits, with major concentration in composition, reading for information, and literature	4 credits, with major concentration in composition and literature	4 credits, with major concentration in composition and literature
Mathematics	4 credits, one of which must be Algebra I or its equivalent <sup>2</sup> , or a higher-level mathematics course	3 credits at the Algebra I level or above from the list of courses that qualify for state university admission (SUS) <sup>3</sup>	3 credits, one of which must be Algebra I
Science	3 credits in Science, two of which must have a laboratory component	3 credits in Natural Science, two of which must have a laboratory component	3 credits in Natural Science, two of which must have a laboratory component
Social Studies	1 credit World History 1 credit American History .5 credit American Government .5 credit Economics	1 credit World History 1 credit American History .5 credit American Government .5 credit Economics	1 credit World History 1 credit American History .5 credit American Government .5 credit Economics
Foreign Language	Not required for high school graduation, but required for admission into state universities	2 credits in the same language or demonstrated proficiency in a second language	Not Required
Fine Arts or Performing Arts, Speech, Debate, or Practical Arts courses specified	1 credit in Fine or Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts (eligible courses specified in Course Code Directory)	Not Required	Not Required
Physical Education	1 credit in Physical Education to include the integration of Health <sup>4</sup>	Not Required	Not Required
Majors, Minors, or Electives	8 credits <sup>5</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 credits in a Major Area of Interest</li> <li>• 4 credits in elective courses, which may be combined to allow for a second Major Area of Interest, a minor area of interest (3 credits), individual elective courses or intensive reading or mathematics intervention courses</li> </ul>	3 credits in electives	3 credits in single vocational/career education program and 2 credits in electives <i>or</i> 3 credits in single career/technical certificate dual enrollment and 2 credits in electives <i>or</i> 5 credits in vocational/career education (including 3 credits in one sequential career/technical education program)
<b>Total</b>	<b>24 credits</b>	<b>18 credits</b>	<b>18 credits</b>
State Assessment Requirements <sup>6</sup>	Passing scores on the Grade 10 FCAT or scores on a standardized test that is concordant with passing scores on the FCAT (ACT or SAT)	Passing scores on the Grade 10 FCAT or scores on a standardized test that is concordant with passing scores on the FCAT (ACT or SAT)	Passing scores on the Grade 10 FCAT or scores on a standardized test that is concordant with passing scores on the FCAT (ACT or SAT)
Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirements <sup>7</sup>	Cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale	Cumulative GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in required courses and a weighted or unweighted grade that earns at least 3.0 points or its equivalent in each of the 18 required credits	Cumulative weighted GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in the required courses and a weighted or unweighted grade that earns at least 2.0 points or its equivalent in each of the 18 required credits

<sup>1</sup> All courses earned toward the three-year, 18-credit college preparatory program must satisfy admission requirements for the State University System (SUS). To determine which courses meet State University System admission requirements, please use the Comprehensive Course Table at [https://www.osaffelp.org/bfiehs/fnbpcm02\\_CCTMain.aspx](https://www.osaffelp.org/bfiehs/fnbpcm02_CCTMain.aspx) or see your high school counselor for assistance. At least six of the 18 credits must be completed in courses that include dual enrollment, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), or specifically listed as rigorous by the Florida Department of Education.

<sup>2</sup> See your high school counselor for assistance with Algebra I equivalents. Courses or series of courses deemed "equivalent" for satisfying the Algebra I graduation requirements are: Algebra I, Algebra I Honors, Algebra Ia and Ib, Applied Mathematics I and II, Integrated Mathematics I and II, and Pre-AICE Math.

<sup>3</sup> Students seeking admission to a State University System institution must complete an additional mathematics academic unit of Algebra I or higher (bringing the mathematics requirements to 4 units) [Rule 6.002, B.O.G.].

<sup>4</sup> For more information on meeting the Physical Education requirement, please visit <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-4461/K12-2007-103.pdf> or see your high school counselor.

<sup>5</sup> Students may revise major areas of interest each year as part of their annual course registration process.

<sup>6</sup> Students must earn passing scores on the Grade 10 FCAT in Mathematics and Reading (or scores that are concordant with the passing scores on the Grade 10 FCAT). Please visit <http://fcats.fldoe.org/pdf/fcatpass.pdf> for additional information on state assessment requirements.

<sup>7</sup> Students in grades 6-8 who take any high school-level course(s) for high school credit and earn a grade of "C", "D", or "F" may replace the grade with a grade of "C" or higher earned subsequently in the same or comparable course(s) in accordance with the district school board's forgiveness policy.

## State University/Community College Admission and Bright Futures Requirements

### State University System Admission Requirements

To qualify to enter one of Florida's public universities, a student must:

- Meet all traditional requirements
- high school graduation with a standard diploma
- grade point average in high school academic core courses
- admissions test scores (ACT or SAT)

**OR**

- Qualify for the Talented 20 program

**OR**

- Be selected through a "student profile assessment" that considers other special factors (e.g., special talents)

**OR**

- Obtain an associate of arts degree from a Florida community college

**The 18 high school credits required for SUS admission are:**

- 4 English (3 with substantial writing)
- 3 Mathematics (Algebra I and above)
- 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
- 3 Social Science
- 2 Foreign Language (in the same language)
- 3 approved electives (in certain combinations)

Students must meet with their counselor to ensure that courses satisfy SUS admission requirements.

### Florida Community College System Admission Requirements

To qualify to enter an associate degree program at one of Florida's community colleges, a student must:

- Graduate with a standard high school diploma

**OR**

- Earn a high school equivalency diploma

**OR**

- Have previously demonstrated competency in college credit postsecondary coursework

**AND**

- Demonstrate achievement of college-level communication and computation skills (often determined by exam or standardized test scores)

For those students interested in non-degree certificate programs, please see an admissions counselor as requirements may vary.

