

Miami Killian Senior High School

Senior Checklist



Keep in mind what colleges look for:

- A strong GPA (above 3.0 unweighted GPA)
- Taking challenging classes
- Score on standardized tests (SAT, ACT)
- Involvement in extracurricular activities/athletics

Things to do...

- Sign up for SCOIR
 - **All Students (grades 9-12) MUST have a SCOIR Account**
 - **Miami Killian SHS SCOIR invite:** <https://app.scoir.com/signup?hsid=101069>
 - SCOIR is comprehensive college planning guide and is mandatory for all students to use. Use SCOIR to do college research, planning and as a communication tool. Set-up your profile, follow colleges you are interested in, create a resume, etc.
- Keep records of extracurricular activities and start your activities resume on SCOIR
- Make a list of colleges you are interested in on SCOIR and take virtual tours
- Search for scholarships on scholarship search engines and on college websites (Be sure to monitor the CAP CORNER tab on our school's website for information, as it is updated frequently <https://www.miamikillianhs.com/>)
- Make sure you are working towards the Florida Bright Futures requirements: <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/>
- Plan to take the SAT and ACT in 12th grade during the 1st semester
 - **To request a waiver, use the ACT/SAT FEE WAIVER REQUEST link below:** <https://forms.office.com/r/TmyCizidYC>
 - Be sure to answer all questions on the form.
 - **IMPORTANT!!!** Only (4) ACT and (2) SAT per student. (Junior year waivers count!)
 - Must have free and reduced lunch (To be verified by Ms. Giro)
 - If you already received an SAT waiver and you used it, then you do not need to request the 2nd waiver. You will get the 2nd SAT waiver on your college board account.

SCOIR

Starting Senior Year

- KNOW when the application for YOUR school(s) open and get on them – some open as early as AUGUST
- Most deadlines are *before* Jan 20 of each year, **some as early as mid-October**
- GET COMFORTABLE WITH YOUR SCOIR ACCOUNT
- Create your CommonApp account NOW and familiarize yourself with it
- Request letters of recommendation
 - Letters of recommendation should ONLY be requested on SCOIR. If applying through CommonApp, you should ONLY list a counselor/teacher name in CommonApp and NOT INCLUDE AN EMAIL. Then invite counselor/teacher in SCOIR where the teacher/counselor will receive an email notification that a letter of recommendation has been requested. You MUST be sure to activate your SCOIR account prior to requesting letters of recommendation.
 - As a reminder, CommonApp is for you to APPLY, SCOIR is for the CAP Advisor/school to send documents.
 - ***On SCOIR you MUST:***
 1. Place the school into the applying column
 2. Upload you recommendation survey/brag sheet into My Drive in SCOIR.

Searching For a College

- SCOIR SCOIR SCOIR...college fairs, info sessions, web search, SCOIR SCOIR SCOIR!!!!
- Use an application tracker – there are many available online, old-school spreadsheet, whatever works for you.
- Get a “College Folder” either electronic or old school AND USE IT!

Testing

- Most colleges require SOME TYPE OF TEST – SAT or ACT (no difference)
- Do not hide your scores...SEND THEM NOW (most colleges super score)
- Practice tests are good – USE THEM!
 - Khan Academy is available in Student portal and can be used for SAT practice
 - Other practice sites:
 - www.number2.com
 - www.march2success.com
 - www.testprepreview.com

The College Essay

- The essay is a way to present your holistic strengths.
- Every Senior should have an essay and profile/resume by the beginning of their senior year – or sooner
 - CommonApp usually releases their prompts around March/April for the next year

FAFSA

- NEW FAFSA is available after October 1st of each year
- Application available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Basic Eligibility Criteria for FAFSA:
 - demonstrate financial need
 - be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen
 - have a valid Social Security number
- Completing your FAFSA
 - You will need your parent/guardian's tax returns, FSA ID – created at <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/sign-in/landing>, and TIME (approximately an hour)
 - Some colleges Financial Aid office will assist in completing the FAFSA for you:
 - MDC Kendall Campus
11011 SW 104 Street, Room R340, Miami, FL 33176-3393
[\(305\) 237-9300](tel:3052379300)
kfinaid@mdc.edu

Scholarships

- There are 3 buckets of scholarships: INSTITUTIONAL, STATE and PRIVATE
 - Institutional – in most cases institutional scholarship offers are an automatic part of the application process, but there are exceptions and requirements. Check with the institution you are applying to for more information
 - State of Florida – <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/>
Under First Time Applicants, Click on Create a Student Account, Complete Application and SUBMIT (this includes Florida Bright Futures)
 - Private Scholarships – take a lot of work, but a can fill the financial need gap left over after all federal, state, and institutional aid is awarded
 - You must SEARCH and APPLY for those private scholarships...you do NOT SIMPLY “SIGN UP” for scholarships
 - Look into local scholarships, parents' place of employment, your churches and places of worship, local clubs, and organizations
 - Check your dadeschools email FREQUENTLY and check the CAP tab on our school's website <https://miamikillianhs.com/>