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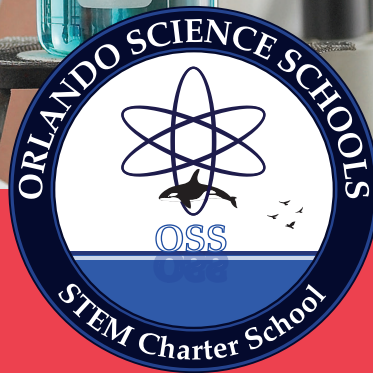
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SCIENCE FAIR

HISTORY
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ORLANDO SCIENCE SCHOOLS
2025-2026
CURRICULUM GUIDE
WITH HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS



Science



Technology



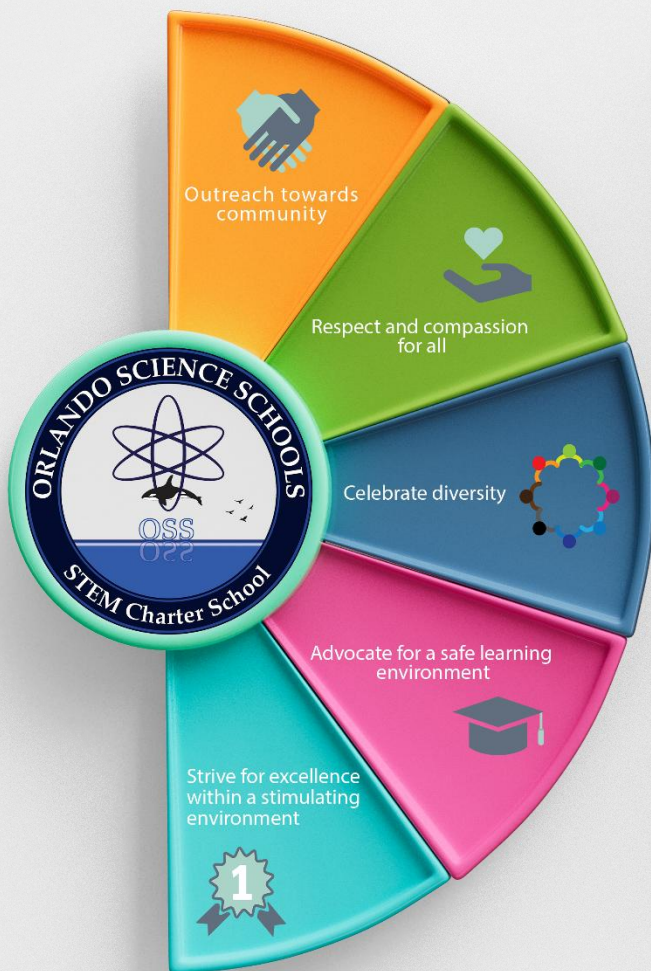
Engineering



Math

STEM

*Go Oreas,
Strive for Excellence!*



O	Outreach towards community.
R	Respect and compassion for all
C	Celebrate diversity
A	Advocate for a safe learning environment
S	Strive for excellence within a stimulating environment

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Message from the Principal



Dear Students:

Welcome to Orlando Science Schools, the proud home of the Orcas! OSS has a tradition of excellence in academics, and we encourage our students to fully engage in our community and make the most of our top-tier STEM focused learning opportunities. The courses you select should not only help you along your path to graduation but also aid in the development of your talents and skills. We do not just want you to succeed- we want you to excel!

The Curriculum Guide is designed to assist parents and students with the course selection process and serves as an important tool for academic planning and reference. We encourage you to spend some time reviewing this guide and invite you to contact our curriculum coordinator and school guidance counselor with questions.

Our team of dedicated teachers, administrators, and staff are eager to assist students in building a strong social-emotional foundation in an academically rigorous learning environment. We hope you are excited about this upcoming school year and look forward to helping you reach your goals!

Sincerely,

Nicholas Koebe
Principal

Phone : (407) 299-6595

Fax : (407) 253-7305

www.Orlandoscience.org

Go Orcas, Strive for Excellence!



Facebook: @Orlandoscience

Twitter: @OrlandoSciMH

YouTube: #orlandosciencesch

General Information

Mission Statement

“The mission of Orlando Science Middle/High Charter School is to provide students with a well-rounded education with special emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) and Reading in the light of research based, proven and innovative instructional methods in a stimulating environment.”

School and Campus Info

Lynx Campus

2427 Lynx Ln.

Orlando, FL 32804

Phone: 407 253 7304

Fax: 407 253 7305

Email: info@orlandoscience.org



High School Technology Campus

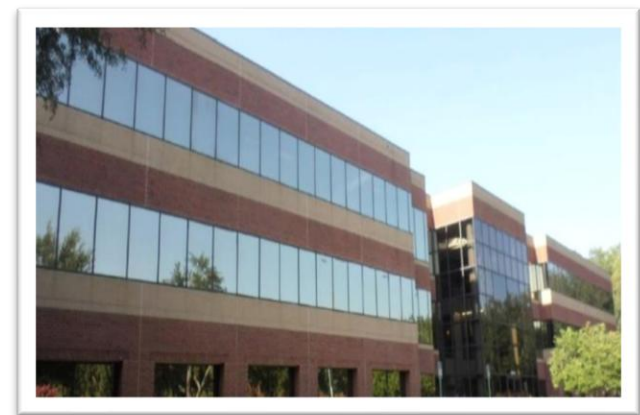
2600 Technology Drive

Orlando, FL 32804

Phone: 407 299 6595

Fax: 407 253 7305

Email: info@orlandoscience.org



Graduation Information

What are the diploma options?

Students must successfully complete one of the following diploma options:

- 24-credit standard diploma
- 18-credit Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) option
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma curriculum

What are the state assessment requirements?

Students must pass the following statewide assessments:

- Grade 10 ELA (or ACT/SAT concordant score)
- Algebra I end-of-course (EOC) or a comparative score

Refer to [Graduation Requirements for Florida's Statewide Assessments](#) for concordant and comparative scores.

Students must participate in the EOC assessments, and the results constitute 30 percent of the final course grade. These assessments are in the following subjects:

- Algebra I*
- Geometry
- Biology I
- U.S. History

* Special Note: 30% not applicable if not enrolled in the course but passed the EOC (credit acceleration program [CAP]).

What is the credit acceleration program (CAP)?

This program allows a student to earn high school credit if the student passes an advanced placement (AP) Examination, a College Level Examination Program (CLEP) or a statewide course assessment without enrollment in the course. The courses include the following subjects:

- Algebra I
- Geometry
- U.S. History
- Biology I

What are the graduation requirements for students with disabilities?

Students, in collaboration with parents and the IEP team, may choose two additional standard diploma options available only to students with disabilities. Both allow students to substitute a CTE course with related content for one credit in ELA 4, mathematics, science and social studies (excluding Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology 1 and U.S. History). The two options are as follows:

- Students with a most significant cognitive disability may earn credits via access courses and be assessed via an alternate assessment.
- Students enrolled in the academic and employment option must earn at least 0.5 credit via paid employment in addition to meeting the standard diploma graduation requirements.



Can a student who selects the 24-credit program graduate early?

Yes, a student who completes all the 24-credit program requirements for a standard diploma may graduate in fewer than eight semesters.

What is the distinction between the 18-credit ACCEL option and the 24-credit option?

3 elective credits instead of 8; Physical Education is not required; Online course is not required. All other graduation requirements for a 24-credit standard diploma must be met (per s. 1003.4282(3)(a)-(e), F.S.).

Where is information on Bright Futures Scholarships located?

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program rewards students for their academic achievements during high school by providing funding to attend a postsecondary institution in Florida. For more information, visit

<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/>.

Where is information on financial aid located?

The Office of Student Financial Assistance State Programs administers a variety of postsecondary educational state funded grants and scholarships. To learn more, visit

<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/>.



Students Entering Grade Nine in 2023-2024 School Year and Thereafter

What are the requirements for the 24-credit standard diploma option?

4 Credits English Language Arts (ELA)
- ELA I, II III, IV - ELA honors, Advanced Placement (AP), AICE, IB and dual enrollment may satisfy this requirement
4 Credits Mathematics
-One of which must be Algebra 1 and one of which must be Geometry - Industry Certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to two mathematics credits (except for - Algebra 1 and Geometry) ** - An identified computer science*** credit may substitute for up to one mathematics credit (except for Algebra 1 and Geometry)
3 Credits Science
- One of which must be Biology, two of which must be equally rigorous science courses - Two of the three required course credits must have a laboratory component - Industry Certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to one science credit (except for Biology)** - An identified computer science*** credit may substitute for up to one science credit (except for Biology)
3 Credits Social Studies
- 1 credit in World History - 1 credit in U.S. History - 0.5 credit in U.S. Government - 0.5 credit in Economics
0.5 Credit in Personal Financial Literacy****
1 Credit Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts*
1 Credit Physical Education*
-To include the integration of health
7.5 Elective Credits
Students must earn a 2.0 unweighted grade-point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale for all cohort years and pass statewide, standardized assessments.
https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7764/urlt/aa flyer-2324thereafter.pdf

Students Entering Grade Nine Prior to 2023-2024 School Year

What are the requirements for the 24-credit standard diploma option?

