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Calendar

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SENIOR YEAR COLLEGE PLANNING CALENDAR

Senior Year At-A-Glance



August – 1st Quarter Begins August 12th

- Complete your **Senior Inventory Guide 2021-2022**
- Save \$\$\$ @ your job, open a bank account, discuss finances with your family.
- Create a list of colleges you'd like to apply to this fall.
- Register for any additional SAT/ACT testing you'd like/need to take.
- Create a rough draft essay and begin building your college resume.
- Compare costs of each school and take a Virtual Tour.
- Request an Unofficial Transcript, review with your Success Coach (make sure your transcript is accurate).
- Contact your mentor @** the start of the year.

September

- Mark your calendar with important dates (deadlines, registration dates, financial aid, etc.).
- Meet with your Success Coach and advisor to discuss your college plans.
- Check out Virtual Tours @ www.takestockinchildren.org or on college websites.
- Keep your mentor informed on your progress. Allow them to help you organize and process any questions.
- Attend College Financial Aid Night** and College Fair (even if you've already attended before).
- Start requesting Letters of Recommendation from teachers, mentors, employers, etc.
- Create a FAFSA account and an "FSA ID" online, with your parent.

October – 2nd Quarter begins October 12th

- Complete your FAFSA online, as soon as possible, beginning on October 1st** (Keep Copies)!
- Work on your college application essays - request feedback, PRIOR to submission.
- If possible, visit your top choice schools.
- Meet with your College Advisor and Success Coach to develop an admissions & financial aid plan.
- Complete national scholarships for which you may be eligible.
- Contact the schools' financial aid offices to determine which forms are require. They may differ.
- Complete & Submit applications by October 30th/31st for the November 1st deadline.

November

- If needed, register to retake an SAT and/or ACT test.
- Double check deadlines for submission, before Thanksgiving & Winter Break.
- Follow-up to ensure your requests for Letters of Recommendation have been submitted.

December

- Research and apply for other financial aid, including grants and scholarships.
- Watch for early admission notices. Notify your Success Coach of any acceptances/denials.
- Check your email to see if your Student Aid Report (SAR) is ready. Print, provide to Success Coach.
- Review your SAR report with your Success Coach and family for any corrections that are needed.

January – 3rd Quarter begins January 4th

- Request unofficial transcripts for ALL applications.
- See your College & Career Advisor/Success Coach to register for Bright Futures.
- Continue to work towards College Readiness scores, take test prep, register for tests, if needed.
- Continue to work on college applications that were not completed/submitted @ priority, or those on a Rolling Admissions.

February

- Be mindful of deadlines. Always submit information ON TIME!
- Research Advanced Placement (AP) or College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams.
- Rank your top school acceptances.
- Apply for housing if you want to live on campus. Deposits are due now.
- Complete TSIC paperwork: FLPP, TSIC, Dorm Housing Application to active your scholarship.
 - You will need a copy of your Social Security Card (must be signed)
 - A valid Driver's License / State ID
- Begin checking college/university websites for local scholarships.
- Ensure you are receiving notifications and/or regularly checking your schools senior page for local scholarships.
- Work towards accruing at least 75-100 hours of community service for scholarships, including BF.

March – 4th Quarter begins March 28th

- Continue to regularly check your schools senior page for local scholarships.
- Check with the financial aid offices to ensure your paperwork is complete.
 - Submit tax forms as requested.
- Be on the lookout for acceptances. Communicate all responses to your Success Coach.
- Complete housing agreements, pay deposits, etc.
- Start looking for summer jobs.
- Prepare to interview for local scholarships. See your Success Coach for help with a mock interview.

April

- Continue to regularly check your schools senior page for local scholarships.
- Compare financial aid award letters. Be mindful that private universities may offer what appears to be a large scholarship – this is to counteract the high cost of admissions. Consider the true cost of what you are responsible for – see your Success Coach for any help reviewing the package.
- Make your final school decision and mail deposits, as required.
- Notify the schools you have chosen NOT to attend.
- Plan for registration, orientation, and housing, and mark your calendars with important dates.

May

- Make arrangements to clear your schedule for **Take Stock Graduation May 21, 2022 (ACTUAL, TBD)** – this is a mandatory event.
- Be aware of any summer orientation sessions that you must attend at the school in which you will enroll, and make plans accordingly.
 - A deposit is needed for orientation and most orientations are mandatory.
- Finalize your summer job plans, and make a plan for saving a portion of your summer earnings.
- Prepare a realistic student budget.
- Follow up with your high school to ensure the counselor forwards your final transcripts to the college.
- Register online for the Take Stock in Children Alumni Alliance. <https://www.takestockinchildren.org/alumni/>

June – Last day of the school year is May 27th

- Plan for college transportation.
 - Map out your distances to and from school, dorms, grocery, etc.
- Notify your high school guidance office of your college selection and any scholarships received.
- Follow up with the financial aid office to ensure all paperwork is complete.

July

- Double check your packing list and ensure you have all the essentials.

August/ September

- Check-in with your Success Coach to let them know how your move was and to ask any questions you still have about your FLPP.



Resume Guide

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INVENTORY GUIDE 2021-2022

*Follow us on Facebook (Take Stock in Children - Monroe)



Who is your College Success Coach? _____
 Cell Phone: _____ - _____ - _____ Email: _____@keysschools.com

Introduction:

Use this guide as a reference in tracking your community service hours, GPA, SAT/ACT Scores, College preferences, etc. This tool can aid you in completing college applications, filling out scholarships, writing a resume or an essay.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE & CLASS RANK:

Junior Year: 1st Semester > GPA: _____ Weighted: _____ Class Rank: _____
 Junior Year: 2nd Semester > GPA: _____ Weighted: _____ Class Rank: _____
 Senior Year: 1st Semester > GPA: _____ Weighted: _____ Class Rank: _____

Create a GPA goal to reach for Senior year and review your 4 year final cumulative GPA
 12th Grade GPA Goal: _____ 4 year Cumulative Goal: _____

Is your goal in-line with the GPA requirements for your top 3 schools?

COLLEGE READINESS:

Are you college-ready yet? _____ (yes/no)

	Date Taken	Reading/Writing or Reading Score	Math Score	English Score	Composite Score	Essay Score	Total Score	Super Scored
SAT								
SAT								
ACT								
ACT								
PERT								
Other								

Register for either the SAT or ACT to retake **before December** of this year. If you can, retake them BOTH.
sat.collegeboard.com/register/sat-dates www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html

What dates will you take the test: SAT: _____ ACT: _____

Remember: focus on the test in which you already scored better to achieve your admission goals.

If you are under the required scores for remedial classes, take the PERT again this summer. Do **everything** you can to reach college ready level before classes in August. www.fldoe.org/articulation/perfCPT/

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS:

Service hours earned to date: _____ How many are still needed for BF? _____

Note: 100 hours are needed for the Bright Futures Academic Scholarship & 75 needed for the Medallion Scholarship.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

List the clubs & activities you've participated in from 9th grade to current (school, athletics, church, community):

Name of Club/Activity	Date Joined	Years Active?	Responsibilities	Main Contact / Sponsor

Stay involved in at least **one** school club this year. **What Club?** _____

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION:

List the programs that have helped you prepare for high education (ex: Boys State, EIL, LEAP, TSIC, etc.):

Name of Club/Activity	Date Joined	Years Active?	Responsibilities	Main Contact / Sponsor
Take Stock in Children			Meet with a mentor 1x/week Attend workshops, college tours, gatherings Maintain grades, attendance, behavior, remain drug/crime free	Mentor - Success Coach –

HONORS, AWARDS & RECOGNITION:

Take an inventory of all your significant awards and recognition, including academic, athletics and service oriented, certifications too).

Name of Award, Honor, etc.	Date Received	Reason for Recognition

WORK EXPERIENCE:

List your employment experience, starting with your most recent position held.

Position / Job Title	Employer Name	Start Date	End Date
Supervisor Name & Number		Reason for Leaving	
Responsibilities / Tasks			

Position / Job Title	Employer Name	Start Date	End Date
Supervisor Name & Number		Reason for Leaving	
Responsibilities / Tasks			

Position / Job Title	Employer Name	Start Date	End Date
Supervisor Name & Number		Reason for Leaving	
Responsibilities / Tasks			

Position / Job Title	Employer Name	Start Date	End Date
Supervisor Name & Number		Reason for Leaving	
Responsibilities / Tasks			

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION / REFERENCES:

Consider who you will need to ask for recommendations. Colleges may want specific people to do this. Give those people plenty of advance notice, and have forms or website information available for him/her when you ask. Be sure to thank him/her later.

