



# Young Women's Preparatory Academy College Bound Newsletter

April 2011

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## MDC Launches American Dream Scholarship, Expanding College Access to Thousands Annually

A college education is crucial to the future of all of students, but many wonder how to make it happen. Through the American Dream Scholarship, Miami Dade College can make the dream of higher education a reality.

Through this program, the College covers the in-state portion of tuition for two years of courses (60 college-level credits) for all Miami-Dade high school graduates who qualify. The American Dream Scholarship is a vital safety net that picks up where other aid and scholarships leave off, ensuring that bright, qualified students have the means to continue their education.

To learn more about the MDC American Dream Scholarship, please go to:  
<http://www.mdc.edu/main/americandream/>

## Important Dates and Deadlines

### **May 1, 2011: (Seniors)**

**FINANCIAL AID DEADLINE FOR FLORIDA FINANCIAL AID** - FAFSAs for the 2011-2012 academic year must be completed by May 1<sup>st</sup> in order to be eligible for financial aid offered by the state of Florida. Seniors must complete their FAFSA by going to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

### **SAT / ACT Testing: (Juniors)**

Register by May 6<sup>th</sup> for the ACT on June 11<sup>th</sup> and by May 10<sup>th</sup> for the SAT on June 4<sup>th</sup>  
**I would like all juniors to finish their SAT/ACT testing by the end of their junior year!!!! just ask a senior why?**

**A limited number of SAT and ACT test fee waivers remain. Please see Ms. Gottlieb**

## May 1st Decision Day

Seniors,

May 1, is rapidly approaching. This is the date that many of you must state your

"I have an open door policy. That means that if the door is open – "come on in" you are welcome anytime."



## College Searches

FACTS.org

College Board:  
ACT:

Princeton Review:

EduPrep:

Search for colleges,  
and scholarships:

College and scholarship  
searches

Knowledge for College:

Art and Design Colleges:

College Accreditation:

Colleges that Change Lives:

Florida Health Careers:

Colleges in the UK:

Virtual College Tours:

College Confidential  
College View

Occupational Outlook  
Handbook

The common Application:

commitment to the institution that you have chosen to attend. If you need any assistance with your decision please feel free to contact, or come and see me.

Remember: Please inform each college that you decide not to attend with a simple notification. This will help to free up students on the wait list for admission.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_;

This is to inform you that I have decided to attend college elsewhere. I would like to thank you for the opportunity of being considered for admission into your fine institution and wish you well with your incoming freshmen class.

Regards,

## Which FAFSA form do I file?

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

<i>Attending College</i>	<i>Use FAFSA Form</i>	<i>Use IRS Income Tax From</i>
<i>Beginning Summer 2011</i>	<i>2010– 2011 FAFSA</i>	<i>2009 Available right now</i>
<i>Then Fall 2011</i>	<i>2011– 2012 FAFSA</i>	<i>2010 Available January 1</i>
<i>Beginning Fall 2011</i>	<i>2011– 2012 FAFSA</i>	<i>2010 Available January 1</i>

Each college sets its own deadline regarding financial aid, but it is in your best interest to file the **FAFSA** (and any other required forms) as early as possible. Colleges have a finite amount of money budgeted for financial aid. **Students who file later risk receiving less aid as colleges approach their budget limits.**

The early bird gets the money--don't delay filing. The ideal way to complete the **FAFSA** is with numbers taken from your completed federal income tax return. Unfortunately, few taxpayers complete their income tax by February (which is when some colleges have their priority financial aid deadlines). If you have the discipline and the information to complete your tax return early (even if you don't actually send the return to the IRS until April 15), you can cut out a few steps in the process.

### QUESTION:

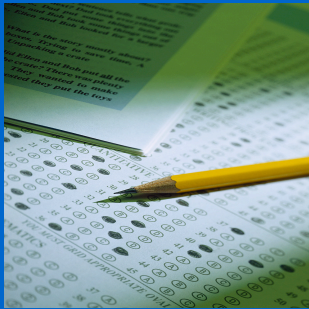
I am beginning college in the summer term of 2011. Can I do the 2010-2011 FAFSA right now using the 2009 IRS income tax returns?

