

Class of 2021 College-Going Senior TO DO list

Robinson PTSA and Robinson Cube, March, 2021

Great news! There is still time to apply to college - colleges with “Rolling Admission” and “Open Admission” are still accepting applications!

- All public state colleges (also called community colleges) have rolling admission and will accept your application anytime before the beginning of the next school year. This means that Hillsborough Community College (HCC), St. Pete College (SPC), Tallahassee Community College (TCC) and Santa Fe College (among others) are still accepting applications! However, classes fill up and some types of financial aid are harder to obtain the later you apply.
- Many public state universities have rolling admission. For example, USF, UCF, FAU, FGCU and more.
- Many private colleges and universities have rolling admission. For example, University of Tampa, Eckerd College, Florida Southern, Florida Institute of Technology are all Florida private colleges with rolling admission.
- Technical Colleges have rolling admission. Examples in Hillsborough County are Erwin, Brewster, Aparicio-Levy.

By choosing to apply to college, you are increasing your earning potential over your lifetime. But, before applying, think hard about your long-term goals:

- Ask yourself what you might want to do with your college degree or certificate. If you aren't sure of your long-term goal, complete some of the assessments on your Naviance account, such as Career Cluster Finder and Career Interest Profiler. You can also get on the website CareerOneStop.org to complete assessments of your interests, values, and skills and get matched with good-fit careers – this is a service provided by the US Dept. of Labor.
- Then, if you are unsure of a career or what you might want to study, other ways to continue exploring include asking yourself - what subjects have you found interesting in high school? What were your extra-curricular activities, jobs, and how have you spent your free time? Who do you admire in a job setting (this can be a family member, parents of friends, even someone on television or social media)

What to do now:

- Begin your college applications to the colleges you've chosen.
- To qualify for federal financial aid, complete your FAFSA by going to <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. Don't forget to get your FSA ID first at <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>
- To qualify for state of Florida financial aid, complete your Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPPRFILE/SAPPRFILE>
- Look carefully at the college's websites Financial Aid tab to see if there might be institutional scholarships you could qualify for.

- Sign up to receive updated scholarship notices from fastweb.com and scholarships.com and unigo.com and careeronestop.org websites for comprehensive scholarship listings.
- Check out Hillsborough Public School's Scholarship Matrix for other scholarship listings at <https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/cms/lib/FL50000635/Centricity/domain/2910/pdf/scholarshipmatrix.pdf>

If you choose to delay going to college, you might be interested in looking at Apprenticeship Programs – An Apprenticeship is a highly structured training system in which the apprentice works full-time (40 hours per week) during the day for a sponsoring employer, learning the skills of the trade (through On-the-Job Training with a journey worker/mentor).

- Apprentices earn a progressive wage - as their skills increase, their wages increase (usually every 6 months). There are both union (joint) and non-union (non-joint) programs.
- A minimum of 144 hours of related instruction (technical subjects related to the occupation) for each year of apprenticeship is required. Most programs utilize local technical colleges or state colleges for the related classroom instruction. Depending on the trade, an apprenticeship can be 1 to 5 years – the average is 4 years. There are no tuition fees for registered apprentices for related instruction provided through local schools. The only costs would be tools, books, and materials needed for the trade.
- Applicants seeking entrance into a registered apprenticeship program must apply to the registered program sponsor. Most programs' minimum qualifications require the following of all applicants – being at least 18 years of age, possess a High School Diploma or a high school equivalency diploma, possess a valid drivers' license and be physically able to perform the work of the trade. Some programs require more, some less.
- Lists of Florida apprenticeships are here <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/apprenticeship-programs>. Another source of information for apprenticeship programs are: <https://www.careersourcetampabay.com/job-seekers/job-search/construction-apprenticeship/>

Many students choose to start by enlisting in the military.

- Read more about Military pathways: <https://todaysmilitary.com/joining>. Options include enlisting, becoming an officer through ROTC, joining the Military Reserves, National Guard, and more.
- Most options require that you take the ASVAB in order to be considered for enlistment. Read more about the ASVAB here: <https://www.asvabprogram.com/>

***** Talk with your school counselor or your College and Career Counselor, Mr. Clay, for more ideas *****