Name	Relationship	Years Known	Contact Information

PERSONAL INVENTORY:

At what do you excel? List your strengths in and out of school.

Have you held any Leadership Positions?

List 3 positive personal character traits (honest, sincere, conscientious, etc. --- Have a friend list yours and vice versa.)

1.

2.

3.

List your post high school graduation plans (university, community college, military, technical school, work, etc.)

COLLEGE SELECTIONS:

What are your top three choices for college?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Other colleges you wish to apply to:

4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

*****Early Decision deadlines are often November 1st. Complete all Early Decision applications first!**



Name of College/University	Applied	Accepted	Attending

Congratulations!
You've made it!

-Be sure to thank everyone who has helped you along the way-

Student Name

Firstname.lastname@gmail.com

Job Experience

- Activity Coordinator, Boys and Girls Club, Big Pine Key, Florida (Summer 2013-Present)
 - Work 5 days a week, 4 to 8 hour shifts year round
 - Implemented conflict resolution systems in workplace for children 4-12 years old
 - Supervised children's safety, nutrition, and activities
 - Taught games and crafts to children during summer program
 - Organized recreational and educational activities for children 4-12 years old including field trips, outdoor activities, and after school tutoring
 - Prepared meals and snacks for children in care
 - Ensured the cleanliness of the building and recreational areas
 - Trained co-workers in childcare duties for summer program
 - Collaborated with supervisors in coordination of activities and events
 - Received and documented payments from parents for childcare services
 - Led team building exercises for children during after school program

- In-Home Advanced Math Tutor, Big Pine Key, Florida (2014-Present)
 - Work 3 days a week, 2 to 3 hours a week during the school year

Clubs/ Volunteer Activities

- Mu Alpha Theta (Mathematics Honor Society)
 - Member since 2015
 - President of Mu Alpha Theta, Fall 2016-present
 - Provide assistance to students in need of assistance in mathematics courses

- National Honor Society
 - Member since 2015
 - Secretary, Fall 2016-present
 - Work as a team to provide services to our school and community

- Academic Challenge Team
 - Member since 2013
 - Compete as a team in academically rigorous competitions

- Mathematics Competition Team
 - Member since Fall 2015
 - Chairman of the Competition Team, 2015-2016
 - Compete individually and as a team in mathematical competitions

- Drama Club
 - Member since 2014
 - Stage Crew 2014-2015
 - Minor role (Red Queen) in production of Alice in Wonderland, Fall 2016

- Coastal Cleanup
 - Participated in yearly event since 2014
 - Gather and dispose of garbage on local coastlines

Total Community Service Hours Earned to Date: 196 hours

Sports

- Weightlifting
 - Member since Fall 2016
 - Compete with other schools in competitions
 - Participating 3 months of the year, 4-6 hours per week

Programs

- Take Stock in Children Scholar
 - Admitted in 2013
 - Meet weekly with an adult mentor from the community
 - Participate in college tours and college readiness workshops
- Experiment in International Living Scholar
 - Traveled to Mexico to Study Marine Biology Summer 2016
 - Homestay with Mexican family and participation in cultural exchange

Honors / Awards

- Nominated as the Sunshine State Scholar for Marathon High School in December 2015
- AP Scholar with Distinction
- Bright Futures Academic Scholar
- CPR and First Aid Certified

Student Name firstname.lastname@outlook.com 305-555-5555

P.O Box 123456, Marathon FL 33050

Education

Marathon High School- Graduate May 2020

August 2015- Current

Work Experience

- **Sandal Factory-** Retail/Customer Service

January 2020- Current

Part time job-3 to 4 days a week, 4 to 8 hours a day.

I provide customer service on the sales floor as well as work register. I also work in the back and apply security tags to merchandise.

- **Causeway Pizza-** Customer Service, Busser, and Server

June 2019- November 2019

Summer Full time job- 5 to 6 days a week, 6 hours a day.

Part time job- 2 to 3 days a week, 6 hours a day.

I work in customer service, greeting customers as they walk in,taking orders and serving the food. I also keep the place clean while bussing tables.

- **Florida Keys Aquarium Encounters-** PhotoTechnician and Customer Service/Retail

June 2019- August 2019

Summer Full time job- 4 to 6 days a week, 8 hours a day.

My job included taking photos and videos of all encounters, as well as editing, printing, emailing and making CD's to send to customers who purchased them. I also greeted customers at the front desk, answering all questions, taking reservations, selling merchandise and encounters.

- **Sunset Grille & Raw Bar-** Hostess, Customer Service, Food Runner, and Retail

May 2016-April 2019

Part time job- 4 to 6 days a week, 6 to 8 hours a day.

I greeted customers, answered any questions, merchandise purchasing, I also greeted customers, served tables, as well as helped around the restaurant with anything when needed.

Clubs/Organizations/Volunteer Activities

- **Keys to be the Change** — Community Aid Organization

This a school wide organization that contributes towards the community, helping mostly those in need. Throughout the year, we would set up events to spread the word of national weeks, such as suicide prevention. Towards Christmas we make gifts for students in need, gifts included things like backpacks filled with school supplies. This organization also has a

closet at school where students are welcome to come “shop” for shoes, clothes, etc.

- **Health Club-** Educational Medical Program

Health club allows students interested in the medical field to easily learn about its fundamentals with visuals and hands on practices. I was given the opportunity to become a CPR/First-Aid certified member.

- **Spanish Club-** Spanish Speaking Tutoring Organization

This is a club for fluent Spanish speakers, our intention is to help students who are currently in the ESOL classes, meaning those who do not speak English. We tutor on homework and help them learn English at the same time. This applies for elementary and students in both middle and high school.

- **NIKE Club, President-** Women and Children Empowerment

In this organization we do mentorships as well as learn from a local group named BPW, (Business and Professional Women). We are a group who represent women empowerment, and work at community events such as Taste of the Islands to show our good sportsmanship.

- **Interact Club-** Community Service Organization

This organization is focused on aiding the growth and development of our community and the rest of the world. We participate in community events as well as fundraisers for international projects.

- **National Coastal Cleanup-** Participant

Participated in Freshman through Senior year. Along with 15+ other students, I helped clean up the mangroves surrounding the school as well as the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.

Total Community Service Hours: 62.30 hours

Languages

- Fluent in English and Spanish

Awards

- Take Stock In Children’s Scholar
- Superintendents Ultimate Readers Award
- CPR/First-Aid Certified
- Principal’s List

Sports

- Weightlifting since Winter 2016
- Volleyball since Fall 2016
- Basketball since Winter 2016

Skills

- Work well under pressure
- Commitment
- Problem Solving
- Great Communicator
- Creative
- Team Player

Student Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Phone Number
Email

GRADE POINT AVERAGE:

Weighted **4.0**

Unweighted **3.8**

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

President and Founder- Key West High School International Club

- Collaborate with Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Members to promote cultural diversity and build respect for all cultures and religions.
- Manage meetings, facilitate Socratic seminars, plan guest speakers, organize ethnic luncheons, fundraise, recruit and handle public relations.
- **Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

Treasurer- Key West High School National Honor Society

- Manager the ledger, collect funds, collect purchase orders, monitor the balance and transactions and organize and file the budget.
- **Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

Representative Class of 2017- Key West High Executive Government Board

- Represent the Class of 2017 in student government meetings
- Organize school fundraisers, community service projects, and leadership activities to benefit my grade level, peers and school.
- **Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

Starting Midfielder- Key West High School Varsity Lacrosse

- Positions: Midfielder and back-up goalie
- Won the Monroe County district championship title – 2016
- **Grades:** 10, 11, 12

Team Member- Academic Challenge Team

- Participate in academic competitions by answering challenging questions from a variety of subjects including history, literature, calculus, and physics.
- **Grades:** 10, 11, 12

Scholar/ Scholarship Recipient- Take Stock in Children

- Meet with a mentor weekly, maintain a high GPA, attend TSIC activities and events,
- Speak at community Rotary functions and remain drug and alcohol free.
- **Grades:** 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Literacy Advocate- Samuel House Shelter

- Collected over 500 popular books, and several books shelves to build a literacy library for children and teens at a local shelter.
- The shelter provides housing, education and support to women and children in crisis.
- **Grades:** 10, 11, 12

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Experimenter- Travel Abroad China- Experiment in International Living

- Selected to spend a month in China, as part of the Experiment in International living program.
- Studied cultural diversity and equality in the urban cities of Beijing and Shanghai and compared them to rural villages in Luoyang, and Xi'an.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Take Stock in Children Scholar: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Chorus District and Regional Competitions: 9, 10, 11, 12

