



**BIG FUTURE**  
**INFO SESSION**

**2025-2026**

# AGENDA

Introduction

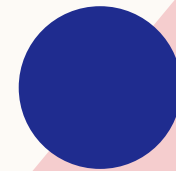
College Search

College Lists

Career Lists

Scholarship Drawings

First Hand Application Tips





**May 2022: Lin from New York**



**June 2022: Cecilia from Pennsylvania**

# WHAT IS BIG FUTURE?

# BIG FUTURE OVERVIEW

BigFuture is a CollegeBoard Organization that helps students plan out their next steps after high school graduation and rewards them for it. By completing a few simple steps, you will be automatically entered into a drawing of two \$40,000 scholarships and hundreds of \$500 scholarships every month.



May 2022: Will from Illinois



July 2022: Abigail from Indiana



**NEW UPDATES:  
BIG FUTURE SCHOLARSHIPS  
ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR  
10TH AND 11TH GRADERS!!**

# WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

Complete at least one of the seven steps when setting up your big future account

- Starting your college List
- Build your career list
- Start your scholarship list
- Strengthen your college list
- Apply to colleges
- Complete the FASFA (seniors only)

That's it!

- No GPA requirement
- No SAT requirement
- No need requirement
- No Citizenship requirement

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Careers Added

## Start Your Career List

Find careers that match your interests.

Find Careers

## LET'S PRACTICE

Create your CollegeBoard Account, find BigFuture and start working on your career list!

-AP students will already have a Collegeboard account

We'll be around to help if you get stuck!

# WHY BIGFUTURE?

1. Has career quizzes to help find careers you might be interested in if unsure
2. Suggests Reach, target, and safety schools, based on your test scores and GPA.
3. Suggests scholarships you meet the requirements for.
4. Free money and automatic entry into BigFuture Scholarships!
5. Streamlines steps and a schedule when preparing for college applications.

Questions? Feel free to ask me about my own BigFuture Experience!

## My Own Experience

How I used BigFuture for my career list.

Career information I found interesting.

How should you use this tool?

## **SENIOR INFO SNEAK PEEK**

- What should you be doing **RIGHT NOW** to make your senior year go smoother?

# **COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TIMELINE**

- If you haven't already, sign up for the SAT and/or ACT. CLT is another option, although not as widely accepted by colleges.
- Continue researching colleges and organize a list of schools to which you plan to apply
- Begin application process as soon as possible-Start in the Summer!
- Complete career interest inventories if unsure of college major
- Complete FAFSA as soon as possible starting Oct. 1st!
- Juniors will receive a free SAT test in March

# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

- Fill out one application and send it to multiple schools
- Common App
  - [www.commonapp.com](http://www.commonapp.com)

Fill Out to the best extent you can with specific details, you have 200 characters to describe each activity:

EX: NHS President- Communicated volunteer events and information to 400+ active members, planned/hosted new member initiation for 120 students. Delegated tasks with 6 officers. Communicated with administration on fundraising and club nationals.

# COLLEGE SEARCH

- College search websites:
  - Xello
  - [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
  - <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>
  - [www.floridashines.org](http://www.floridashines.org)
  - [CollegeVine](#)
  - Many others available
- College visits at BSHS (fall semester)
- College nights (district: Fall)
- On campus visits (offered virtually & in person)

# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

- Getting Organized
  - Compare relevant information side by side
  - Look for the freshman application checklist
  - Use a calendar or planner to keep track of deadlines  
(online calendars are an amazing tool to help keep you on track...make it a habit of putting all important dates in there as soon as you know them...include personal, work, school, extra curriculars, etc...)
  - Create a separate email for all colleges and scholarships- everything will be in one place.

# **COLLEGE APPLICATIONS: WHAT TO EXPECT**

- Student data- GPA, rank, activities, awards, honors, personal info.
- Student essay- Main essay plus supplementals per college.
- Supplemental forms
  - Official transcript
  - SAT/ACT scores
  - School report/counselor rec.
  - Teacher rec.
  - Mid-year school report
  - Final transcript (this won't be due as part of the application...you won't even request these until April)
- Application fee (fee waivers-CollegeBoard)

# COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

- Letters of Recommendation- 1 Stem, 1 Non-Stem
  - Minimum 2 weeks notice
  - Resume or info sheet
  - Teacher, counselor, coach, or mentor (think about your major, ie: STEM major? Should ask a math or science teacher)
- Transcripts
  - Sdhc.scriborder.com
  - Send electronically through Commonapp
- Interviews
  - Location, time, date
  - Who will be conducting the interview?

# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS DECISION MODELS

- Early Decision
  - Apply early (usually by October or November)
  - Receive admissions decision well in advance of the usual notification date
  - Early decision plans are “binding”, meaning if you apply early decision, you agree to attend the college if they accept you
  - You can only apply to one college early decision, but you may apply to other colleges regular decision
  - If you’re accepted under early decision, you must withdraw all other applications

# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS DECISION MODELS

- Should you apply Early Decision?
  - Yes, if:
    - You are very sure of the college you want to attend
    - Your stats (GPA, test scores, etc.) match or almost match those of the average accepted student
    - Financial aid is not a concern
  - No, if:
    - You plan to weigh financial aid offers from multiple schools
    - You're considering several colleges
- Can be deferred in this decision.