**YES**

## Award Letter Follow-up

For those of you who complete and have not heard from your college yet. I strongly recommend that you call your college to confirm that they have received your Student Aid Report (SAR) This report comes as a result of your FAFSA. This is what the college financial aid office uses to determine how much your family can afford to pay (EFC) and how much financial aid you will need. **PLEASE CALL AND CONFIRM THAT THEY HAVE YOUR SAR AND ALSO ASK THEM WHEN YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR COLLEGE AWARD LETTER.** When you receive your award letter please evaluate it based on COLLEGE COST (MINUS) YOUR EFC (MINUS) YOUR FINANCIAL AID AWARD. This should give you an idea if you need to pay any more for college.

I am very happy to sit down with you or your parent and help you evaluate your award letter. It is the money that will help you determine which college you will select to attend.



## TESTING

Here are some websites that provide SAT and ACT preparation

Number2.com

Max the Test

Princeton Review

### State University Minimums:

SAT:

Math: 460 / Verbal: 460 /  
writing: 440

ACT: 19 Reading  
19 Math

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If you have any favorite websites that you would like to share with us, please e-mail the links to me at:

igottlieb@dadeschools.net

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## Understanding Financial Aid Award Letters

### Questions to Ask College Financial Aid Administrators

The following questions can have a significant impact on college costs, especially the out-of-pocket cost, and on evaluating the financial aid award letter.

1. Does the college meet the full demonstrated financial need for all four years, or is there unmet need (a gap)?
2. How much on average do the college costs increase per year?
3. Does the college practice front-loading of grants? Can students expect to receive a similar amount of grants in subsequent years, assuming their financial circumstances are similar? If the college practices front-loading of grants, how much will the grants change each year?
4. What is the college's outside scholarship policy? How does the college reduce the need-based financial aid package when a student wins a private scholarship? Does the scholarship reduce the loan and work burden (and unmet need, if any) or does it replace the college's grants and scholarships?
5. What are the residency requirements for in-state public college tuition?
6. How many hours will I need to work to earn the full work-study award I've been offered? How much will I be paid per hour? Are work-study jobs readily available, or are they hard to get?
7. What are the requirements for keeping my grants and scholarships in future years? Do I need to maintain a minimum grade point average? Do I need to take a particular number of units? Do I need to participate in any special activities such as community service?
8. How does one appeal for more financial aid if the financial aid award is insufficient or the family's financial circumstances have changed?
9. What percentage of first-time, full-time students graduate within a normal timeframe? How many years, on average, does it take to earn the degree?
10. What percentage of students graduate with debt and what is the average cumulative debt at graduation?

To learn more about understanding award letters, please go to:

<http://www.finaid.org/fafsa/FinancialAidAwardLetters.pdf>

## Junior Year College Search Guide

Gearing up to apply to college next fall takes time and focus. You should be developing concrete lists of college criteria and putting your college priorities in order. [Learn the steps](#) you can take now to get your college search primed to take off.

## Timeline For Juniors – Ms. Gottlieb's Wish List?!?

1. **BEGIN YOUR COLLEGE SEARCH EARLY** (like...right now!!!) Beyond the obvious, get to know what GPA and SAT/ACT score will give you your best chance of being accepted. Make a table of application requirements (essays, recommendation letters, community service, SAT II requirements and so on)
2. **TEST EARLY:** **complete all your SAT/ACT testing by the end of your junior year.** Plan out a strategy as to which tests and what dates to register for. Allow for time to either take a test preparation class or work with a tutor if you find yourself scoring below what you need to get into your dream college.

### Common Application Errors

**"I'll start the application next week."** Don't run out of time to complete the application. Give yourself at least two weeks to find mistakes.

**"I already ran a spell-check on my computer."** Words can be spelled correctly but used incorrectly. Ask a counselor, teacher or family member to proof read the application to catch any errors or poor phrasing.

**"One copy is enough."** Print out any online forms and keep copies of all paperwork.

**"I can send my application as soon as I'm finished."** Before you seal the envelope or click "Send" on your computer, double- and triple-check that you have included all necessary materials.

**Follow-up in two weeks to verify that all mailed materials have been received.**

**"I assume this is right."** If you're confused by a question or any part of the application, ask someone. A quick call to the admissions office can save you from making an embarrassing error



**You must go to Ms. Roundtree to order**

3. **APPLY EARLY:** Students applying in September, October and November have a better chance than those applying in late December, January, February and March (slim chance). Achieving your target GPA and Test scores by the end of your junior year will also allow you to take advantage of Early Decision and Early Action deadlines in October and November.

4. **BEING ACCEPTED EARLY:** By applying early, you may be accepted early. Just think how nice it would be to go to your family parties and dinners in December and tell everyone that you have already been accepted to college!!!