Scholar Athlete Award: 10, 11, 12

Honor Roll: 9, 10, 11, 12

Boys State American Legion Delegate- Selected and attended the prestigious Boys state convention in Tallahassee: 11

Honored by the Monroe County School Board for Academic & Cultural Achievements: 11

Student of the Week Award: 12

Front Page Key West Citizen Newspaper: 11, 12

Front Page Marathon Keynoter Newspaper: 11

CERTIFICATION

Earned a Microsoft Industry Office Specialist Certification (MOS)

Student Name

1234 Address Street,
Key West, FL 33040
(305) 123-4567
Student.name@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Key West High School - August 2014-June 2018

- Unweighted GPA: 3.96 Weighted GPA: 4.42
- SAT: 1370 (M: 690, RW: 680) ACT: 25
- Class Rank: 13/291

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

GRADE

- Honor Roll - Award given every quarter to students who have straight A's or A's and B's
9, 10, 11
- Nominated for Girls State - Chosen by a staff member to participate in this leadership program
11
- Conch Pride Award- An award given to students who continuously show pride in their community and work hard
9, 10
- Student of the Quarter - Staff members nominate students they feel show outstanding effort and a great attitude
9,10

ACTIVITIES

GRADE

- Band - A performing arts organization that promoted musicianship and performed for the pleasure of the
12 school, community, and during competitions.
- French Club- A club that allows students to improve their verbal skills even more in the French language.
9, 10,12
- Youth Alive- A club that allows students to be around people of the same age group and share their faith.
10, 11
- HOSA - A student organization that promotes career opportunity in the healthcare industry.
10

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Boys and Girls Club- Several Fridays out of the year, for two years, I aided this organization with fundraising during various community events.
- Special Olympics- I worked in a medical tent under the supervision of trained medical professionals to ensure the safety of all participants/athletes, and I aided those who were injured.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Babysitting- I offered in-home child care to many of the parents in my neighborhood. I planned arts and crafts, played games, encouraged physical activities, and got the kids ready for bedtime.

- Boys and Girls Club- I worked as a teacher's aide at this child care facility. I supervised the children during play and work time to ensure a safe environment. I also helped the lead teacher with her curriculum, prepared crafts, and wrote any necessary reports for injured and ill students.

SKILLS

- Fluent in Haitian Creole
- Proficient in French
- Certified in Microsoft Powerpoint, Word, and Excel
- Strong work ethic
- Able to work in team
- Punctual
- Adaptability

MHS Student

EDUCATION

Cumulative Weighted GPA: 4.265
 Class Rank 5/84
 SAT: 1380 Math:710 Reading:670

EXPERIENCE

Panorama Pursuits, Marathon, FL — *Videographer/Graphics Designer*

January 2016 - Present

- Part Time, 10-15 hours a month
- Recommended to company by TV Productions Teacher
- Helped film, and edit several videos for people/companies

Lighthouse Grill, Marathon, FL — *Server/Busser/Food Runner*

February 2018 - Present

- Work 3 days a week, 15-20 hours, at local restaurant

At Home Math Tutor, Marathon, FL

August 2017 - Present

- Outside/Inside of school and helping with Mu Alpha Theta, assisted kids with math.
- Several parents recommended me to other parents, have helped close to a dozen kids directly. 2-4 hours a week

Aquarium Encounters, Marathon, FL — *Marine Biologist Assistant/Landscaping*

March 2014 - August 2018

- Started off doing landscaping on the weekends, 5 hours a week
- Assisted Lead Biologist with feeding/caring for animals, after awhile of assisting, I was able to lead tours and do feedings on my own. 15 hrs a week during off season from sports, 10 hours a week in seasons.

CLUBS/SPORTS/PROGRAMS/VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

National Honor Society — *Member/Officer*, September 2016 - Present

- Member for junior year
- Secretary of the club senior year
- 40+ Community service hours logged for club

National Art Honor Society — *Member/Officer*, September 2018 - Present

- Member for Senior year

Mu Alpha Theta — *Member/Officer*, September 2017 - Present

- Member for junior year
- President of club senior year
- 50+ hours of community service logged for club with after school study sessions, 2-3 hours a week during school

Student Body Government — *Member/Leader*, September 2016 - Present

- Been a class officer for 3/4 years of high school
- Senior year I am the treasurer for the whole schools student government, which organizes and puts on homecoming

Academic Challenge Team — *Member*, September 2016 - Present

- Member for junior and senior year
- Practice 2-4 days a week during school lunch

Mock Trial Team — *Member*, September 2017 - Present

- Participated in Mock Trial
- 2-4 hours a week for the time we were practicing

Coastal Cleanup — *Leader/Participant*, April 2018

- Participated for junior and senior year as part of Biology Classes
- In Dual Enrollment Marine Biology after Hurricane Irma devastated the Florida Keys, myself and a few other students in Marine Biology organized a cleanup with 15+ students showing up to help.

Relay for Life — *Member*, September 2014 - Present

- Member for most of middle school and high school
- Volunteered and raised money for Relay for Life, and participated in the 12 hour event every year supporting cancer research

Cross Country — *Team Member/Captain*, August 2013 - Present

- Practice 5-6 days a week 1.5-2 hours a day
- Won 2 individual and 4 team district championship
- Individual Regional Runner Up 3 times team Regional Runner Up
- 5 time State Championship Appearance
- Captain since 10th Grade

Track and Field — *Team Member/Captain*, August 2016 - Present

- Practice 5-6 days a week 1.5-2 hours a day
- 2 district championships
- 2x state championship appearance

Take Stock in Children — Admitted in 2014

- Meet with mentor weekly
- College Tours
- Preparing for College

EXPERIENCES

Experiment in International Living —

Summer 2018

- While on summer trip to Costa Rica, the group of experimenters and myself completed 50+ hours of community service in building/completing a playground and sidewalk for a daycare in a very run down town of Costa Rica

Other

Microsoft Office Specialist —

2016

- Certified in Powerpoint, Word, and Excel

Adobe Specialist —

2018

- Certified in Adobe Premeir

Student Name (CSHS Student)**GPA: 4.25/4.00****Class Ranking: 23/175****School**

- AP Courses: AP Human Geography(9), AP World History(10), AP Environmental Science(10), AP Biology(11), AP Language and Composition(11), AP US History(11), AP Psychology(11), AP English Literature(12), AP Macroeconomics(12), AP United States Government (12), AP Statistics (12)
- Honors Courses: Biology Honors(9), Algebra 1 Honors(8), Geometry Honors(9), English 1 & 2 Honors(9,10), Physical Science Honors(8), Digital Video Productions 1, 2,& 3(10, 11, 12)
- **Extracurricular Activities**
 - President & Co-Founder of Writing Club (11)
 - Mock Trial District Competition Winner (11)
 - Mock Trial State Competition Participant (11)
 - Youth Council Voting Member (10, 11)
 - Chamber of Commerce Transportation Luncheon with the Mayor of Islamorada (10)
 - LEAP Leadership Program at UCLA (11)
 - Experiment in International Living Participant (12)
 - National Society of High School Scholars Member (9, 10, 11, 12)
- **Honors and Awards**
 - Take Stock in Children Scholarship (9 to present)
 - Adobe Premiere Certified (11)
 - LEAP Program Full Scholarship (10)
 - Experiment in International Living Full Scholarship (11)
 - Mock Trial Professionalism Award (11)
 - National Society of High School Scholars Award (9)
 - Student of the Quarter (11)
 - Honor Roll (9, 10, 11,12)
 - Doing the Right Thing Award Recipient (11)
- **Volunteer Work (166 recorded hours)**
 - Elks Lodge Fish Fry (11)
 - Volunteer Teacher Assistant (11)
 - Nautical Flea Market (9)
 - Holiday Fest (10)
 - Bridge Clean Up (10)
 - Science Honor Society tutoring (11)
- **Employment**
 - Great Wall Chinese Restaurant, Hostess, 21 hours (9, 10)
 - Online Business Owner (eBay, Depop, Facebook Buy and Sell), Independent Contractor, 20 hours (9 to present)
 - Angler's Cafe and Live Bait, Barista/Line Cook, 25 hours (9)
 - American Caribbean Real Estate, Customer Service Ambassador, 28 hours (10)
 - Natacha's Boutique, Cashier, 20 hours (11)