4 Credits English Language Arts (ELA)
- ELA I, II III, IV - ELA honors, Advanced Placement (AP), AICE, IB and dual enrollment may satisfy this requirement
4 Credits Mathematics*
-One of which must be Algebra 1 and one of which must be Geometry - Industry Certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to two mathematics credits (except for - Algebra 1 and Geometry) ** - An identified computer science*** credit may substitute for up to one mathematics credit (except for Algebra 1 and Geometry)
3 Credits Science*
- One of which must be Biology, two of which must be equally rigorous science courses - Two of the three required course credits must have a laboratory component - Industry Certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to one science credit (except for Biology)** - An identified computer science*** credit may substitute for up to one science credit (except for Biology)
3 Credits Social Studies
1 credit in World History 1 credit in U.S. History .5 credit in U.S. Government .5 credit in Economics with Financial Literacy
1 Credit Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts*
1 Credit Physical Education*
-To include the integration of health
8 Elective Credits
Students must earn a 2.0 unweighted grade-point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale for all cohort years and pass statewide, standardized assessments.
https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7764/urlt/aa flyer-prior2324.pdf

What are the requirements for standard diploma designations?

What are the public postsecondary options?

Scholar Diploma Designation In addition to meeting the 24-credit standard high school diploma requirements, a student must - Earn 1 credit in Algebra II or an equally rigorous course - Pass the Geometry EOC; - Earn 1 credit in Statistics or an equally rigorous mathematics course; - Pass the Biology I EOC; - Earn 1 credit in Chemistry or Physics; - Earn 1 credit in a course equally rigorous to Chemistry or Physics; - Pass the U.S. History EOC; - Earn 2 credits in the same World Language; and - Earn at least 1 credit in AP, IB, AICE or a dual enrollment course. A student is exempt from the Biology I or U.S. History assessment if the student is enrolled in an AP, IB or AICE Biology I or U.S. History course and the student; takes the respective AP, IB or AICE assessment; and earns the minimum score to earn college credit.	State University System Admission into Florida's State University System (SUS) institutions is competitive. Prospective students should complete a rigorous course of study in high school and apply to more than one university to increase their chance for acceptance. To qualify to enter one of Florida's public universities, a first time-in-college student must meet the following minimum requirements (credit earned by industry certification does not count for SUS admission): • High school graduation with a standard diploma, a minimum of a 2.5 GPA and admission test scores meeting minimum college-ready test scores per Board of Governors (BOG) Regulation 6.008 • 16 credits of approved college preparatory academic courses per BOG Regulation 6.002 • 4 English (3 with substantial writing) • 4 Mathematics (Algebra 1 level and higher) • 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab) • 3 Social Science • 2 World Language (sequential, in the same language or other equivalents) • 2 approved electives http://www.flbog.edu/forstudents/planning
Industry Scholar Diploma Designation -Meet the standard high school diploma requirements. -Attain one or more industry certifications from the list established (per s. 1003.492, F.S.) Career and Technical Centers Florida also offers students 49 accredited career and technical colleges or centers throughout the state, which provide the education and certification necessary to work in a particular career or technical field. Programs are flexible for students and provide industry-specific education and training for a wide variety of occupations. http://data.fldoe.org/workforce/contacts/default.cfm?action=showList&ListID=8	The Florida College System The 28 colleges of the Florida College System serve more than 650,000 students. Colleges offer affordable and stackable workforce credentials including certificate programs, associate in science degrees and associate in arts degrees, which transfer to a bachelor's degree program. All colleges also offer workforce bachelor's degree programs in areas of high demand. All Florida College System institutions have open-door admissions for students who earned a standard high school diploma or an equivalent diploma or earned college credit. http://www.fldoe.org/schools/higher-ed/fl-college-system/index.html

2025-26 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Orange County Public Schools 2025-2026 School Calendar

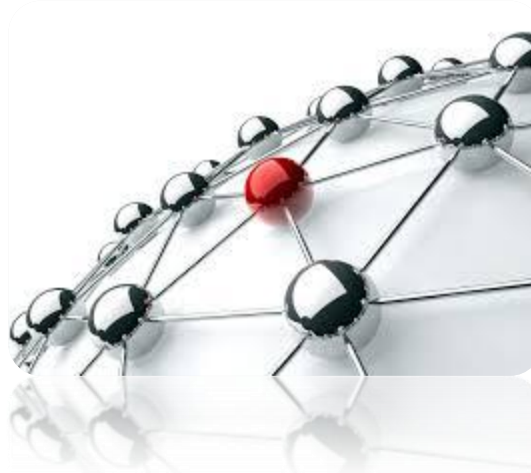
Day(s) of Week	Date(s)	Event
Friday-Friday	August 1-8	Pre-Planning August 6-Professional Development Day
Monday	August 11	First Day of School
Monday	September 1	Labor Day Holiday
Friday	October 10	End of First Marking Period
Monday	October 13	Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Tuesday	October 14	Begin Second Marking Period
Monday-Friday	November 24-28	Thanksgiving Break
Friday	December 19	End of Second Marking Period
Monday-Friday Two Weeks	December 22-January 2	Winter Break
Monday	January 5	Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Tuesday	January 6	Begin Third Marking Period Begin Second Semester
Monday	January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Schools and District Offices Closed
Monday	February 16	Presidents' Day/Teacher Non-Work Day Schools Closed/District Offices Open
Thursday	March 12	End of Third Marking Period
Friday	March 13	Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Monday-Friday	March 16-20	Spring Break Schools Closed/District Offices Open
Monday	March 23	Begin Fourth Marking Period
Friday	April 24	Teacher Professional Day Student Holiday/Teacher Non-Workday
Monday	May 25	Memorial Day Holiday Schools and District Offices Closed
Wednesday	May 27	End of Fourth Marking Period Last Day of School
Thursday-Friday	May 28-29	Post Planning

OSS Student Progress Monitoring System (OSS Connect):

Orlando Science Schools use a web-based student progress monitoring system called OSS Connect (ossconnect.orlandoscience.org). Students and parents have access to the website with a pre-generated username and password. OSS Connect provides the most recent information regarding student progress and a variety of other resources. Parents and students may find the following information on OSS Connect:



- Recent Student Overall Course Grades
- Student Commendations and Behavioral Progress
- Detailed Course Resources, Course Syllabus, Chapter Resources
- Homework and Classwork Soft Copies, Uploaded Lessons of the Day
- Long Term Project Timelines and Resource, such as Science Fairs and History Fairs
- Assignment Calendars for all Courses
- Weekly Student Report E-mails
- Staff Directory
- Orlando Science Event Calendar
- Online Academic Resource Access, such as
 - Naviance
 - Study Island
 - Albert IO- AP Prep.
 - BrainPOP
 - Nearpod
 - Gizmos
 - Pivot Interactives
 - Teachers Pay Teachers
 - Web Assign-AP Prep.
 - Math XL
 - Khan Academy
 - Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Canvas Account
 - E-Books
 - AP Center – College Board
 - SAT Resources



You may go to our website www.orlandoscience.org and click on the OSS Connect tab to login to the site. If you lose your username and/or password, you may contact the front office.

Grading Policies

A student's grades should reflect his or her academic achievement. Every student will have a suitable opportunity to demonstrate academic achievement. A natural consequence of an absence is missing the opportunity to participate in classroom activities. This lack of participation may reflect in a student's grade.

Un-weighted Grading Scale

The grading system and interpretation of letter grades will be as prescribed by state statute (s.1003.437(1-5), F.S.).

- **Courses Higher than Honors Level**

Courses higher than honors level: Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Advanced International Certificate of Education and college or postsecondary technical Dual Enrollment 52 courses, will be weighted as follows: For students entering Grade 9 in the 2006-2007 school year, dual enrollment courses via postsecondary technical programs will be given the same weight as the courses described in this paragraph. Alternative grade calculation or weighting systems that discriminate against dual enrollment courses are prohibited. (s. 1007.271(16), F.S)

- **Weighted Grading Scale**

A weighted grading scale will be used to compute a grade point average to determine eligibility for an honors diploma per state statute (s.1003.437,F.S.). Grade values for the weighted scale are as follows with OCPS grading policy :

Grade	Percent	AP/DE	Honors	Regular	Definition
A	90-100	6	5	4	Outstanding Progress
B	80-89	5	4	3	Above Average Progress
C	70-79	4	3	2	Average Progress
D	60-69	1	1	1	Lowest Acceptable Progress
F	0-59	0	0	0	Failure

OCPS Grading Scale

- **Class Rank**

Starting 2023-2024 school year, OSHS does not plan to report class rank. We believe class rank to be an outdated measure of student success. Due to small class sizes and close weighted GPAs, GPA-based class ranks no longer fully reflect achievement. OSS will determine valedictorian and salutatorian based on AP exam performance.