5. **APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID EARLY:** By being accepted early, you can apply for financial aid (FAFSA) early – beginning January 1 of your senior year. "The early bird gets the worm" is so true when it comes to financial aid. **MONEY RUNS OUT!!!!**

6. **EVALUATE YOUR AWARD LETTERS:** If you apply for financial aid early, you will receive your financial aid award letter early. You will now be able to sit down with your parents and go over with them the financial "bottom line" of your final college selection.

7. **YOUR FINAL CHOICE...AND THE WINNER IT!!!:** This whole process boils down to the day you select "the winner". Most colleges would like an answer from you by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Remember not only should you notify the college that you'll be attending "that you're cumin'" but it is also courteous to notify those colleges that you are declining. A nice courteous and thoughtful letter on your part may very well open up a slot for another well deserving student.

And so begins another wonderful and exciting journey in your life.....

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## Colleges of Distinction

From time to time I want to highlight some colleges of distinction that you may have never heard of. Beyond the more popular universities, I would like students to be open-minded with the hope that "the perfect college" for them may not be the one everyone talks about, but the "diamond in the rough" that strikes that chord within. To find more colleges of Distinction go to:

<http://www.collegesofdistinction.com/home>

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## Advice from Current College Students

- Visit a variety of types of schools (big, small, private, public, different geographical locations) during the summer so you'll be sure of what kind of school you want to go to.
- Start early in organizing your application materials. Investigate the application requirements of the colleges you are considering as early as possible. Keep a list of your schools and what you have to send them so you don't miss any deadlines.
- Don't forget to make copies of everything!!!!
- Start early and reduce stress! Apply to rolling admission schools as early in the fall as possible- it makes you feel good to know you're in somewhere, and you have a better chance of being accepted.
- Don't let anyone tell you that you cannot be accepted at a specific college. The worst is you get a "no" or "waitlist" and the best is you get a "yes", but you will never know unless you try.
- Check the Common Application. If more than one school you're going to apply to accepts the Common Application, just do that.
- Be patient and get your applications in on time. Apply where you want and don't let your friends influence you.



Transcripts to be sent to those Colleges you applied to.



**National Association for  
College Admission Counseling**  
*Guiding the way to higher education*



<http://tinyurl.com/24htzg8>

**Sponsored by:**  
**Office of Student Financial**  
**Assistance (OSFA)**  
**Florida Department of**  
**Education**



## Steps to College

Steps to College is NACAC's online newsletter for and about students in the school-to-college transition.

**Resources and Tips as  
You Begin Your College**

- Don't rule out schools just because they're too expensive; you never know what will come through scholarships or financial aid.
- Don't apply early to a school just to be "done with it" if you are not POSITIVE that that is the school for you. There's a school that's right for everyone, you just have to take the time to find it.
- Start looking for scholarship opportunities early. Some scholarship deadlines are before the start of school.
- In your essay, be sure to write about something that is really a part of you, something important. It shows if you bluff.
- If there is an optional essay, do it anyway to show that you are really interested in the college.
- If you are asking teachers for recommendations, give them at least a week so that you do not inconvenience them.
- Have an open mind and go where you feel comfortable.
- Visit the colleges before accepting an offer of admission. Get a feel for the campus.
- I think it is important to spend the night at the schools you are interested in and talk to as many people as possible. Also see what the weekends are like and what the atmosphere of the school is like.

## European Universities vs. American Universities: We Win

on April 9, 2010 in Academic quality, Academics, College Life, Studying overseas

European universities are nothing like American colleges and universities. That's the conclusion that I drew during our family's two-week vacation in Spain and France. We were visiting my daughter Caitlin, who has been attending the University of Barcelona for two semesters.

During the vacation, I kept getting into conversations with Europeans about their universities. I had some knowledge about European universities, but the conversations reinforced what I already believed:

Compared to the European universities, Americans are very, very fortunate to possess their own unique higher-education system.

In Europe, a college education is cheap or even free and offer no frills. In Europe, you won't find the cute liberal arts colleges where the classes are small and the professors are eager to be mentors. In Europe, classes are typically held lecture-style and professors don't consider their roles to be mentors. But size alone doesn't explain the difference. Most Americans, after all, attend large state schools.

At the University of Barcelona and many other European universities, there is no central campus. The university buildings are scattered across the city. Lots of these buildings look more like office complexes. There is no heart of the university. No quadrangle to meet. No dormitories. No sports teams. No mascots.