LIST OF ACTION VERBS



Below is a list of action verbs to assist you in describing your experiences and accomplishments:

accelerated	constructed	explained	measured	reproduced
accomplished	contacted	explored	mediated	researched
achieved	continued	facilitated	modeled	resolved
acquired	contracted	figured	modified	responded
activated	convened	financed	molded	restored
adapted	conveyed	focused	monitored	retained
adjusted	coordinated	forecasted	motivated	retrieved
administered	corresponded	formed	named	reviewed
advised	counseled	formulated	negotiated	revised
allocated	created	fostered	observed	rewrote
analyzed	critiqued	founded	obtained	routed
annotated	decided	functioned	operated	scheduled
anticipated	defined	generated	ordered	searched
applied	delegated	governed	organized	selected
appraised	delivered	grouped	originated	served
arranged	demonstrated	guided	outlined	shaped
articulated	derived	helped	oversaw	shared
assembled	designed	identified	perceived	showed
assessed	detected	illustrated	performed	simplified
assigned	determined	immunized	persuaded	solicited
authored	developed	implemented	planned	solved
balanced	devised	improved	planted	specified
briefed	directed	increased	presented	spoke
budgeted	distributed	informed	presided	stimulated
built	drafted	initiated	printed	structured
catalogued	edited	instituted	produced	studied
categorized	educated	instructed	protected	supervised
chaired	effected	interpreted	provided	supported
clarified	elicited	interviewed	publicized	synthesized
cleared	encouraged	introduced	questioned	targeted
coded	established	invented	raised	taught
collaborated	evaluated	investigated	recommended	tested
compared	examined	judged	recorded	trained
compiled	executed	led	recruited	translated
completed	exhibited	listened	reduced	tutored
composed	expanded	maintained	rendered	updated
computed	expedited	managed	repaired	utilized
conducted	experienced	marketed	reported	verified
consolidated	experimented	mastered	represented	wrote



College Readiness

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COLLEGE READINESS SCORES 2021-2022

Are you College Ready?



What does “College Ready” mean?

Answer:
“College Ready” means that you have met the benchmark scores and are ready to begin college level courses.

What is a Remedial Course?

Answer:
This is a course taken to get you to college ready. Remedial courses devour your college fund dollars! You must have minimum scores on the SAT, ACT or PERT to AVOID remedial courses in college.

SAT

(866)756-7346

www.collegeboard.com

SAT College & Career Readiness Benchmarks

200-800 Point Scale

Reading & Writing: **480**

Math: **530**

Sub Scores: Reading – **24**, Math – **24**, Writing & Lang. **25**

Bright Futures: FAS – **1330**, FMS – **1210**

ACT

(319)337-1000

www.act.org

ACT College & Career Readiness Benchmarks

0-36 Point Scale

Reading: **19**

Math: **19**

English: **17**

Bright Futures: FAS – **29**, FMS – **25**

PERT

Reading– 106

Math – 114

Writing – 103

College Readiness: Test Preparation

Study Websites

Khan Academy

- www.khanacademy.org
 - Full-length SAT
 - SAT Math practice
 - SAT Reading and Writing practice
 - SAT Tips & Strategies

ACT

- my.act.org
 - Go to Student Dashboard
 - Launch ACT Self-Paced Course
 - *Free course included with your fee waiver*

College Board

- www.collegeboard.org
 - Take an official SAT Practice Test
 - Practice for the SAT using your PSAT Scores
 - Linked with Khan Academy

Number 2

- www.number2.com
 - Tested on English, Reading, Mathematics & Scientific Reasoning
 - Free ACT Companion Prep Course
 - Adapts to Personal Skill Level
 - Electronic Flashcards

Major Tests

- www.majortests.com
 - Large Number of Practice Tests
 - No User Names/Passwords to Create
 - Essay Topics: Compare/Contrast
 - Covers SAT Math, SAT Reading/Writing

March 2 Success

- www.march2success.com
 - Full Length Practice Tests
 - Flashcards of Varying Difficulty
 - Tips & Strategies



PREPARE FOR THE SAT WITH

Official SAT Practice



Get personalized practice recommendations based on your results from the new SAT®, PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, and PSAT™ 8/9. **Take these steps to connect your College Board and Khan Academy® accounts:**

1

Go to satpractice.org

Create an account on Khan Academy, or sign into your existing account.

2

Link Your Accounts

When prompted, agree to link your Khan Academy and College Board accounts.

3

Send Your Scores

Log in to your College Board account, and hit “Send” to get a personalized practice plan.

Sign up. Link up. Get practicing. satpractice.org

TEST DATES (SAT/ACT) 2021-2022



Tips on registering for your next test:

- **You are provided 2 SAT Waivers & 2-4 ACT Waivers**
 - You should take at least 1 of each during your Junior Year.
 - If you misplace your waiver, or do not show to a test you have registered for, you will not be provided a replacement waiver. No Exceptions/Not Permitted.

- **Be sure to register well before the deadline.**
 - Your high school location can fill up fast, leaving you with having to travel up or down the Florida Keys.
 - Late fees DO APPLY, and are not covered by your Waiver.
 - If you MUST reschedule your test, you are responsible for any change fees.

- **When registering, be sure to select the following when offered:**
 - Test Prep (if offered)
 - NEVER PAY FOR A TEST, if you have a waiver.

- **Print out 2 copies of your Registration Ticket.**
 - One for you, another for your Success Coach
 - Return the waiver ticket, completed/filled out, to your college advisor or Success Coach

Test Administration Dates & Deadlines (2021-2022)

Test Date	Test	Register by
August 28, 2021	SAT	TBA
September 11, 2021	ACT	August 7, 2021
October 2, 2021	SAT	TBA
October 3, 2021	ACT	September 19, 2021
November 6, 2021	SAT	TBA
December 4, 2021	SAT	TBA
December 11, 2021	ACT	November 6, 2021
February 5, 2022	ACT	January 8, 2022
March 12, 2022	SAT	TBA
April 9, 2022	ACT	March 5, 2022
May 7, 2022	SAT	TBA
June 4, 2022	SAT	TBA
June 11, 2022	ACT	May 7, 2022

COLLEGE READINESS: CONCORDANCE TABLE



ACT to SAT Concordance Table

ACT Composite Score	SAT Total (400-1600)
36	1600
35	1570
34	1540
33	1500
32	1470
31	1430
30	1400
29	1360
28	1320
27	1290
26	1260
25	1220
24	1180
23	1140
22	1110
21	1070
20	1030
19	990
18	950
17	910
16	870
15	830
14	780
13	740
12	680
11	590