Orlando Science Schools Parent

Communication: Orlando Science Schools send three types of reports:

- ✓ **Weekly E-mail Report:**

The information in this report is not official or final. It only gives a daily snapshot of the students' grade/assignments and may be different from the one on student portal due to the updates made any time of the day. Parents may check the more detailed information by clicking on any of the course links in the report for the most up to date grade/assignment reports.

- ✓ **Progress Report:**

This report is sent home in the middle of each quarter. The report will give the overall detailed progress of the students in the first half of the quarter.

- ✓ **Report Card:**

This report is an official quarter report. Student grades will be formally reported at the end of each quarter. Behavioral, academic progress and attendance will be reflected on the report card. Two quarter grades make up a semester, and two semester grades are averaged together to determine a final grade in a one credit course. Numerical grades are automatically converted to letter grades using our computer grade book software.

Orlando Science Schools Online Course Enrollment Policy

In Florida, students and their parents have choices when it comes to the student's education. Your family has selected Orlando Science School (OSHS), a charter school of choice, as opposed to participating in other educational choices offered in Florida. Therefore, other choices, such as virtual instruction, may not be available to your student. Certain students may be required or allowed to attend virtual classes. Doing so will be subject to the rules and criteria adopted by OSHS set forth below. Moreover, the specific courses available or approved for virtual instruction are limited by OSHS.

As a charter school of choice, OSHS may, but is not required, to provide virtual instruction through a limited number of Florida Virtual School (FLVS) "seats" which, if available, may be reviewed and distributed on a limited basis by grade level, application request, and course selection. Only certain limited courses will be permitted to be completed through FLVS. The following additional criteria will be reviewed in considering whether to authorize any online instruction courses through FLVS:

- OSHS will allow one such course such as HOPE or Driver Education for all students through FLVS on a one-on-one basis.
- OSHS may approve or require an FLVS course if the course is a graduation or college application requirement, and it cannot be provided by the school in some other way.
- OSHS may approve an FLVS course for credit recovery purposes if the task cannot be completed within the campus. The school may also allow an FLVS course to a transfer student with incompatible transcript if the discrepancies cannot be remedied within the regular OSHS schedule.
- OSHS will not approve any FLVS courses for optional reasons such as "extra challenge", "staying busy over summer", or "boosting GPA".
- Students failing to complete an FLVS course once approved by OSHS, regardless of whether the student was passing or failing the course, will forfeit any future opportunity to register for any additional FLVS courses.
- OSHS students should not register at the FLVS website until their application request has been approved by OSHS.
- OSHS reserves the right to make any necessary changes to this policy in the future to be able to meet any unforeseen need that may arise.

Orlando Science Schools Grade Forgiveness

Under state policy, students who earn a grade of D or F in a class may retake that course or a similar course to improve their grade. The higher grade (C or better) will replace the D or F in the GPA. However, the original attempted grade will remain on the transcript without any effect on the grade average and it will be replaced with the new earned grade. Students who earned a C or below in a course in middle school, may also repeat for grade forgiveness.

Orlando Science Schools High School Student Scheduling

Planning for next year's classes is an important decision involving numerous factors:

- Reviewing student test results, such as EOC, FAST, B.E.S.T., PSAT
- Evaluating the Advanced Placement (AP) test scores
- Considering the previous year's course progression and student performance
- Incorporating teacher recommendations
- Aligning with future career goals and academic information from the administration and guidance
- Adjusting schedules to meet graduation requirements

Student Schedule Change Requirements:	
<u>Changes will be granted for the following errors in schedules:</u>	<u>Changes will NOT be granted for the following reasons:</u>
• Duplicate course	• Desire for a different teacher
• Credit already received for the course	• Desire to take offered course via FLVS
• Course prerequisites not met	• Course credit not required
• Incorrect course sequence	• Desire to raise GPA
• Course needed for graduation not	• Do not like elective
• Incomplete schedule (missing class)	• Failure to earn a passing grade in the course

Parents and students are encouraged to make careful decisions when selecting courses, as schedule changes are done on a very limited basis once school begins. Approval of schedule change request will be subject to course availability and master schedule flexibility. Due to class size and master schedule restrictions, students may not receive one or more of their requested courses despite our best efforts.

Orlando Science Schools High School Programs/Tracks



Orlando Science Schools offer different types of programs to its students. Students will find the most exciting and academically challenging programs in the 2024-2025 Academic Year. The programs offer students unique opportunities for in-depth experiences and study in specific areas of interest. Each program emphasizes a specialized theme. The programs set high expectations for all students to improve their academic achievements and prepare for college careers of the 21st Century. In addition, the programs offer students hands-on and real-world problem-solving approaches to learning.

Orlando Science is proud to offer Project Lead the Way (PLTW) to our students and give them an advantage over their peers in college and their careers. PLTW has a long history of successfully engaging students in STEM subjects, and we believe our community will also see the benefits of PLTW as these students turn into the next generation of highly skilled employees for our local businesses.

Orlando Science offers the below programs to its students.

- ✓ Advanced Placement Academy
- ✓ PLTW Engineering Program
- ✓ PLTW Biomedical Sciences Program
- ✓ Dual Enrollment

The details and course progression of each program is available in this curriculum guide. While all students are encouraged to apply, students must have a strong interest in academic challenges. Students should be willing to set up structured study time and be motivated in order to be successful in these programs.

Orlando Science Engineering Program

Orlando Science offers the Engineering Program (OSEP) for eligible students. The OSEP will cover the *Project Lead the Way* (PLTW) Pathway to Engineering (PTE) program sequence of courses, which follows a proven hands-on, real-world problem-solving approach to learning.

In PLTW Engineering, students engage in open-ended problem solving, learn and apply the engineering design process, acquire strong teamwork and communication proficiency, develop organizational skills, and use the same industry-leading technology and software as are used in the world's top companies.



The new face of engineering requires verbal and written communication skills, in addition to an in-depth understanding of complex mathematics and science concepts. Lessons engage students by using teamwork, problem solving, and the day-to-day practice of the scientific method, which is practiced by engineers every day.

Students investigate topics such as aerodynamics and astronautics, biological engineering and sustainability, and digital electronics and circuit design, which give them an opportunity to learn about different engineering disciplines before beginning post-secondary education or careers.

Orlando Science offers four courses throughout the high school experience:

- ✓ IED-Introduction to Engineering Design
- ✓ POE- Principles of Engineering
- ✓ AE- Aerospace Engineering
- ✓ Computer Integrated Manufacturing
- ✓ Capstone – Engineering Design

Students accepted into OSEP will refer to the following guidelines and select courses that best support individual educational goals. Successful completion of this program enables students to be eligible for various scholarships in the state of Florida.

Requirements of OSEP

Students must meet the following requirements and adhere to high standards in both academics and behavior to be admitted to and continue in the OSEP.

- ✓ 90% Middle School Overall Course GPA
- ✓ Complete Algebra-1 course in middle school.
- ✓ Maintain a 4.0 weighted High School GPA in each year with no grade below a C in engineering courses
- ✓ Complete a minimum of 3 engineering courses
- ✓ Have a good conduct record

Orlando Science PLTW-Engineering Curriculum

In Orlando Science PLTW Engineering, students engage in open-ended problem solving, learn and apply the engineering design process, and use the same industry-leading technology and software as are used in the world's top companies. Students are immersed in design as they investigate topics such as sustainability, mechatronics, forces, structures, aerodynamics, digital electronics and circuit design, manufacturing, and the environment, which gives them an opportunity to learn about different engineering disciplines before beginning post-secondary education or careers.



Orlando Science offers a minimum of four courses: Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, and any specialization course such as Aerospace Engineering, Civil Engineering and Architecture and Digital Electronics or Capstone Course - Engineering Design and Development.

Introduction to Engineering Design

Students dig deep into the engineering design process, applying math, science, and engineering standards to hands-on projects. They work both individually and in teams to design solutions to a variety of problems using 3D modeling software and an engineering notebook to document their work.

Principles of Engineering

Through problems that engage and challenge, students explore a broad range of engineering topics, including mechanisms, the strength of structures and materials, and automation. Students develop skills in problem solving, research, and design while learning strategies for design process documentation, collaboration, and presentation.

Aerospace Engineering

This course propels students' learning in the fundamentals of atmospheric and space flight. As they explore the physics of flight, students bring the concepts to life by designing an airfoil, propulsion system, and rockets. They learn basic orbital mechanics using industry-standard software.

Computer Integrated Manufacturing

Computer Integrated Manufacturing is one of the specialization courses in the PLTW Engineering program. The course deepens the skills and knowledge of an engineering student within the context of efficiently creating the products all around us. Students build upon their Computer Aided Design (CAD) experience through the use of Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM) software. CAM transforms a digital design into a program that a Computer

Capstone Course - Engineering Design and Development

The knowledge and skills students acquire throughout PLTW Engineering come together in Engineering Design and Development (EDD) as they identify an issue and then research, design, and test a solution, ultimately resending their solution to a panel of engineers. Students apply the professional skills they have developed to document a design process to standards, completing EDD ready to take on any post-secondary program or career.

PLTW Engineering – Assessment

Assessments play an important role in providing meaningful feedback to students, teachers, administrators, and PLTW. Through assessments, students identify what they are doing well and what they need help with, and teachers are able to provide individualized direction and guidance to each student.