# **COLLEGE ADMISSIONS DECISION MODELS**

- Early Action
  - Application is due early and you get an admission decision in the winter or early spring
  - Non-binding
  - You can apply early action to multiple schools, or apply to one school early action and other schools regular decision
  - Can be deferred in this Decision.

# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS DECISION MODELS

- Regular Decision (seats fill up...be careful)
  - Set application deadline in the Fall
  - Not happy with test scores? Should I still apply now? Test optional?
  - Notified of decision by a specified date – usually in March or April
- Rolling Admission
  - No set deadline. Once the school receives all of your application material, they will notify you within a matter of days or weeks.

# ADMISSION TIPS & TAKEAWAYS

- Start your college application and essay early! Don't wait until the last minute!
  - -Opens August 1st, however all common app prompts are the same for next year.
  - Check your portal regularly and ensure you have done all the steps (apply, supplementals, honors application, SSAR, SPARK, CSS, etc.
  - Create a "College Application email" This way you won't lose track of dates, deadlines, and updates!
  - Look into scholarships! There are so many that are simple and not heavily applied for
  - Ask for help! Consult guidance or previous seniors who know the process
  - Save supplemental essays to a drive, you can tweak and reuse them!
  - Keep a record of all achievements and awards so you can easily recall them
- Sophomores!!!
- Get involved!!
  - Keep grades up
  - Take challenging courses
  - Start preparing for big tests (SAT, ACT, CLT) There are so many practice materials you can use, take advantage of that!

# **BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP**

- Bright Futures awards four different scholarships:
  - Academic
  - Medallion
  - Gold Seal
  - CAPE
- GPAs are recalculated using only your academic courses
  - 4 English, 4 Math, 3 Science, 3 Social Studies, 2 Foreign Language
- Add .5 points for weighted classes

# **BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP**

## **2026-27**

- Academic Scholars (100% tuition paid)
  - 1330 SAT or 29 ACT or 95 CLT
  - 100 volunteer hours/paid work hours
  - 3.5 weighted GPA
- Medallion Scholars (75% tuition paid)
  - 1190 SAT or 24 ACT or 82 CLT
  - 75 volunteer hours/paid work hours
  - 3.0 weighted GPA

# **BRIGHT FUTURES STATUS**

- You can now check your Bright Futures eligibility on Xello.
- Displays your academic GPA, highest test scores, and community service once hours have been submitted

# SAT/ACT: HOW DO I REGISTER

- ▶ACT

[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

- ▶SAT

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

- ▶CLT

[The CLT - Online College Entrance Exam - Classic Learning Test \(cltexam.com\)](http://The CLT - Online College Entrance Exam - Classic Learning Test (cltexam.com))

- ▶Links to the SAT & ACT websites can be found on the Bloomingdale Guidance website
- ▶The ACT & SAT are offered on various Saturdays throughout the year, at multiple high schools in Hillsborough county. The CLT is not offered at any HCPS sites for weekend, college reportable testing. Upon registration for that exam, students would elect to take it with a remote proctor or at home with a parent proctor.
- ▶Fee Waivers ([Alternative Income Verification Form](#)) 2 SAT waivers: should be in your CollegeBoard account & 2 ACT waivers)
- ▶Request ACT waivers via the SAT & ACT Waivers Form found in the Guidance module of your Bloomingdale high school resources class or at [bloomingdaleguidance.org](http://bloomingdaleguidance.org) under the “request forms” tab

\*As for SAT, request through your collegeboard account.

\*As for CLT, click on the link for the “financial assistance request form” at [cltexam.com](http://cltexam.com)

–must submit no later than 2 weeks before the registration deadline for the exam

–you can submit 2 requests per year

–If approved, a unique discount code (up to the full amount) will be sent to the email listed on your CLT student account and you can use that code when you sign up for the test.

# SCHOLARSHIPS

- [Bloomingtonguidance.org](http://Bloomingtonguidance.org)
  - BSHS Guidance Scholarship Blog (local/national)
- [Raise.me](http://Raise.me) (follow & add accomplishments ASAP...due dates vary by college)
- [BIG Future scholarships](http://BIGFuture.com) (CollegeBoard)
- [Hillsborough Education Foundation Scholarships](http://HillsboroughEducationFoundation.org) (10/1-1/31)
- Xello
- [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- [www.floridashines.org](http://www.floridashines.org)
- [www.raise.me](http://www.raise.me)
- [www.myscholly.com](http://www.myscholly.com)
- Many others available

# MAJOR AND CAREER SEARCHES

- Xello
- MyCareerShines – [www.floridashines.org](http://www.floridashines.org)
- O\*Net Online – [www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org)
- Collegeboard's BigFuture major and career browser – [www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org)
- ACT Profile – [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
- MyMajors – [www.mymajors.com](http://www.mymajors.com)

# **COMMUNICATION...PAY ATTENTION!!!**

- [Bloomingtondaleguidance.org](http://Bloomingtondaleguidance.org)
- Bloomingtondale high school resources class (on Canvas)
- X (Twitter): @bdaleguidance
- The weekly bulletin (you receive via email...also on Bloomingtondale HS website)
- Guidance bulletin board (to the left of lunchroom)
- Flyers/posters/brochures/papers in Guidance Office



# **THANK YOU FOR COMING!**

Feel free to stick around if you have any extra questions and keep up with the guidance team on social media for updates and important deadlines!