FLORIDA
AGRICULTURAL
AND MECHANICAL
UNIVERSITY

FAMU

FLORIDA ATLANTIC
UNIVERSITY

FAU

FLORIDA GULF
COAST UNIVERSITY

FLORIDA
GULF COAST
UNIVERSITY

FLORIDA
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

FIU

FLORIDA
POLYTECHNIC
UNIVERSITY

FLORIDA POLY

FLORIDA STATE
UNIVERSITY

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
1851

NEW COLLEGE
OF FLORIDA

New College
of Florida

UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL FLORIDA

UCF
UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL FLORIDA

UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

UF
UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH FLORIDA

UNF
UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH FLORIDA

UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA

UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA

UNIVERSITY OF
WEST FLORIDA

UNIVERSITY OF
WEST FLORIDA















FLORIDA SUS 2020-2021


COUNSELOR GUIDE


FOR THE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA


FLORIDA
SUS
2020-2021
COUNSELOR GUIDE

NAME OF INSTITUTION	APPLICATION TYPE	MIDDLE 50% OF ADMITTED FTIC 2020 (S=SUMMER) (F=FALL)			APPLICATION DETAILS			SUMMER 2021 DEADLINES			FALL 2021 DEADLINES		
		GPA	SAT	ACT	APPLICATION WAIVERS ACCEPTED	Self-Reported GPA	Self-Reported Platform	DEADLINES	NOTIFICATION DATES	PRIORITY DATE FOR AID & SCHOLARSHIPS	DEADLINES	NOTIFICATION DATES	PRIORITY DATE FOR AID & SCHOLARSHIPS
 FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY	Institutional Online Application	S: 3.27 F: 3.67	S: 1060 F: 1100	S: 20.2 F: 22.3	SAT/ACT, NACAC	Yes	SSAR	1 st : 11/1/20 2 nd : 4/15/21	11/1/20	11/1/20	1 st : 11/1/20 2 nd : 3/1/21	1/15/21	11/1/20
 FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	Institutional Online Application, Common Application	S: 3.18 - 3.76 F: 3.62 - 4.24	S: 1030 - 1160 F: 1110 - 1260	S: 20 - 25 F: 23 - 29	SAT/ACT Fee Waiver, NACAC Fee Waiver, Email from School Counselor, Written Request from Student, Documentation Demonstrating Participation in Free/Reduced Lunch	Yes	SSAR	3/1/21	10/1/20	12/1/20	1 st : 2/15/21 2 nd : 4/15/21	Rolling	12/1/20
 FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY	Institutional Online, Common Application	S: 3.4 - 4.07 F: 3.51 - 4.26	S: 1020 - 1180 F: 1080 - 1230	S: 20 - 23 F: 21 - 26	SAT/ACT Fee Waiver, NACAC Fee Waiver, Email from School Counselor, Written Request from Student, Documentation Demonstrating Participation in Free/Reduced Lunch	Yes	SSAR	3/1/21	December	11/1/20	1 st : 11/1/20 2 nd : 3/1/21	February	11/1/20
 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY	Institutional Online	S: 3.6 - 4.2 F: 4.0 - 4.6	S: 1100 - 1190 F: 1240 - 1360	S: 22 - 25 F: 26 - 31	SAT/ACT Fee Waiver, NACAC Fee Waiver, Email from School Counselor, Written Request from Student, Documentation Demonstrating Participation in Free/Reduced Lunch	No		3/1/21	Rolling	1/15/21	4/1/21	Rolling	1/15/21
 FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY	Institutional Online Application, Common Application	F: 3.9 - 4.6	F: 1280 - 1400	F: 28 - 32	SAT/ACT Fee Waiver, NACAC Fee Waiver, Documentation Demonstrating Participation in Free/Reduced Lunch	Yes	SSAR	11/1/20	11/20/20	11/1/20	1 st : 11/1/20 2 nd : 4/1/21		11/1/20
 FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY	Institutional Online Application, Common Application, Coalition Application	S: 3.8 - 4.3 F: 4.1 - 4.5	S: 1190 - 1310 F: 1290 - 1410	S: 26 - 30 F: 29 - 32	SAT/ACT Fee Waiver, NACAC Fee Waiver	Yes	SSAR	1 st : 12/1/20 2 nd : 3/1/21	1 st : 2/18/21 2 nd : Rolling	12/1/20	1 st : 12/1/20 2 nd : 3/1/21	1 st : 2/18/21 2 nd : Rolling	12/1/20
 NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA	Institutional Online Application, Common Application	F: 3.73 - 4.33	F: 1150 - 1340	F: 24 - 30	Application fee waived for all students	Yes	SSAR				1 st : 12/1/20 2 nd : 7/1/21	Weekly, beginning 10/15/20	11/1/20
 UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA	Institutional Online Application, Common Application	S: 3.77 - 4.29 F: 3.96 - 4.46	S: 1170 - 1280 F: 1250 - 1370	S: 23 - 28 F: 26 - 30	SAT/ACT Fee Waiver, NACAC Fee Waiver, Documentation Demonstrating Participation in Free/Reduced Lunch	Yes	SPARK	3/1/21	Rolling	12/1/20	5/1/21	Rolling	12/1/20
 UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	Common Application, Coalition Application	S: 4.4 - 4.6 F: 4.4 - 4.6	S: 1260 - 1400 F: 1340 - 1480	S: 28 - 32 F: 30 - 33	SAT/ACT Fee Waiver, NACAC Fee Waiver, Email from School Counselor, Written Request from Student, Documentation Demonstrating Participation in Free/Reduced Lunch	Yes	SSAR	1 st : 11/1/20 2 nd : 3/1/21	1 st : 2/26/21 2 nd : 3/26/21		1 st : 11/1/20 2 nd : 3/1/21	1 st : 2/26/21 2 nd : 3/26/21	
 UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA	Institutional Online Application, Common Application	S: 3.3 - 3.8 F: 4.0 - 4.5	S: 1070 - 1190 F: 1200 - 1320	S: 21 - 24 F: 25 - 28	SAT/ACT Fee Waiver, NACAC Fee Waiver, Documentation Demonstrating Participation in Free/Reduced Lunch	Yes	SSAR	5/3/21	Rolling	10/15/20	7/1/21	Rolling	10/15/20
 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA	Institutional Online Application, Common Application, Coalition Application	S: 3.7 - 4.0 F: 4.1 - 4.4	S: 1160 - 1190 F: 1270 - 1340	S: 24 - 25 F: 28 - 30	SAT/ACT Fee Waiver, NACAC Fee Waiver, Email from School Counselor, Written Request from Student, Documentation Demonstrating Participation in Free/Reduced Lunch	No		1 st : 11/1/20 2 nd : 3/1/21	11/15/20	1/15/21	1 st : 11/1/20 2 nd : 3/1/21	11/15/20	1/15/21
 UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA	Institutional Online Application, Common Application	S: 3.75 F: 3.9	S: 1140 F: 1173	S: 23 F: 25	SAT/ACT Fee Waiver, NACAC Fee Waiver, Email from School Counselor, Written Request from Student, Documentation Demonstrating Participation in Free/Reduced Lunch	No		1 st : 12/1/20 2 nd : 5/1/21	Early January 2021	1/1/21	1 st : 12/1/20 2 nd : 6/1/21	Rolling	1/1/21


 **FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY**
Tallahassee, Florida
admissions.famu.edu
850-599-3796
SAT Code 5215 ACT Code 0726

 **FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**
Boca Raton, Florida
fau.edu/admissions
561-297-3040
SAT Code 5229 ACT Code 0729


 **FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY**
Fort Myers, Florida
fgcu.edu/admissionsandaid
239-590-1000
SAT Code 5221 ACT Code 0733


 **FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**
Miami, Florida
admissions.fiu.edu
305-348-7000
SAT Code 5206 ACT Code 0776


 **FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY**
Lakeland, Florida
floridapoly.edu/admissions
863-874-4774
SAT Code 7303 ACT Code 2869


 **FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY**
Tallahassee, Florida
admissions.fsu.edu
850-644-6200
SAT Code 5219 ACT Code 0734

 **NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA**
Sarasota, Florida
ncf.edu/admissions
941-487-5000
SAT Code 5506 ACT Code 0750













 **UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA**
Orlando, Florida
admissions.ucf.edu
407-823-3000
SAT Code 5233 ACT Code 0735

 **UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**
Gainesville, FL
admissions.ufl.edu
352-392-1365
SAT Code 5812 ACT Code 0758

 **UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA**
Jacksonville, FL
unf.edu/admissions
904-620-5555
SAT Code 5490 ACT Code 0711

 **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA**
Tampa, Florida
usf.edu/admissions
813-974-3350
SAT Code 5828 ACT Code 0761

 **UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA**
Pensacola, Florida
uwf.edu/admissions
850-474-2230
SAT Code 5833 ACT Code 0771

TRANSFER PROGRAMS			FINANCIALS			
	NAME OF INSTITUTION	2+2 ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS	2019-2020 TUITION AND FEES (30 CREDIT HOURS)	ON-CAMPUS ROOM	ON-CAMPUS BOARD	BOOKS & SUPPLIES
	FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY	Ignite Program	\$5,645	\$6,012	\$4,826	\$1,138
	FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	Link To FAU	\$6,098	\$8,020	\$3,710	\$1,232
	FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY	Destination FGCU	\$6,118	\$5,808	\$3,864	\$1,200
	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY	Connect4Success	\$6,168	\$7,536	\$3,600	\$1,350
	FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY	Polk State College & South Florida State College (EE)	\$4,939	\$6,120	\$4,330	\$1,200
	FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY	TCC2FSU	\$6,516	\$6,880	\$4,396	\$1,000
	NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA	Guaranteed Admission Program with State College of Florida	\$5,763	\$7,000	\$2,662	\$1,200
	UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA	DirectConnect to UCF	\$6,368	\$6,120	\$4,180	\$1,200
	UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	Gator Engineering @ Santa Fe, Gator Engineering @ State College of Florida, DCP @ Santa Fe	\$6,380	\$5,990	\$4,600	\$890
	UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA	SF2UNF FSCJ/UNF Connect UNF/SJR State Gateway FGC/UNF 10/4	\$6,394	\$6,020	\$3,700	\$1,200
	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA	FUSE	\$6,410	\$8,156	\$4,100	\$1,100
	UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA	2UWF	\$6,360	\$5,800	\$3,940	\$1,600

U.S. News & World Reports ranks Florida's Higher Education #1 in the country! With 12 members of the State University System and 28 members of the Florida College System. Florida offers a wide range of programs, degrees and experiences. Please visit floridashines.org.