In a subway in Paris, I struck up a conversation with a young Parisian attorney, who told me that he had gotten his MBA at the University of Chicago. He said he loved going to the University of Chicago and what he really appreciated was being about to touch his professors. I thought it was a curious choice of words, but Caitlin explained that from her experience in Europe the professors stand on raised platforms during lectures and their desk are equipped with see-through panels that separate them from pupils.

## Search

- Surviving Your College Search: The Adventure Begins
- An Internet Road Map for the College-Bound Student
- Career Planning and College Choice
- College Rankings: Helpful or Hurtful?
- Faring Well at College Fairs
- College Visits: A Planning Checklist

## Preparing for College While You're in High School

- Choosing High School Courses for College Success
- Choosing High School Activities Wisely
- MySpace in College Admission

## Choosing the Best-Fit College

- Is a Large or Small College Right for You?
- Career and Technical Colleges: Careers in Focus
- Tips for Visual and Performing Arts Students
- Community College: A Viable Option
- Exercising Your Options: Tips for Student-Athletes

## The College Admission Process

- The Parts of an Admission Folder
- Admission Tech 101: What Students Need to Know
- Early Decision/Early Action: Does the Early Bird Get the Worm?
- Getting Great Recommendations
- Top Ten Tips for Writing the College Essay
- Help with the Writing

I also struck up a conversation with a physician in Great Britain, who had attended the University of Oxford. He said he wished that Great Britain offered liberal arts colleges as they do in The States. At Oxford, he only got one year to pursue a broad array of liberal arts before he was required to only take courses in his major.

We all like to gripe about higher-education in the United States, with cost being the No. 1 complaint. I thought, however, that I'd give everyone a reason to feel fortunate that our children will be receiving their college degrees from institutions in this country.

*Lynn O'Shaughnessy is the author of The College Solution and she also writes a college blog for CBS Money Watch. Follow her on Twitter.*

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## Broward County Public Schools

Atlantic Technical Center: <http://www.atlantictechcenter.com/>

McFatter Technical Center: <http://www.mcfattertech.com/>

Sheridan Technical Center: <http://www.sheridantechical.com/>

## Miami-Dade College

**Vocational / Technical postsecondary training programs** prepare students to enter a specific career or vocation. Programs vary widely in length and complexity. Certificates are awarded after successful completion of specified courses and satisfaction of language and computational skills.

To learn about the types of Vocational / Technical postsecondary training programs that MDC offers, please go to: <https://sisvsr.mdc.edu/ps/sheet.aspx>

**College Credit Certificate Programs** focus on a specific job or set of skills, these programs require fewer credits than an AS degree and are Florida Department of Education Certified College Credit programs. The credits granted will apply towards the related AS degree.

To learn about College Credit Certificate Programs offered at MDC, please go to: <https://sisvsr.mdc.edu/ps/sheet.aspx>

MDC also has a large Community Education Program. To learn more about the classroom and or on-line courses that they offer, please go to: <http://www.mdc.edu/ce/north/?app=10&newwin=Y>

## Broward College

### **Certificate Programs**

Students can complete the Accounting Applications, Business Management, Business Specialist and Office Specialist certificates online at BC. Click these links to view the [Accounting Applications certificate](#) program sheet, [Business Management certificate](#) program sheet, [Business Specialist certificate](#) program sheet and the [Office Specialist certificate](#) program sheet.

The Certificate Program is a quick, comprehensive training for students who want immediate entry into a hot job market upon certificate completion.

Click [here](#) to view all online courses offered at BC. (Page will take a few moments to load.)

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## **Colleges that accept ACT scores in lieu of SAT Subject Tests**

Process

- The Truth About College Interviews
- The Waiting Game: What if I'm Wait-Listed?
- Making the Final Decision

## Financial Aid

- Focus on Financial Aid: An Introduction
- Focus on Financial Aid: How to Apply
- Focus on Financial Aid: Terminology and Words to Know
- Focus on Financial Aid: Resources
- The Scoop on Scholarships
- Financial Aid Basics
- Financial Aid Myths and Misconceptions
- Financial Aid Words to Know

## For Parents

- Off to College? Enter Here: The Changing Parent/Child Relationship
- For Parents: Preparing Your Child for the Social Aspects of College
- Tips for Parents: Countdown to College
- Tips for Parents: Helping Your Child Through College Admission
- Books for Parents of College-Bound Students
- A Parent's Guide to Financial Aid
- Everyone in My Child's Space



[http://www.compassprep.com/admissions\\_req\\_subjects.aspx](http://www.compassprep.com/admissions_req_subjects.aspx) maintains an up-to-date list of colleges that require Subject Tests. An asterisk next to the number of Subject Tests required means that school allows the "ACT Only" option. Whether it is as legitimate an option, especially for mainstream kids, is the subject of much debate in my little corner of the world.