Students will be able to earn CAPE Certification if they pass the Autodesk and Microsoft Exam packages at the end of the year.

Orlando Science Biomedical Program (OSBP)

Orlando Science PLTW Biomedical Science introduces students to medicine and human body systems, preparing them for careers in medical and health-related fields. The program is a rigorous and relevant four-course sequence that allows students to play the roles of biomedical professionals as they investigate and study the concepts of human medicine, physiology, genetics, microbiology, and public health. Students engage in activities like investigating the death of a fictional person or dissecting a sheep's heart, learning content in the context of real-world cases.



They examine the structures and interactions of human body systems and explore the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases; all while working collaboratively to understand and design solutions to the most pressing health challenges of today and the future. Through PLTW Biomedical Science, students often have the opportunity to earn college credit, admissions preferences, or scholarships for completed courses.

Through hands-on activities, such as dissecting a heart, students are able to examine the processes, structures, and interactions of the human body - often playing the role of real-world biomedical professionals as they undergo their examinations. Students also get to explore topics vital to the medical profession such as prevention, diagnosis, and treatment by working collaboratively to investigate and design innovative solutions to the real-world health challenges of the 21st century, such as fighting cancer with nanotechnology or examining how to react to a global pandemic.

Requirements of OSBP

Students must meet the following requirements and adhere to high standards in both academics and behavior to be admitted to and continue in the OSBP.

- ✓ 90% Middle School Overall Course GPA
- ✓ Complete Algebra-1 course in middle school.
- ✓ Maintain a 4.0 weighted High School GPA in each year with no grade below a C in biomedical courses.
- ✓ Complete a minimum of 3 biomedical courses.
- ✓ Have a good conduct record

Orlando Science PLTW Biomedical Science – Curriculum

The rigorous and relevant four-course PLTW Biomedical Science sequence allows students to investigate the roles of biomedical professionals as they study the concepts of human medicine, physiology, genetics, microbiology, and public health. Students engage in activities like investigating the death of a fictional person to learn content in the context of real-world cases. They examine the structures and interactions of human body systems and explore the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease, all while working collaboratively to understand and design solutions to the most pressing health challenges of today and the future.



Each course in the Biomedical Science sequence builds on the skills and knowledge students gain in the preceding courses. Schools offer the three PLTW Biomedical Science foundation courses within a period of three academic years from the start of implementation and may also offer the capstone course.

Principles of Biomedical Science

In the introductory course of the PLTW Biomedical Science program, students explore concepts of biology and medicine to determine factors that lead to the death of a fictional person. While investigating the case, students examine autopsy reports, investigate medical history, and explore medical treatments that might have prolonged the person's life.

Human Body Systems

Students examine the interactions of human body systems as they explore identity, power, movement, protection, and homeostasis. Exploring science in action, students build organs and tissues on a skeletal Maniken®, use data acquisition software to monitor body functions such as muscle movement, reflex and voluntary action, and respiration, and take on the roles of biomedical professionals to solve real-world medical cases.



Medical Interventions

Students follow the life of a fictitious family as they investigate how to prevent, diagnose, and treat disease. Students explore how to detect and fight infection, screen and evaluate the code in human DNA, evaluate cancer treatment options, and prevail when the organs of the body begin to fail. Through real-world cases, students are exposed to a range of interventions related to immunology, surgery, genetics, pharmacology, medical devices, and diagnostics.

Biomedical Innovation

In the final course of the PLTW Biomedical Science sequence, students build on the knowledge and skills gained from previous courses to design innovative solutions for the most pressing health challenges of the 21st century. Students address topics ranging from public health and biomedical engineering to clinical medicine and physiology. They have the opportunity to work on an independent design project with a mentor or advisor from a university, medical facility, or research institution.



Orlando Science Advanced Placement Academy

Orlando Science Advanced Placement Academy's mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. OSAP provides rigorous academic coursework in the major subject fields. There are many options in English, social studies, science, world languages, math, and fine arts for students. A

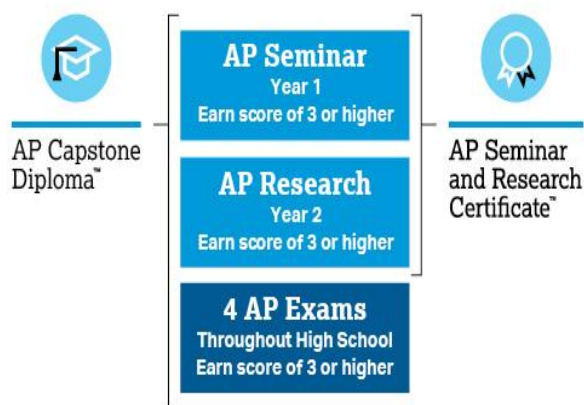
student enrolled in an AP course must take the corresponding AP examination. AP courses are recognized for college credit by many universities in the United States and abroad. Students are expected to meet the following requirements in order to be admitted to and complete the program.

Requirements of OSAP

- ✓ 90% Middle School Overall Course GPA
- ✓ Complete Geometry Honors or receive 600+ in either Math or Reading portion of PSAT 8-9 in 8th grade.
- ✓ Maintain a 4.0 weighted High School GPA in each year with no grade below a C in AP courses.
- ✓ Participate in all AP exams and receive 3 or higher in at least half of them.
- ✓ Have a good conduct record

Orlando Science High School AP Diploma AP Capstone Diploma

AP Capstone™ is a diploma program from the College Board. It's based on two year-long AP courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. Rather than teaching subject-specific content, these courses develop students' skills in research, analysis, evidence-based arguments, collaboration, writing, and presenting. Students who complete the two-year program can earn one of two different AP Capstone awards, which are valued by colleges across the United States and around the world.



Students can earn the AP Capstone Diploma™ or the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing receive the AP Capstone Diploma™. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research but not on four additional AP Exams receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.

The Benefits of AP Capstone:

Participating in AP Capstone can help students:

- Stand out to colleges in the application process.
- Develop key academic skills they'll use in college and beyond.
- Become self-confident, independent thinkers and problem solvers.
- Earn college credit: Many colleges offer credit for qualifying scores.

AP Scholar Awards

The AP Scholar Awards recognize high school students who have demonstrated exemplary college-level achievement on AP Exams.

Award Levels: The AP Scholar Awards are academic distinctions for students to cite among their credentials on applications and résumés. Students do not receive any monetary award from the College Board.

Award	Criteria
AP Scholar	Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams
AP Scholar with Honor	Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams
AP Scholar with Distinction	Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams

Orlando Science Dual Enrollment Program



Valencia College's Dual Enrollment program is a cooperative effort between Valencia College and the Orange County School District. Students can earn a college degree in less time and save money. Students have the opportunity to experience the college environment and explore career fields before starting college. Courses taken through the Dual Enrollment program are creditable toward the high school diploma. At Orlando Science High School only 11th & 12th grade students are allowed to participate in Dual Enrollment.

Dual Enrollment Procedures:

- ✓ Check your school schedule with your curriculum and college coordinator before applying to Dual Enrollment Program.
- ✓ Be sure all the information and signatures are completed, and requirements are met. An incomplete application will delay the application process.
- ✓ Make sure you read and understand all the criteria to maintain your eligibility.
- ✓ If you plan to be a full-time dual enrollment student and not be present on OSHS campus, please notify the school for planning purposes. Please note that students who are not attending at least two on-campus classes are not eligible to participate in after-school activities.
- ✓ OSHS will provide a room for students who are taking online dual enrollment courses if they are scheduled to take at least two on-campus courses. Students can't have free periods in their schedule except early morning or late afternoon.
- ✓ Dual Enrollment room is assigned for dual enrollment purposes. Gaming, social media, watching videos and other unrelated activities are not allowed. Students must follow OSHS rules and procedures while on campus.
- ✓ Dual Enrollment students cannot stay on campus when they are not scheduled to take a course (Dual Enrollment or OSHS) during school hours.

Orlando Science Math Course Progression

OSS MATH CURRICULUM PATHWAY			
Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
Geometry Honors	Algebra 2 Honors	Prob. & Stat w/Appl. Honors	Math for Data & Financial Literacy Honors/AP Stat
Geometry Honors	Algebra 2 Honors	AP Pre-Calculus	AP Stat AP Calculus AB
Algebra 2 Honors	AP Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus AB	AP Calculus BC AP Stat

There are multiple pathways students can take in math grades (9-12). Although students are placed on these pathways as incoming 9th grade students, they may be advised to move from one pathway to another based on academic performance and/or additional coursework.