The Talented Twenty Program: The Talented Twenty Program is part of the Governor's Equity in Education Plan. The purpose is to guarantee admission to students who succeed in their respective K-12 public schools, and to encourage students to strive for better grades and a rigorous curriculum. The Florida Department of Education and Florida Board of Governors has created a frequently asked questions document to assist public school counselors with navigating the process. Please visit www.fldoe.org/schools/family-community/activities-programs/talented-twenty-program/ for details and step-by-step instructions.

Florida Student Scholarship & Grant Programs: Students must submit a completed Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) to the Office of Student Financial Assistance for programs such as the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, Jose Marti and Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans. Please visit floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org

AA degrees for graduating seniors: A high school student earning dual enrollment credit and/or an AA degree in high school is considered a first-time in college student and should submit an application as a first-year student, not as a transfer. Earning the AA while in high school does not guarantee admission into a specific state university.



RESOURCES:

Florida Shines: floridashines.org

Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook: dlss.flvc.org/florida-counseling-for-future-education-handbook

Florida College Access Network: floridacollegeaccess.org



Essay Tips & Topics

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1. Application Essay Topics	Page 1
2. Steps to a Great College Essay	Page 3
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4. Essay Proof Read Checklist	Page 7

APPLICATION ESSAY TOPICS

Below are Essay topic examples for different Universities for your reference.



COALITION FOR COLLEGE:

UF – University of Florida; FSU – Florida State University

USF – University of South Florida (no essay required); plus many other colleges in the USA

The essay prompts for the 2021-22 application year are (500-650 words):

- Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.
 - Describe a time when you made a meaningful contribution to others in which the greater good was your focus. Discuss the challenges and rewards of making your contribution.
 - Has there been a time when you've had a long-cherished or accepted belief challenged? How did you respond? How did the challenge affect your beliefs?
 - What is the hardest part of being a student now? What's the best part? What advice would you give a younger sibling or friend (assuming they would listen to you)?
 - Submit an essay on a topic of your choice.
-

FSU CARE – CARE Summer Bridge Program in 2021 (4 short answer response questions):

Complete all CARE short answer responses (each response is limited to 300 words each):

1. Difficult life challenges often impact the educational journey of a student. Describe a significant life challenge that influenced your educational journey.
2. What did you learn from that experience that will help you be successful at Florida State University?
3. Transitioning to college can be both an exciting and a challenging experience. What do you anticipate experiencing as a first-generation college student transitioning to Florida State University?
4. CARE provides students with a strong network of support and engagement opportunities while at FSU. How will the additional support from CARE and the FSU community enhance your college experience?

Source: <https://care.fsu.edu/apply> (please recheck link in August, prompts have changed last 2 years!)

These short answer responses for CARE are **IN ADDITION TO** one of the 5 essay topics listed above.

UCF – University of Central Florida



Although optional, the essay assists the Admissions Committee in knowing you as an individual, independent of test scores and other objective data. We ask that you respond to **two of the topics** below. Your responses should be no longer than a total of 500 words or 7,000 characters.

- If there has been some obstacle or bump in the road in your academic or personal life, please explain the circumstances.
- How has your family history, culture or environment influenced who you are?
- Why did you choose to apply to UCF?
- What qualities or unique characteristics do you possess that will allow you to

contribute to the UCF community?

APPLICATION ESSAY TOPICS

Below are Essay topic examples for different Universities for your reference.



COMMON APPLICATION (FAU, FGCU, Florida Polytechnic, FSU, New College of Florida, UCF, UF, UNF, USF, and many other private and public universities around the country)

2021-22 Essay Prompts:

- Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
- The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
- Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
- Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you.
- Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
- Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
- Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

No essay required:

USF – University of South Florida

FIU – Florida International University

FAU – Florida Atlantic University

UNF – University of North Florida

UWF – University of West Florida

FAMU – Florida A & M University

Florida Polytechnic University



STEPS TO A GREAT COLLEGE ESSAY

Below are some pointers on the Essay Writing Process for reference.



YOUR FIRST PARAGRAPH SHOULD GRAB THE READER:

The college essay has to grab the attention of an admission's reader. It is imperative that the introduction to the college essay captures the reader's attention and make the reader want to read more. There are different ways to grab a reader.

- Try starting with a question.
 - Begin with a bold statement.
 - Use an interesting quote.
 - Put the reader in medias res, that is, in the middle of things. Place the reader in the middle of something happening or in the middle of a conversation.
 - Challenge the reader by speaking directly to him/her.
 - Tell the reader what you do NOT want to do in your writing.
 - Sometimes even a single word that stands as a paragraph can make the reader wonder and read on.
-

APPROACH THE ESSAY FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE:

If you look at things a little differently from others you stand out. In answering an essay prompt, you need not always do it the most normal way.

- What if you were to take the negative approach to answer the prompt? What are your hopes? Maybe you can tell what your hopes are by writing what you do not hope for.
 - Perhaps you can create a little mystery by not answering the prompt immediately. What do you want to study? Maybe you could reveal that in the last sentence of your prompt after telling about all the little things that have some relevance to your area of study. For example, you might describe many natural flora, observe fauna, then list feelings you have about nature to lead up to writing that you want to study biology.
 - You might even bury your answer to a prompt in a story or in a moral tale or even in a description.
-

LEAVE YOUR READER WITH A LASTING IMPRESSION:

People remember last things first or, at least, best. As Alan Alda said in a commencement address he delivered to his daughter's graduating college class, the most important things are said on the way out the door. His last words in that speech were, "I love you."

In the same way, you should end your college essay with something that not only summarizes the most important aspects of you but that is also memorable. Memorable endings are poignant, making the reader feel an emotion. Or, they capture a several-line conclusion in one pithy, well-worded phrase or sentence. Or, maybe they end with a simple, clean truth written from the heart.



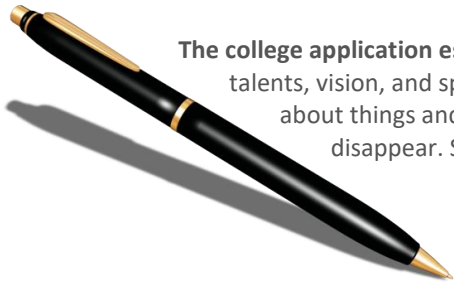
More information on writing college essays can be found at
www.collegebasics.com/applying-to-college/admissions-essays.

STEPS TO A GREAT COLLEGE ESSAY

Below are some pointers on the Essay Writing Process for reference.



You, in 500 Words or Less



The college application essay is a chance to explain yourself, to open your personality, charm, talents, vision, and spirit to the admissions committee. It's a chance to show you can think about things and that you can write clearly about your thoughts. Don't let the chance disappear. Stand up straight and believe in yourself!

The Essay Writing Process

Okay, boot up your computer and let's get to it. To write a college essay, use the exact same three-step process you'd use to write an essay for class: first prewrite, then draft, and finally, edit. This process will help you identify a focus for your essay, and gather the details you'll need to support it.

A. Prewriting

To begin, you must first collect and organize potential ideas for your essay's focus. Since all essay questions are attempts to learn about you, begin with? Yourself.

- **Brainstorm:** Set a timer for 15 minutes and make a list of your strengths and outstanding characteristics. Focus on strengths of personality, not things you've done. For example, you are responsible (not an "Eagle Scout") or committed (not "played basketball"). If you keep drifting toward events rather than characteristics, make a second list of the things you've done, places you've been, accomplishments you're proud of; use them for the activities section of your application.
- **Discover Your Strengths:** Do a little research about yourself: ask parents, friends, and teachers what your strengths are.
- **Create a Self-Outline:** Now, next to each trait, list five or six pieces of evidence from your life??" Things you've been or done??" that proves your point.
- **Find Patterns and Connections:** Look for patterns in the material you've brainstormed. Group similar ideas and events together. For example, does your passion for numbers show up in your performance in the state math competition and your summer job at the computer store? Was basketball about sports or about friendships? When else have you stuck with the hard work to be with people who matter to you?

B. Drafting

Now it's time to get down to the actual writing. Write your essay in three basic parts: introduction, body, and conclusion.

- The introduction gives your reader an idea of your essay's content. It can shrink when you need to be concise. One vivid sentence might do: "The favorite science project was a complete failure."
- The body presents the evidence that supports your main idea. Use narration and incident to show rather than tell.
- The conclusion can be brief as well, a few sentences to nail down the meaning of the events and incidents you've described.

An application essay doesn't need to read like an essay about The Bluest Eye or the Congress of Vienna, but thinking in terms of these three traditional parts is a good way to organize your main points.

STEPS TO A GREAT COLLEGE ESSAY

Below are some pointers on the Essay Writing Process for reference.