At a glance, the list includes Amherst, Barnard, BC, BU, Brandeis, Brown, Bryn Mawr, Connecticut College, Duke, Johns Hopkins, McGill, Pomona, RPI, Swarthmore, Tufts, Penn, Vassar, Wellesley, Wesleyan, and Yale.

## Study in Britain

**StudyinBritain.Com**, makes available free information to research UK and Irish institutions through an on-line directory. These institutions are very keen to attract US and International Students to their campuses for full degree undergraduate programs and the level of academics in the UK and Ireland is stellar and also provides for a very diverse student body to engage with. There are also some wonderful scholarships available for tuition as well.

<http://www.studyinbritain.com/>

## Combating Senioritis

### Florida State University

Hi there!

We definitely talk about "senioritis" here at FSU. Our freshman enrollment information says this:

**Conditions of Admission:** Your conditions of admission are outlined on the Online Status Check. We will conduct a final review of your application as soon as we receive your final high school and college (if dual enrolled) transcripts. A downward trend in your senior year grades, any senior grade below C, and/or any changes in your senior schedule involving academic courses could result in your offer of admission being rescinded. In addition, if your cumulative college grade point average is below 2.0 (on a 4.0 scale), your admission will be rescinded. You should use the Online Status Check feature to verify the receipt of your final transcript(s).

We also send this email to students who've been admitted:

#### Senioritis I

Congratulations on your admission to Florida State University. This is an exciting time in your life and you should be proud of your academic and extracurricular successes.

After you graduate, please send us a final, official high school transcript with your graduation date and senior grades posted. If you have taken college course work, i.e. dual enrollment, we will also require your college transcript(s). Your final grades will be considered as we finalize your admission to the University.

If you are receiving low grades in your senior courses, you should contact our office immediately. D's or F's in your senior courses and/or in any dual enrollment coursework may result in your admission being rescinded. As you prepare for final exams, please remember that your enrollment at Florida State University is contingent upon successful completion of your senior year!

Typically, I can expect to revoke 30-50 offers of admission every year for poor senior grades or a dual enrollment GPA <2.00.

Let me know if you need more information.  
Have a good weekend!

**Amelia S. Mann, Associate Director**

Florida State University  
Office of Admissions  
282 Champions Way  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-2400  
phone: 850.644.1270  
fax: 850.644.0197  
[www.fsu.edu](http://www.fsu.edu)

## New College of Florida

New College of Florida will rescind admission if a student does not satisfactorily complete their senior year courses as shown on their final high school transcript. I am attaching a copy of our rescind letter as proof of its existence. You can share it with your students, it is just my information at a fictional address so it doesn't break any confidentiality. I hope this helps!

Molly Robinson  
Director of Recruitment  
New College of Florida  
5800 Bay Shore Road  
Sarasota, FL 34243  
[mrobinson@ncf.edu](mailto:mrobinson@ncf.edu)  
[www.ncf.edu](http://www.ncf.edu)

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## University of Central Florida

Isis,

Please let your students know that if they have been admitted to UCF, their admission was based on both what they have academically produced up to this point, as well as what they indicated to us on their undergraduate application that they planned to take in their senior year. We expect students to maintain or exceed the same level of academics relative to what we have seen on their transcripts, and should anything be different from what they originally indicated to us on their applications, it is their responsibility to inform us of any proposed changes. No admission decision is final until a student enrolls, and therefore the Admissions Committee reserves the right to re-review and even rescind any offers of admission based on students either misrepresenting themselves on their applications with differences in their class schedules, or experiencing a sudden drop in their academic performance.

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[www.admissions.ucf.edu](http://www.admissions.ucf.edu)

## University of South Florida

Last year we revoked over 50 positive admission decisions to USF based on poor grades in the second semester senior year. Because we did not receive the second semester



senior year grades for some students until move-in week on campus, some students found out they were no longer admitted to USF while they were moving into the residence halls with their parents. You do not want that to happen to you....

**Bryan Anderson**

Assistant Director

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**There has been too much  
seniorities at YWPA!!!!**