Orlando Science Core Course Offerings

Grade	English	Math	Science	Social Studies
Freshman	English -I Honors	Geometry Honors	Biology Honors	World History Honors AP World History
	English -I Honors	Algebra II Honors	Pre-AP Biology AP Chemistry	World History Honors AP World History
Sophomore	English-II Honors	Algebra II Honors	Environmental Science Honors	US History Honors AP US History
	English-II Honors	AP Pre-Calculus	AP Biology	US History Honors AP US History
Junior	English-III Honors	Prob. & Stat w/Appl. Honors AP Pre-Calculus	AP Physics 1 AP Environmental	Government Economics Honors AP Government Economics
	AP English Language and Composition	AP Calculus AB	AP Physics 1 AP Environmental	Government Economics Honors AP Government Economics
Senior	English-IV Honors	Math for Data & Financial Literacy Honors AP Pre- Calculus AP Calculus AB	Astronomy Solar/Galactic Honors	AP Psychology AP Human Geography
	AP English Literature and Composition	AP Calculus BC AP Stat	AP Physics 1 AP Physics C:Mechanics Electricity and Magnetism&	AP Psychology AP Human Geography

Orlando Science Elective Course Offerings

Grade	World Language/Elective-1	Elective-2	Elective-3	Other Electives
Freshman	Spanish-I Turkish-I	HOPE (Physical Education) Electives	Electives Intro to Engineering Design Principles of Biomedical Sciences	Speech Computer Honors Chemistry Honors***
	Spanish-I Turkish-I	Electives	Intro to Engineering Design Principles of Biomedical Sciences Electives	
Sophomore	Spanish-II Turkish-II	Portfolio Devel:Drawing Honors	Principles of Engineering Design Human Body Systems Electives	Team Sport-2 Advanced Band-2 Environmental Science Honors Chemistry Honors*** Physics Honors*** Speech-Debate*
	Spanish-II Turkish-II	CAPE Certification Computer Honors Electives	Principles of Engineering Design Human Body Systems Electives	
Junior	AP Art and Design Electives	CAPE Certification Computer Course AP Computer Principles AP Computer Science A	Electives	Team Sport-3 Advanced Band-3 Drama-Theatre Physics Honors AP Environmental Executive Internship
	AP Art and Design Electives	Aerospace Engineering Medical Interventions	CAPE Certification Computer Course AP Computer Principles AP Computer Science A	
Senior	AP Art and Design AP Art Drawing Electives	CAPE Certification Computer Course AP Art and Design	Executive Internship Electives	Team Sport-4 Advanced Band-4 Drama-Theatre AP Art and Design AP Environmental Executive Internship
	AP Art and Design AP Art Drawing Electives	Aerospace Engineering Computer Integrated Manufacturing Biomedical Innovation Electives	Electives	

OSS AP Course Offerings

Subject Area	Orlando Science AP Offerings				
English	AP English Language and Composition	AP English Literature and Composition			
Math	AP Calculus AB	AP Calculus BC	AP Statistics		
Science	AP Biology	AP Chemistry	AP Physics 1	AP Physics C: Mechanics AP Physics C: Electricity - Magnetism	AP Environmental Science
Social Studies	AP World History	AP United States History	AP Government	AP Macro Economics	AP Human Geography
Art	AP 2D- Art and Design	AP 3D- Art and Design	AP Art Drawing		
Electives	AP Psychology	AP Computer Science Principles	AP Computer Science A	AP Capstone Seminar	AP Capstone Research

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Advanced Placement (AP) is an acceleration opportunity administered by the College Board providing college level instruction in high school. Postsecondary credit for an AP course may be awarded to students who earn a minimum of a 3 on a 5 point scale on the corresponding AP exam. OSS is dedicated to ensuring equitable access by giving all willing and academically prepared students the opportunity to participate in AP courses. Only through a commitment to equitable preparation and access can true equity and excellence be achieved. Source: www.ocps.net

What Is AP Capstone?

AP Capstone™ is a College Board program that equips students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills that are increasingly valued by colleges. It cultivates curious, independent, and collaborative scholars and prepares them to make logical, evidence-based decisions.

AP Capstone is comprised of two AP courses — **AP Seminar** and **AP Research** — and is designed to complement and enhance the discipline-specific study in other AP courses. Participating schools can use the AP Capstone program to provide unique research opportunities for current AP students, or to expand access to AP by encouraging students to master the argument-based writing skills that the AP Capstone program develops.

Combining Scholarly Practice with Academic Intensity

AP Capstone was developed in response to feedback from higher education. The two AP Capstone courses, with their associated performance tasks, assessments, and application of research methodology, require students to:

Analyze topics through multiple lenses to construct meaning or gain understanding.

Plan and conduct a study or investigation.

Propose solutions to real-world problems.

Integrate, synthesize, and make cross-curricular connections

Plan and produce communication in various forms.

Collaborate to solve a problem.

Source: Collegeboard.org

Orlando Science Schools Academic Teams and Student Clubs

Orlando Science Schools offers a multitude of clubs to suit the varied interests of our student body. If you want to do an interesting, fun, and meaningful activity; you may attend a club meeting and get involved. Students also have the opportunity to start their own club with a school advisor based on their interests.

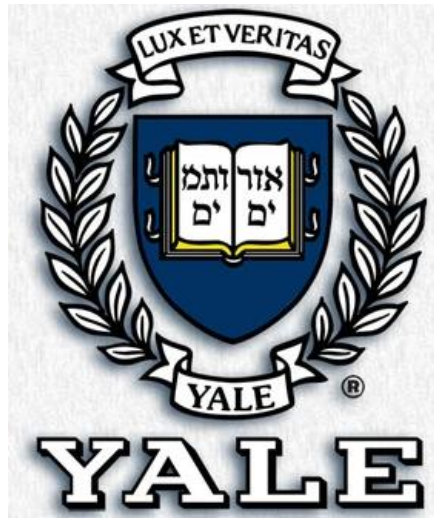
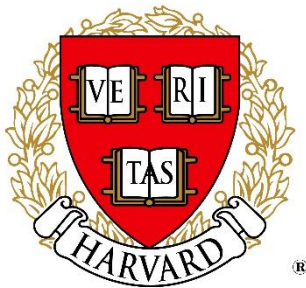
Academic Teams, Sports, Clubs, and Extra-Curricular Student Activities	
Aerospace Club	Journalism
AI Innovators	Key Club
Animal Advocacy	Latin American Student Association
Architecture and Design	Linguistics Olympiad
Asian Student Association	Media Club
Band – Drumline	Medicine 4 Youth
Band – Jazz Band I and II	Mock Trial
Band Leadership Workshop	Model United Nations
Biology Olympiad	Money Management
Bollywood Dance	Mu Alpha Theta
Book Club	Music for Healing
Brazilian Culture Club	National Art Honor Society
Chess Club	National English Honor Society
Computer Science Honor Society	National Honor Society (NHS)
Congressional Award Club	Neuroscience Club
Crochet Club	Odyssey of the Mind
Dance Club	Origami Minds
DECA	Physics Olympiad
Digital Art Club	POWER
Drama Club	Psychology Club
East Asian Pop Culture Club (EAPC)	Red Cross
Economics Club	RISE
Entomology	Science Olympiad
Environmental Club	Soccer Club
Fashion Club	Speech and Debate (FCDI)
FTC and FRC Robotics	Science National Honor Society
Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)	STEM Research Competition
Geography Bee	Student Activism Club
Girls in Medicine	Student Government Association (SGA)
Girls Who Code	Tabletop Gaming
Hack Club	Team Sports-Volleyball Club
HOSA	Technology Student Association
International Club	Turkish Olympiad
Indian Student Association	US National Chemistry Olympiad
International Research Olympiad	Women in Engineering
Investment Club	Yearbook
	Young Entrepreneurs Society

Orlando Science High School College Acceptances

Some of the colleges that our graduates got ACCEPTED!



Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology



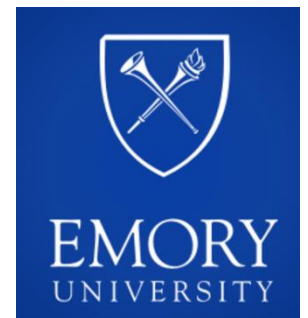
Duke
UNIVERSITY



JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY



Georgia Institute
of Technology



RICE
Unconventional Wisdom



Olin College
of Engineering



UF | UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA



The University Of
T A M P A

FLORIDA
POLYTECHNIC
UNIVERSITY





*Florida Institute
of Technology*



UC San Diego



NC STATE
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY of
WASHINGTON



Naviance

Naviance, a web-based resource designed especially for students and parents. It is a comprehensive website that you can use to help make decisions about courses, college, career and success planning.

Naviance provides a powerful link between school and home and up-to-date information that's specific to our school. It also lets us share information with you about upcoming meetings, news, events, college visits, scholarships/financial aid, as well as other web resources for college and career information.

We have created an account for you on Naviance to help you plan for your future.

Sign on today! The website address is: <https://student.naviance.com/ossmhcs>

- ◆ Personality, career, and individual learning style assessments
- ◆ Explore career possibilities and match them to potential college majors
- ◆ Research colleges that will match your unique set of traits and preferences
- ◆ College and career readiness activities
- ◆ Explore scholarship opportunities
- ◆ Access your academic planner; define and document goals

Orlando Science Schools were among the first schools to implement Naviance in the area. We hope that you find this tool very useful.

National Merit® Scholarship Program

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an annual academic competition among high school students for recognition and college undergraduate scholarships that began in 1955. The program is conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®), a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance. United States high school students enter the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which serves as an initial screen of over 1.3 million entrants each year, and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements.