There are three basic essay styles you should consider:

1. **Standard Essay:** Take two or three points from your self-outline, give a paragraph to each, and make sure you provide plenty of evidence. Choose things not apparent from the rest of your application or light up some of the activities and experiences listed there.
2. **Less-Is-More Essay:** In this format, you focus on a single interesting point about yourself. It works well for brief essays of a paragraph or half a page.
3. **Narrative Essay:** A narrative essay tells a short and vivid story. Omit the introduction; write one or two narrative paragraphs that grab and engage the reader's attention, then explain what this little tale reveals about you.

C. Editing

When you have a good draft, it's time to make final improvements to your draft, find and correct any errors, and get someone else to give you feedback. Remember, you are your best editor. No one can speak for you; your own words and ideas are your best bet.

- **Let It Cool:** Take a break from your work and come back to it in a few days. Does your main idea come across clearly? Do you prove your points with specific details? Is your essay easy to read aloud?
- **Feedback Time:** Have someone you like and trust (but someone likely to tell you the truth) read your essay. Ask them to tell you what they think you're trying to convey. Did they get it right?
- **Edit Down:** Your language should be simple, direct, and clear. This is a personal essay, not a term paper. Make every word count (e.g., if you wrote "in society today," consider changing that to "now").
- **Proofread Two More Times:** Careless spelling or grammatical errors, awkward language, or fuzzy logic will make your essay memorable???" in a bad way.



This article is based on information found in The College Application Essay, by Sarah Myers McGinty.

THE COLLEGE ESSAY

CREATING YOUR STORY...



List any challenges you have faced and overcome, especially experiences which gave you strong survival skills and demonstrated your ability to continue your education despite setbacks and difficulties. If you have an experience like this, describe the situation in detail.

List any childhood experiences that demonstrated an early ability to learn or a dedication to academic subjects. You may also indicate here your family's experience with education, traveling, or any summer camp or volunteer experiences that tell a story about who you are.

List any languages and cultures you know outside of your current home. If you have come from another country, talk about the challenge of competing with native speakers and achieving at a high level nonetheless. Any experience with travel abroad (Experiment in International Living, family trips) or an acquaintance with another culture should be described.

What experiences make you unique, or set you apart from other candidates? These experiences can come from any aspect of your life – your family, your academics, your extracurricular activities, your work, etc.

PROOF READ CHECKLIST

Have at least two persons proof-read/critique your essay. Suggestions include: Student Mentor, English Teacher and College Success Coach. Turn in form to your College Success Coach when completed and signed.

Questions to Ask	Comments	N/A
1. Did my opening paragraph capture the reader's attention?		
2. Is the statement as a whole interesting?		
3. Is it well written?		
4. Is the statement positive and upbeat?		
5. Does it reflect well on me and my qualifications?		
6. Is it an honest and forthright presentation of me?		
7. Does it answer key questions posed in the applications?		
8. Was relevant material omitted?		
9. Is there inappropriate or irrelevant material in the statement?		
10. Does the reader gain insight from reading the statements?		
11. Is it free of typos or other errors?		
12. Has the statement distinguished me from other applications?		

Signature

Title

Date Reviewed



Essay Samples

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The only thing my brother, Jonathan, loved more than playing games was demolishing me at them.

Mancala was a particularly passionate competition. The faint sound of multi-colored marbles hitting the wooden board initiated mental preparation for the upcoming tournament. Sitting on the floor with the board between us, my brother initiated the game, mischievously smirking, “You go first.”... then adding, “You need it more than I do.” Watching my brother’s pile of stones increasing exponentially whilst my designated pit for points remained barren, we played until he grew tired of winning; then, he would suggest Monopoly.

One day I decided to win; I studied. Sitting in my room with the wooden block in front of me, I proceeded to try every possible combination of moves to figure out which one pit out of the twelve would put the optimal amount of marbles into my mancala. I worked out all of the possible moves he could make in response and then determined how I should respond to his response. I committed all of these moves to memory and he was never the wiser. Success! I finally won my first match. I beat my brother. I was endlessly proud of my victory. In hindsight, I am now proudest of my resolve.

I did not graciously accept all of the losses prior to my triumph. There were days that I wanted to grab all of the marbles and throw them at his smug face. Fortunately, a similarity between Mancala and life is that the games weren’t finished until we chose to be finished. When I was nominated to be Monroe County’s Girl’s State representative I was ecstatic, but when I was notified that I wasn’t selected I was miserable. However, like the endless rematches there was going to be another opportunity for me to excel. When I was nominated to be the Sunshine State Scholar of my county, I decided to win. I spent the entire twenty-four hours before a family trip to Cuba drafting and editing my application. Returning home, I was the official Sunshine State Scholar of Monroe County.

I hope to never let fear of failure hold me back. Even after I destroyed my brother, he did not easily relinquish his title of “Master of the Marbles.” In spite of my study, my skills didn’t keep me from falling short of conquest. This didn’t stop me from playing.

The second day of band camp, we spent the entire morning sweating while marching back and forth on a field. It wasn’t until we were inside, enjoying the air conditioning, that I fainted. I returned to consciousness mortified, not because my body temporarily shut down, but because I ate carpet in front of everyone. I skipped the third day of camp out of terror of further humiliation. The fourth day I dragged myself back to that field; my need to persist outweighed my fears. I am now a band officer and can proudly boast that I haven’t missed another day.

Without losses in life and Mancala, I never would have achieved anything truly valuable. I know that my future failures will probably outnumber my successes, but at least I have one consolation to get me through: I’m pretty good at Mancala.

When we are children we have a firm, unwavering belief that our parents are invincible. We believe that any problem magically evaporates with a smile and a reassuring hug. We don't notice the tight lips that form the smile and the slight shake of the arms that act as our shield. We choose to believe, for a little longer, that they can make everything good again and we cloak ourselves with the false security; unable to imagine a world where our parents are as helpless as us. Throughout my childhood I have consistently faced off with obstacles that challenged this belief.

I was eight-years-old, walking in on my mother crying, the word divorce hanging in the space between us. I was thirteen-years-old, standing in the line outside of a church, holding her hand as we waited in the cold for free groceries. I was fifteen-years-old, listening to her explain that we had to leave our house, the look in her eyes ripping off the protective cloak I had tried so desperately to cling onto.

Everything will be okay. Everything will be okay. Everything will be okay. Everything is not okay.

After spending most of my life moving around, one would think I had become accustomed to saying goodbye to my home, but it is different when that goodbye is unwilling, when it comes out of nowhere, shaking the foundations of the barricades you have put up against the fear of money. I was forced to come to the realization that my mother was not an unbeatable force, she was human.

In the midst of all the chaos and stress, I turned to the one thing that made me feel like I had control, like I was invincible. My education. It became my release, and it gave me hope and a future to look forward to. A future that no one in my family had yet experienced.

In school I did not falter, I redirected my anger and my stress into motivation to succeed. In the classroom, the financial situation of my family didn't matter. What mattered was my brain, my thoughts, ideas and most of all my desire to learn and grow as a student. Success in school boosted my confidence that for so long had been tainted by finances. My hope was that one day my mother or my future family could rely on me as much as my younger self had relied on my parents. This resulted in a fire that burned inside of me, one that could not be extinguished by a fear of money or crushed childhood beliefs.

My family's difficulties, in a way, stole my adolescence from me. I no longer believe that parents are superhuman. At fifteen I resented this enlightenment that I had reached. I wanted to believe that nothing could truly harm me as long as my mother sheltered me from the awful parts of life. However, our struggles have averted my beliefs to something stronger. I believe in the importance of resilience in the face of adversity. I believe that while not invincible, my mother is an unrelenting force and that I too can achieve this through persistence and the hope and desire that:

Everything will be okay.

Life is a race, a marathon of sorts, with highs, lows, and ever-changing finish lines to cross to achieve your goals and wildest dreams. On April 14th, 2018, I crossed the finish line of the Seven Mile Bridge Run as first of fifteen hundred competitors. Not only was this a huge personal accomplishment, but also a source of encouragement for my hometown that holds the race annually, and had been recently devastated by Hurricane Irma. My life can be compared to that of a series of races, each helping shape the strong, determined character I have carried through life.

My race began on March 23rd, 2001, when I was born in Key West, Florida, into a world a child shouldn't have to bear. As far back as I can remember, my parents fought constantly; being terrified when my parents argued, an often scene in the toxic place that was supposed to feel like home, I sought out sanctuary by finding solace in playing outside, where a kid can live and flourish.