**The 18 high school credits recommended for community college admission are:**

- 4 English (3 with substantial writing)
- 3 Mathematics (Algebra I and above)
- 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
- 3 Social Science
- 2 Foreign Language (in the same language)
- 3 approved electives (in certain combinations)

### Bright Futures Scholarship Requirements for 2012 High School Graduates

Florida Academic Scholars/Florida Medallion Scholars must have:

- 15 credits in college preparatory courses in the following areas:
  - 4 English (3 with substantial writing)
  - 3 Mathematics (Algebra I and above)
  - 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
  - 3 Social Science
  - 2 Foreign Language (in the same language)
- Up to three additional credits from courses in the academic areas listed above and/or AP, IB, or AICE fine arts courses to raise the GPA
- A 3.5 weighted GPA in the above courses; 75 hours of community service; and a minimum score of 1270 on the SAT or 28 on the ACT to be a Florida Academic Scholar (FAS)
- A 3.0 weighted GPA in the above courses and a minimum score of 970 on the SAT or 20 on the ACT to be a Florida Medallion Scholar (FMS)

**Gold Seal Vocational (GSV) Scholars<sup>5</sup> must have:**

- 16 credits in the following areas:
  - 4 English
  - 4 Mathematics (including Algebra I)
  - 3 Natural Science
  - 3 Social Science (American History, World History, American Government, and Economics)
  - 1 Fine Art, Speech, Debate, or specified Practical Art courses
  - 1 Physical Education to include the integration of health
- A 3.0 weighted GPA in above courses (for 4-year diploma)
- 3 career/technical job preparatory or technology education program credits in one career/technical program with an unweighted 3.5 GPA in those courses
- A minimum score listed below on *each* subsection of *either* the CPT or SAT or ACT (*Subsections of different test types may not be combined.*)

CPT: Reading 83/Sentence Skills 83/Algebra 72  
 SAT: Verbal 440/Math 440  
 ACT: English 17/Reading 18/Math 19

<sup>5</sup> College or career preparatory diplomas may be used to qualify for GSV, with appropriate career/technical education electives.

For other ways to qualify, visit: [https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/pdf/bf\\_brochure.pdf](https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/pdf/bf_brochure.pdf).

## Florida Department of Education Resources

**FACTS.org** ([www.FACTS.org](http://www.FACTS.org)) is Florida's free academic advising web site. The site includes services to help students prepare for, and succeed, in school and beyond. FACTS.org makes it easy for public middle and high school students to be involved in their academic and career planning. By establishing a login ID, students can create an Electronic Personal Education Planner (ePEP) that maps out high school coursework according to individual goals. Students can also monitor their progress by running evaluations against transcript information and the requirements for high school diplomas, State University System admissions, Bright Futures Scholarships, and a new federal grant called the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG). FACTS.org services support Florida Department of Education initiatives and legislative reforms. For more information, contact the FACTS.org helpdesk toll-free at (866) 324-2618 or [facts@admin.usf.edu](mailto:facts@admin.usf.edu).

**Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook** is a comprehensive guide designed for Florida's middle and high school guidance counselors. It is intended to help counsel students who will enroll in Florida's postsecondary institutions. The Handbook is updated annually with the most current version available on FACTS.org. Please select "Counselors & Educators" from the home page and look under "Advising Manuals."

**Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)** administers state-funded grants and scholarship programs and federal student loan financial aid programs to assist students with the costs of postsecondary education. For information, visit [www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org) or call toll-free (888) 827-2004.

**Federal Student Aid** web site provides information for families about federal financial assistance for postsecondary education, including application forms and a calculator to help figure college costs and financial need. Visit [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov).

**Talented 20 Program** provides eligible students guaranteed admission to one of the 11 state universities. These students are given priority funding from the Florida Student Assistance Grant Program. For more information on how to qualify, visit [www.fldoe.org/Talented20](http://www.fldoe.org/Talented20) or call the Student Support Services Project office at (850) 922-3727.

**FCAT Explorer** is a free online practice program for Florida's public school students. This system features three practice programs created especially for middle school students: Reading Island, Interactive Library, and Math Navigator. The system includes two practice programs created for tenth grade students: Reading Timeline and Math Timeline. All five programs offer practice for the skills tested on the FCAT and include features to help students get the most from their study time. FCAT Explorer is online, which provides students with the opportunity to use the system on any computer connected to the Internet whether at school, at the library, or at home. Visit [www.fcatexplorer.com](http://www.fcatexplorer.com).

**CHOICES** web site is a comprehensive career information system that uses a flexible approach combining graphics, multimedia, and search strategies to allow students to explore career and educational options. The site includes links to key web sites related to career exploration to help students plan for a career. Visit [www.florida.access.bridges.com](http://www.florida.access.bridges.com).

**Career Voyages** web site provides information and guided support for students in determining the best career path. The site includes Florida-specific information about high-growth jobs with better wages, including new career fields. The site includes video tours for students and an online interest inventory. Visit [www.careervoyages.gov](http://www.careervoyages.gov).

**Major Areas of Interest** web site provides information on major areas of interest, part of new secondary school reform measures aimed at increasing the rigor and relevance of Florida high schools. A link to the approved list of Major Areas of Interest that will be part of high school coursework required for incoming ninth grade students in the fall of 2007 and thereafter is provided. Visit <https://app1.fldoe.org/HSMajors/ListMajorsAndCourses.aspx>.

This document was developed by the Bureau of School Improvement, in collaboration with the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services and other offices in the Department. It is distributed by the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of School Improvement.

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