To enter the National Merit Scholarship Program and compete for recognition and 7,580 scholarships to be offered in 2026:

- Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October 2024.
- Meet other program entry requirements.

The 2024 PSAT/NMSQT is the qualifying test for entry to the 2026 program. Program entrants must take the test in the specified year of the high school program (see When to Take the Test). Most entrants will complete high school and enroll in college in 2026.

Paper PSAT/NMSQT Student Guides will not be provided to students through their high schools, but students can browse the PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide and download a PDF version here: [PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide](#)

Academic Teams

Science Olympiad

Orlando Science Schools Science Olympiad program includes both middle and high school team competitions in which our teams of students practice and study to compete against other schools in events related to many scientific disciplines. Science Olympiad events delve into earth science, biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering. These disciplines are spread over 23 events and 15 team members. There are three levels of competition: regional, state, and national. Over 7,400 teams from 50 U.S. states compete each year. Science Olympiad has been growing stronger for 32 years.

Orlando Science Schools Science Olympiad middle school team has been the Florida State champion for four times. We have represented the State of Florida in National Competitions in Wisconsin, Ohio, Florida and Nebraska.



Robotics Team N.U.T.S.

Team N.U.T.S. Nerds United for Technological Superiority, is a third year robotics team. The experienced team members started on the FIRST Lego League's 2010 Body Forward season. During their first season they won a Regional Bid at their first tournament and a Teamwork and Rising Star Awards. In the 2011 season the team moved onto the FIRST Tech Challenge competition. During our first year we won the Think Award and an invitation to the Florida State Championship in the first tournament. At the State Championship N.U.T.S. was selected as

"Rookie of the Year". Some of our team members wanted to do robotics year round and decided to start a FIRST Robotics Competition team at the school. Our team participated in the 2012 FRC season winning the "Rookie All Star" award at the Orlando Regional and earned a bid to the World Championship.



Competition Math



The main theme of the Competition Math Program is to have fun, to learn a lot of math, and to prepare for state and national level math competitions such as MathCounts, AMC 8, 10, and 12, Mu Alpha Theta, and Math League. Orlando Science Schools Competition Math team for middle and high school students is designed to help them discover their potential in math and related fields. The teams bring many awards from regional and state math competitions to school each year. High School Mu Alpha Theta Honors Society organizes annual Orange County Math Tournament and sponsors several charity and social organizations.

Model United Nations



Model United Nations, also known as Model UN or MUN, is an extra curricular activity in which students typically role play delegates to the United Nations and simulate UN committees. This activity takes place at MUN conferences, which is usually organized by a high school or college MUN club. At the end of most conferences, outstanding delegates in each committee are recognized and given an award certificate; the Best Delegate in each committee, however, receives a gavel.

Thousands of middle school, high school, and college students across the country and around the world participate in Model United Nations, which involves substantial researching, public speaking, debating, and writing skills, as well as critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership abilities. Please visit <http://www.orlandoscience.org> for more details about extracurricular activities.



Congressional Award

This Award is the United States Congress' award for young Americans. It is non partisan, voluntary, and non competitive. The program is open to all 14 to 23 year olds; young people may register when they turn 13 years and six months old and must complete their activities before their 24th birthday. Participants earn Bronze, Silver and Gold Congressional Award Certificates and Bronze, Silver and Gold Congressional Award Medals. Each level involves setting goals in four program areas: Volunteer Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration. Earning the Award is a fun and interesting way to get more involved in something you already enjoy or something you would like to try for the first time.



Program Overview The Congressional Award is about challenge. It is a fun and interesting way to get more involved in something you already enjoy or something new. To earn the Award, young people between the ages 13 – 23 years old, set goals in ALL four Program Areas: Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration. The requirements for the six levels of the program increase based on the level for which the young person is applying. Once a young person registers, they are on their way to earn the Gold Medal – everything is cumulative and young people can choose to submit level by level or apply directly for the Gold Medal. Once approved for the Gold Medal, all lower levels that were earned through the approval will be mailed directly to them.

Program Requirements

Certificate Levels

Minimum Hours by Program Area	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Voluntary Service Hours	30	60	90
Personal Development Hours	15	30	45
Physical Fitness	15	30	45
Expedition or Exploration	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days
Total Minimum Months of Activity Needed (for each of the main three program areas)	N/A	N/A	6 Months

Medal Levels

Minimum Hours by Program Area	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Voluntary Service Hours	100	200	400
Personal Development Hours	50	100	200
Physical Fitness	50	100	200
Expedition or Exploration	1 Night 2 Days	2 Nights 3 Days	4 Nights 5 Days
Total Minimum Months of Activity Needed (for each of the main three program areas)	7 Months	12 Months	24 Months



Florida's K 12 Statewide Assessment Program

Orlando Science Schools administer the following assessments to students every year. OSS academic teams work with parents to increase student achievements for the following assessments.

- **Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST)**: The Florida Standards Assessments, which measure student success aligned with the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.), include assessments in VPK through grade 10 Reading and VPK through grade 8 Mathematics assessments.
- **EOC Assessments**: The End of Course Assessments are computer-based tests designed to measure student achievement of the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards, [Florida Standards](#), or the [Next Generation Sunshine State Standards](#) (NGSSS) for specific courses, as outlined in their course descriptions. These courses include Algebra I, Geometry, Biology 1, Civics, and U.S. History.
- **National and International Assessments (NAEP, PIRLS, PISA, and TIMSS)**: National and state assessments enable us to know how well students are doing in a variety of subjects at different ages and grade levels. International assessments allow us the unique opportunity to benchmark our students' performance to the performance of students in other countries. Florida participates in several national (NAEP) and international (PIRLS, PISA, TIMSS) criterion referenced surveys.

To learn more about the individual K-12 assessments offered in Florida, visit the following website:

[http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k 12 student assessment/](http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k%20student%20assessment/)

Here are some helpful websites and links for parents and students.

A. College Board:

www.collegeboard.com

Information and registration for AP and SAT tests, and College Planning and Career Search

College Search: [www. bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org)

B. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):

<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

Office of Federal Student Aid provides grants, loans, and work-study funds for college or technical school, offering more than \$150 billion each year to help millions of students pay for higher education

C. Florida Virtual School:

www.FLVS.net

Online classes offered by Florida Virtual School. All course requests require counselor approval.

D. Naviance:

<https://connection.naviance.com/family-connection/auth/login/?hsid=ossmhcs>

Naviance is a web-portal that provides a unique experience to our students and guides them towards a career path and college readiness. Naviance Succeed is used by more than 8,500 schools and 100,000 educators in 100 countries.

Students and families are provided with access to Family Connection. Using the tools provided, students map their own path starting with assessments to learn more about themselves, progressing to goal setting and career exploration, and then setting a plan to achieve their goals.

E. Common App

www.commonapp.org

The Common Application (informally known as the Common App) is an undergraduate college admission application that applicants may use to apply to any of over 1000 member colleges and universities in 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as in Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and United Kingdom.

F. Project Lead the Way

<https://my.pltw.org>

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is the nation's leading provider of K-12 STEM programs. The curriculum and high-quality teacher professional development model, combined with an engaged network of educators and corporate and community partners, help students develop the skills necessary to succeed. This year, we are implementing PLTW - Pathway to Engineering and Biomedical Science Academy. Students can access with their login information to PLTW Online Learning Management System and see the instructors assignments and projects and their grades.

G. Albert i.o

<https://www.albert.io/home>

Students can learn by doing. There is no better way to learn than to do something yourself. Practice with 50,000+ challenging questions. Albert io has In-depth solutions. No single-sentence explanations there. They make sure to thoroughly explain every question so you can improve as you practice. Student can get contextual performance insights with data on how other students answered. With its trustworthy content you can know that you are getting relevant, impactful practice for your AP courses and Sat Studies.

High School Timeline

Use this timeline to help you make sure you're accomplishing everything you need to accomplish on time.

Ninth Grade

- As soon as you can, meet with your counselor to begin talking about colleges and careers.
- Make sure you are enrolled in the appropriate college-preparatory courses.
- Get off to a good start with your grades. The grades you earn in ninth grade will be included in your final high school GPA.
- In October, take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) for practice. It is strongly recommended to take SAT in 9th grade to experience a real test environment and check your SAT level. When you receive your scores, schedule an appointment with your college counselor to discuss your score.
- Get involved in extracurricular activities (both school and non-school-sponsored).
- Attend whatever college-preparatory nights are held at your school or by local organizations.
- Talk to your parents about planning for college expenses. Continue or begin a savings plan for college.
- Investigate summer enrichment programs.
- Become involved in community service and other volunteer activities.

Hello
my name is

freshman

Tenth Grade



- In October, take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) for practice. When you fill out your test sheet, check the box that releases your name to colleges so you can start receiving brochures from them. When you receive your scores, schedule an appointment with your college counselor to discuss your score.
- Become familiar with general college entrance requirements.
- Participate in your school's or state's career development activities.
- Discuss your PSAT score with your counselor.
- Read nonfiction books are strongly recommended to increase reading comprehension
- Work on your writing skills—you will need them no matter what you do.
- Keep your grades up so you can have the highest GPA possible.
- If you are interested in attending a military academy, such as West Point or Annapolis, now is the time to start planning and getting information.
- Visit a few more college campuses. Read all the mail you receive from colleges. You may see something you like.
- Attend the annual Orlando National College Fair (NACAC).
- Consider taking SAT II Subject Tests in the courses you took this year while the material is still fresh in your mind. Some colleges require these tests which are offered in May and June.

Eleventh Grade

- Take the PSAT/NMSQT. In addition to National Merit Scholarships, this is the qualifying test for the National Scholarship Service and National Hispanic Scholar Recognition Program.
- Make a list of colleges that meet your most important criteria (size, location, distance from home, majors, academic rigor, housing, and cost). Weigh each of the factors according to their importance to you.
- Speak to college representatives who visit your high school.
- Collect information about college application procedures, entrance requirements. Begin comparing the schools by the factors that you consider to be most important.
- Begin narrowing down your college choices. Find out if the colleges you are interested in require the SAT I, ACT Assessment, or SAT II Subject Tests for admission.
- Take ACT or SAT to improve your previous scores.
- Meet with your counselor/Assistant Principal to review senior-year course selection and graduation requirements.
- Discuss ACT Assessment/SAT I scores with your counselor. Register to take the ACT Assessment and/or SAT I again if you would like to try to improve your score.
- Discuss the college essay with your English teacher.
- Stay involved with your extracurricular activities. Colleges look for consistency and depth in activities.
- Consider whom you will ask to write your recommendations.
- Inquire about personal interviews at your favorite colleges. Call or write for early summer appointments. Make necessary travel arrangements.
- Apply for a summer job or internship. Be prepared to pay for college applications, financial aid, and testing fees in the fall.
- Visit the campuses of your top two or three college choices.
- After each college interview, send a thank-you letter to the interviewer.
- Practice filling out college applications, and then complete the final application forms or apply online through the web sites of the colleges in which you are interested.
- Volunteer in your community.
- Compose rough drafts of your college essays. Have a teacher read and discuss them with you. Proofread them and prepare final drafts. Proofread your final essays at least three times.



Twelfth Grade

- Continue to take a full course load of college-prep courses.
- Keep working on your grades. Make sure you have taken the courses necessary to graduate in the spring.
- Continue to participate in extracurricular and volunteer activities. Demonstrate initiative, creativity, commitment, and leadership in each.
- *To male students:* You must register for selective service on your eighteenth birthday to be eligible for federal and state financial aid.
- Talk to counselors, teachers, and parents about your final college choices.
- Make a calendar showing application deadlines for admission, financial aid, and scholarships.
- Check resource books, computer programs, and your guidance office for information on scholarships and grants. Ask colleges about scholarships for which you may qualify.
- Give recommendation forms to the teachers you have chosen along with stamped, self-addressed envelopes, so your teachers can send them directly to the colleges. Be sure to fill out your name, address, and school name on the top of the form. Talk to your recommendation-writers about your goals and ambitions.
- Verify with your guidance counselor the schools to which transcripts, test scores, and letters are to be sent. Give your counselor any necessary forms at least two weeks before they are due, or according to your counselor's deadline – whichever is earlier.
- Register for and take the ACT Assessment, SAT I, or SAT II Subject Tests, as necessary.
- Be sure you have requested (either by mail or online) that your test scores be sent to the colleges of your choice.
- Mail, or send electronically, any college applications for early-decision admission by November 1st or college deadline.
- If possible, visit colleges while classes are in session.
- If you plan to apply for an ROTC scholarship, remember that your application is due by Dec. 1st.
- Print extra copies or make photocopies of every application you send.
- Attend whatever college-preparatory nights are held at your school or by local organizations.
- Send midyear grade reports to colleges. Continue to focus on your schoolwork!
- Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and, if necessary, PROFILE®. These forms can be obtained at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> and downloaded to an electronic file, but may not be processed before January 1st. Do not send them before then.
- Mail or send electronically any remaining applications and financial aid forms before winter break. Make sure you apply to at least one college that you know you can afford and where you know you will be accepted.
- Follow up to make sure that the colleges have received all application information, including recommendations and test scores.
- Meet with your counselor to verify that all applicable forms are in order and have been sent out to colleges.
- Watch your mail between February 1st and April 1st for acceptance notifications from colleges.
- Watch your mail for notification of financial aid awards between April 1st and May 1st.
- Compare the financial aid packages from the colleges and universities that have accepted you.
- Make your final choice and notify all schools of your intent by May 1st. If possible, do not decide without making at least one campus visit. Send your nonrefundable deposit to your chosen school by May 1st as well. Request that your guidance counselor send a final transcript to the college in June.



- Be sure that you have received a FAFSA acknowledgment.
- If you applied for a Pell Grant (on the FAFSA), you will receive the Student Aid Report (SAR) statement. Review this Pell notice and forward it to the college you plan to attend. Make a copy for your record.
- Complete follow-up paperwork for the college of your choice (scheduling, orientation session, housing arrangements, and other necessary forms).
- If applicable, apply for a Stafford Loan through a lender. Allow eight weeks for processing.
- Receive the orientation schedule from your college.
- Get residence hall assignment from your college.
- Obtain course scheduling and cost information from your college.
- **Congratulations! You are about to begin the greatest adventure of your life. Good luck.**



Scholarships & Financial Aids



Specific Requirements for the Scholarships

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 (OOS);
- Complete the required high school coursework;
- Achieve the required minimum high school grade point average (GPA);
- Achieve the required composite ACT[®] score, Overall Score on the Classic Learning Test (CLT), or combined SAT[®] score. Tests are accepted through August 31 of the student's graduation year (or through January 31 for mid-year graduates), per the chart below.
- Complete the required number of service hours.

Type	16 High School College-Preparatory Course Credits ¹	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year (ACT [®] /CLT [®] /SAT [®])	Volunteer Service Hours ²	Paid Work Hours ²
FAS	4 - English (three must include substantial writing) 4 - Mathematics (at or above the Algebra I level) 3 - Natural Science (two must have substantial laboratory)	3.50	2024-25 Graduates: 29/96/1340 2025-26 Graduates: 29/95/1330	100 hours	100 hours
FMS	3 - Social Science 2 - World Language (sequential, in same language)	3.00	2024-25 Graduates: 25/84/1210 2025-26 Graduates: 24/82/1190	75 hours	100 hours

High School Course Credits

For both scholarships, 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.

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 .25 per semester course or .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 quality points for an un-weighted course, an ‘A’ would equal 4.5 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.

College Entrance Exams

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

- 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 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 ACT®/SAT® exams may be taken an unlimited number of times through June 30 of the student’s graduation year (or through January 31 for mid-year graduates).
- Students will be evaluated based on official test scores from the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) repository. To ensure OSFA obtains official test scores:
- Ensure demographics on your test registration and high school transcript match; and
- Request your official test scores be sent to one of Florida’s 12 state universities, Florida state colleges, or public high schools when registering for the ACT®/SAT®

Service Hours

Students are encouraged to complete community service hours during high school and by high school graduation. Service hours may include, but are 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. Except for credit earned through service-learning courses, the student may not receive remuneration or academic credit for the service work performed. The hours must be documented in writing, and signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization. Each district school board and the administrators of a nonpublic school must establish approved activities and the process for documentation of service hours. The student must identify a social or civic issue or professional area, develop a plan for personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area, and through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon the experience.

*** Please refer to Bright Futures Student Handbook for further information. ***

Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

What is FAFSA?

FAFSA is a financial need-based scholarship, and it is NOT a merit-based scholarship. However, all the universities require students to complete their FAFSA regardless of their parent's income. The 2025–26 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form asks for 2023 income and tax information (Income from 2 years prior since you will apply for 2025-26 academic year).

Completing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form allows you to be considered for federal student aid. In addition, states and colleges use FAFSA information to award their own grants, scholarships, and loans. But, since aid is limited, you must meet deadlines!

When can students start applying?

Senior students may apply for FAFSA starting on October 1, 2025, the 2026–27 FAFSA. For more details, you can check their website here: [\(APP-25-18\) 2026–27 FAFSA Improvements and Beta Testing Plan](#)

When is the deadline?

The FAFSA form must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Central time (CT) on June 30, 2026. Any corrections or updates must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CT on Sept. 12, 2026.

States and colleges may also have their own FAFSA deadlines as early as January 2026. The Federal Government wants you to apply as early as possible to be able to get the most money possible. The sooner you complete the FAFSA, the better. Grants and scholarships are limited, and some are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Each state has its own deadline. See the listing here: [State Deadlines for 2025-26 \(It is for students who graduated in 2025\)](#)

What information do I need for the application?

For the parents and students (if applicable), if you are not sure how to determine your status or what assets to include in your net worth, you might need to ask for help. There are "Help" buttons, or you can directly contact the [Federal Student Aid Information Center \(FSAIC\)](#). It's easier to complete the FAFSA form if you gather what you need ahead of time. Here are a few items to help you fill it out:

- [Your FSA ID](#)
- Your Social Security Number or Alien Registration Number (if applicant is a non-US Citizen)
- Parent's Social Security Number (If student is a dependent)
- Driver's License if applicable
- Federal income tax information, tax documents, or tax returns, including IRS W-2 information
- Records of nontaxable income, such as child support, interest income, and veteran benefits (if any)
- Financial statements, including bank statements and investment records

Keep these records! You may need them again. Do not mail these supporting records to FAFSA.

[2022-23 FAFSA on the Web Worksheet](#)—Provides a preview of the questions students and parents may be asked while completing the FAFSA form.

How do I apply for FAFSA?

1. Before you start the FAFSA application (1-3 days), you must create an account with a Federal Student Aid ID which requires a student's Social Security Number or Alien Registration Number, mobile phone number, and email address. Here is the link to the website. <https://fafsa.gov/>
2. Please use a non-school email address which you will use even after high school graduation.
3. Your FAFSA ID is your credentials (username & password) and you will use it as your electronic signature when you submit the FAFSA online.
4. The student and only one legal parent of the dependent student will need an FSA ID to complete the FAFSA. Although the FAFSA is considered a student's application, one of your legal parents will need to provide information on FAFSA and sign it since you are considered a [dependent student](#).
5. For parents, if you have created your FSA ID for your other child who graduated in the past, you will use the same FSA ID since your SSN is associated with your FSA ID.
6. This video will help you to set up your FSA ID if needed. [How to Create an Account Username and Password \(FSA ID\)](#)
7. You can list up to 10 colleges on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). If you decide to change schools on your FAFSA, you can go to "Make FAFSA Corrections" and remove some of the colleges and add the additional new school codes and submit the corrections for processing.
8. Please check out this link for Common Questions about the FAFSA Process: [Find Answers to Common Questions About the FAFSA® Process](#)

Who Wins Scholarships?

- Very few students win a completely free ride. Of students enrolled full-time at a 4-year college:
 - 0.3% get enough grant funding to cover the full Cost of Attendance (COA)
 - 1.0% get enough grants to cover 90% or more of the COA
 - 3.4% get enough grants to cover 75% or more of the COA
 - 14.3% get enough grants to cover 50% or more of the COA
 - 69.1% received less than \$2,500
- More students at 4-year colleges win scholarships
 - 8.3% of students at 4-year colleges win scholarships
 - 2.6% of students at 2-year colleges win scholarships

Key Scholarship Application Information Quick Reference Guide

Tips for Applying for and Managing the Scholarship Search

- Start searching for scholarships as soon as possible. There are many scholarships available to students in grades K-11, so don't wait until spring of your senior year. Continue searching for scholarships even after you are enrolled.
- Use a free scholarship matching such as Fastweb.com. The Fastweb database is updated daily and the site will email notifications of new scholarships that match your profile.
- Answer all of the optional questions on a scholarship matching web site to create as many matches as available.
- Look for local scholarships on bulletin boards near the guidance counselor or financial aid offices, or the library's jobs and careers section. Improve grades for more matches.
- To win more scholarships, apply to every scholarship for which you are eligible. It gets easier after several applications. Also, pursue small awards and essay contests. Essays can be reused and tailored to each new application.
- Don't miss deadlines. Use checklists to get organized.
- Tailor your application to the sponsor's goals. Read and follow the instructions carefully.
- If you have difficulty writing essays, record yourself as you answer the question out loud and transcribe the recording. Most people think and speak faster than they can write or type. Write an outline afterward to organize your thoughts.
- Personalize your essay and be passionate. Write about something of interest to you. Make your application stand out from the crowd, talk about your impact on other people and give specific examples.
- Check your online presence to ensure that it looks professional. Review your social media profiles and remove inappropriate and immature material. Use a simple email address, such as firstname.lastname@gmail.com.
- Proofread a printed copy of your essay and the application for spelling and grammar errors.
- Make a copy of your application before mailing it. Send by certified mail, return receipt or with delivery confirmation.

Common Scholarship Application Mistakes

- Missing deadlines
- Failing to proofread the application
- Failing to follow directions, especially regarding essay length and the number of recommendations
- Omitting required information
- Applying for an award when you don't qualify
- Failing to apply for an award for which you are eligible
- Failing to tailor the application to the sponsor
- Writing a boring essay
- Writing an essay that may offend the reviewer
- Including exaggerations or lies on your application

Beware of Scholarship Scams

- If you have to pay money to get money, it's probably a scam.
- Never invest more than a postage stamp to get information about scholarships or to apply for a scholarship.
- Nobody can guarantee that you'll win a scholarship.
- Do not give out personal information like bank account, credit card or Social Security numbers.
- Beware of the unclaimed aid myth. The only money that goes unclaimed is money that can't be claimed

Essential Scholarship Resources

- Fastweb Free Scholarship Matching Service: www.fastweb.com
- FinAid's Scholarships Section: www.finaid.org/scholarships
- Search for Scholarships on the Web: www.finaid.org/websearch
- Beware of Scholarship Scams: www.finaid.org/scholarshipscams and www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams
- Education Tax Benefits: www.finaid.org/taxbenefits and www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf
- Federal Student Financial Aid: www.fafsa.ed.gov

Top Scholarships by Category

Most Unusual Scholarships

- Scholarship for Left-Handed Students
- Duck Brand Duct Tape Stuck at Prom Contest
- David Letterman Telecommunications Scholarships
- Zolp Scholarships
- Patrick Kerr Skateboard Scholarships
- Scholar Athlete Milk Mustache of the Year Award
- National Marbles Tournament Scholarships
- Klingon Language Institute Scholarships
- National Beef Ambassador Program
- Vegetarian Resource Group Scholarships

Most Prestigious Scholarships

- Marshall Scholarships
- Rhodes Scholarships
- Winston Churchill Scholarship Program
- Harry S. Truman Scholarships
- Henry Luce Foundation Scholarships
- Morris K. Udall Foundation Undergraduate Scholarships
- Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program
- Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships
- Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest
- National Merit Scholarship Corporation

Most Generous Scholarships

- Intel Science Talent Search
- Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology
- NIH Undergraduate Scholarship Program
- Elks Nat'l Foundation Most Valuable Student Competition
- Davidson Fellows
- Intel International Science and Engineering Fair
- Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships
- Collegiate Inventors Competition
- Coca-Cola Scholars Program Scholarships
- Gates Millennium Scholars

Scholarships for Age 13 and Under

- National Spelling Bee
- National Geography Bee
- National History Day Contest
- Jif Most Creative Peanut Butter Sandwich Contest
- Scholastic Art & Writing Awards
- Christopher Columbus Community Service Awards
- Dick Blick Linoleum Block Print Contest
- Gloria Barron Prize for Your Heroes
- Patriot's Pen
- Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

Scholarships for Community Service

- Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards
- The Do Something Awards
- Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarships
- Discover Card Tribute Awards
- Echoing Green Fellowships
- The Heart of America Christopher Reeve Awards
- Kohl's Kids Who Care Program
- Samuel Huntington Public Service Awards
- National Caring Awards
- Youth Action Net

Scholarships that Don't Need an A

- US Department of Education (Federal Student Aid)
- AXA Achievement Scholarship Program
- Horatio Alger Association Scholarships
- Ayn Rand Institute
- Girls Going Places Scholarships
- Holocaust Remembrance Project Essay Contest
- Americanism Essay Contest
- AFSA National Scholarship Essay Contest
- Red Vines Drawing Contest
- Community Foundation Scholarships

College Visits



There are 135 colleges in Florida, 78 public and 56 private, offering a wide range of programs and majors. Twelve of these universities are within the State University System. However, you have to choose just one of the Sunshine State's many colleges and universities. A campus visit is your opportunity to get a firsthand view of a college. To ease this selection process, Orlando Science Schools organize many college trips throughout your high school years. Here is why you should join us for the college visits:

Get Answers to Your Questions

A visit gives you the chance to talk to students, faculty, and financial aid and admission officers. You can get answers to important questions, including:

- What is the average class size and the student-to-faculty ratio? Are most classes taught by professors or by teaching assistants?
- What is the makeup of the current freshman class? Is the campus fairly diverse?
- What's the social scene like? What kinds of activities are available?
- Is there plenty of dorm space or is there a housing crunch?
- How many students are commuters and how many are campus residents?



Get Valuable Information

- Pick up any official college material you see, such as brochures and financial aid forms. Do not forget to get business cards, so you will have a real, live contact if you have a question about admission or financial aid.
- Student newspapers and activity calendars give you a sense of what campus life is really like. Check out bulletin boards to see what bands are coming to the campus, what parties are advertised, what internships are posted and generally what the day-to-day energy of the place is like.



Get Ready to Decide

Ultimately, it is your decision. Listen to your gut. Do you feel comfortable walking around campus? Do you feel at home? Do you click with the students and faculty? Is this what you imagined college to be like? Spending time on a campus helps you determine whether a college is a good fit. Use the checklist above for campus visits to remind yourself of everything you want to do once you get to campus.



*Go Orcas,
Strive for Excellence!*



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