As my comprehension of life expanded, my parents split up, marking the next race in my life. During this time, I moved from elementary school to middle school, a big deal to an eleven year old. To go along with the radical change in school environment, my home environment changed too; I split time with my newly-divorced parents, leading to various struggles. The silver lining in this comes with the opportunity for me to join the cross country team at my school. Trying to maintain as much distance from my parents as I could during this time, I decided to try out for the team. After the first few practices, I fell in love with it and I knew I had found my passion, an outlet from my problems and a way to cope with my troubles. Here I was, a sixth grader on the varsity cross country team, learning about perseverance, teamwork and discipline through a sport that had such importance.

My next race was the rapidly increasing difficulty of school. At a young age, I tested into the Alpha Program at my elementary school, a program for only the most gifted. This built a great foundation in my education. I rarely felt challenged by school until high school, with taking my first Advanced Placement course and having a larger workload than ever. Through my lovely stress reliever, running, I was able to start off well, passing my first AP exam and staying above a 4.0 GPA.

As school got harder, practices got longer, and the need to pay for my own cost of living arising, I learned how to juggle my responsibilities the best I could. These past two years of high school, I have maintained above a 4.0 GPA, participated and progressed to the state championships in both track and cross country, all while working to support myself, keeping that stress off my parents.

I plan on a starting a new race soon; one as a first-generation college student. I am hopeful and optimistic that my all my prior races, finished and ongoing, will help me along this new marathon of life.

April 7, 2014, was the day my life changed forever. This was the day Paige won the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) Diva's Championship.

Initially, women in WWE – Divas – were not taken seriously. These strong young women were nothing but a beautiful sideshow: never given a chance to showcase their skills but instead charged with holding score cards for the men's main event. As a young Hindu girl, I was taught to act like one of these original Divas; I was taught that my place in the world was on the sidelines, that I did not need to be talented, passionate, or strong. Not knowing any better, I kept this mindset for too many years.

Then on April 7, 2014, the TV mimicked a mirror and pride swelled in my chest as a young black-haired girl fiercely hoisted the Diva's Championship. She screamed with confidence and passion, and I was in awe. Although it was only her first day in WWE, Paige made it clear she had no intention of continuing the tradition of sitting on the sidelines: Paige was determined to be the main event.

Seeing Paige victorious, I began to envision a different outcome for my life – one where I could hold a championship over my head. Inspired, I began to wrestle for my future.

Through wrestling, I found my passion. Captivated by the way WWE would keep me on the edge of my seat for hours, I signed up for my school's Television Productions class, not knowing anything about cinema. I imagined Paige's isolation turned triumph as I wrote my first screenplay, *Paradise*, about a boy who gets stranded on an island. This debut circuited the All-American and Palm Beach International Film Festivals, Florida Scholastic Press Association, and the Tropic Cinema. Paige's entrance music bellowed through my mind as I learned how to produce my own music to accompany my films. WWE helped me realize that I had a passion and talent that I should explore rather than hide.

Through wrestling, I found the world. For five years, I followed Paige's journey as she went from a small-town girl to defending her championship all over the planet. It didn't matter what language they spoke, religion they followed, or race they were: Paige was always willing to tag-team with any wrestler and put on the "Match-of-the-Night." For years, I admired her openness to collaborate with others and learn about the world. I decided to further develop my proficiency in Hindi, Spanish, and American Sign Language so I, too, could engage with others from around the world. I decided to take more opportunities to travel and learn about new cultures, from Argentina to the United Arab Emirates. The more I experienced, the more I realized that I had much to learn. I also began to develop a new sense of acceptance and understanding.

Through wrestling, I found my strength. Growing up overweight, teetering on obesity, I was not able to do the things kids are supposed to do. I couldn't run, jump, or play. How I looked was reflected in how I felt about myself. My lack of confidence prevented me from going to the beach or pool parties and from taking pictures of myself with others. That all changed when I delved into WWE. I wanted to be as strong as Paige. I started Crossfit, weightlifting, and kickboxing, and my burdens didn't feel so heavy anymore. Just as Paige stuns the audience each time she walks to the ring, I walk the hallways with confidence and flare.

April 7, 2014, wasn't just the day Paige won the Diva's Championship. It was also the day I embarked on my own journey to be a champion. Throughout my adolescence, WWE taught me to challenge myself, find my passion, and expand my horizons. I'm not sure what opponents I'll face next but, no matter what, I'm ready and excited for them all.

How has your family history, culture, or environment influenced who you are?

My entire life I have been surrounded by the importance of my Hispanic heritage. I was born to a Cuban father and a Peruvian mother, and although both my parents are from two diverse cultures, I feel as though I have been equally influenced by both. In Peru, my grandmother stressed to my mother the importance of challenging herself academically. She taught my mother that to have a successful life and career, she needed to obtain a degree. Just as my grandmother instilled the importance of an education to my mother, my mother conveyed this fundamental truth to me. Her influence has always been the driving force pushing me to challenge myself academically. My father was a carpenter in Cuba. With his carpentry skills and inventive mind, he helped build the raft that took him and sixteen other people to America to escape communism's grip. When the odds were stacked against him and it seemed like his dream would never come to fruition, he persisted. He never gave up on the notion that he could establish a better life for himself and his family. I have such a deep respect for both my mother and father for displaying bravery and persistence throughout their lives. Their influence has definitely shaped me for the better, and I hope to keep learning and growing from the lessons I've been fortunate enough to receive.

Although my parents have provided a great foundation for my life, I have still faced challenges. One such challenge was entering the workforce at the age of fourteen. When I started working I was unsure of what having a job entailed, but was excited nonetheless to have my first real taste of responsibility. In my first job I observed favoritism being shown to people who had worked far less time than I had. This was frustrating, but I kept working hard and actively pursuing the position I wanted. After speaking to my manager on three separate occasions I was granted the promotion. Through this, I learned that it's important to take initiative when you want to achieve something. With enough hard work and persistence you can meet your goals in the face of others' prejudices and opposition.

During high school I was fortunate enough to earn a full paid summer study abroad scholarship to China. The program sent me on a month-long journey through a country I had never been to and threw me into a culture I knew nothing about. Along with overcoming culture shock, the language barrier was the most difficult challenge I had to face. During my home stay with a Chinese host family it became evident that being able to effectively communicate my life experiences while learning about theirs was difficult and hindered me from connecting on a personal level. Despite the challenges, I was able to leave China with a newfound understanding of a culture unlike my own, giving me a deeper appreciation of the world outside of my small cultural bubble.

Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.

I've stayed up countless nights, perused through way too many books, and ultimately I think I've found it. Such a vague question as "why are we here?" A question that dates back to the earliest philosophers, and yet, even today there is no definite answer. If you ask a hundred people "what is the meaning of life?" You will get a hundred varied answers. The solution is as simple as a two word answer: just being.

As I've gone through life this question has always been at the back of my mind, gnawing at my conscious. At first I thought it was all meaningless, we're here by chance and all we can do is enjoy the ride. At times I attempted to ignore the existentialism of it all. What I've learned is that ignorance is in fact not bliss, being clueless only makes the thoughts more tenacious. Studying philosophers and scientists only made it all the more confusing as all they agreed upon was disagreeing.

The solution came to me at a time when I was not searching for answers. I was visiting Mexico to see my relatives; most importantly my grandparents. As I was sitting in my grandmas cramped kitchen, the smell of coffee filling the air, I closed my eyes and felt a feeling of ease wash over me. This was what I spent countless hours searching for. It wasn't specifically the coffee or the kitsch table decorations, but the feeling of being. Looking out the window and counting the cars that pass by and realizing every single person in those cars has their own life, their own abode, their own consciousness. The revelation that there is no real wrong answer to the question that had been tormenting me for as long as I could remember. All my life I had searched for a clear cut answer when in reality, all I had to do was step back and let the answer find me.

It might be perplexing to think about why I placed such an emphasis on this question. The numerous times I have questioned myself as to why I place such a great amount of importance to this question has led me to one conclusion: the uncertainty of existence. No one is promised tomorrow. Every breath you take, every time you speak, you never know when it'll be your last. It is crucial to live in the moment because the only thing promised is the present. Everyone is so caught up on tomorrow's problems that no one seems to acknowledge today's problems.

In the end, I cannot convince everyone that my answer is the right answer. It is in human nature to disagree. However, the key to finding out the meaning of life is to step back, strip away all the stressors of everyday life, and just be. When life is too much, all you can do is to close your eyes and just be. Breathe in, breathe out, and just be.

FSU CARE #1 (MHS 2020)

Life is filled with challenges, whether it be emotional struggles, finances, or health. Throughout my life I have faced plenty of obstacles, some more challenging than others. As life went on I realized how important it was to have money because money is our life's driving force. You have to have it to pay bills, buy food, clothing and go to college. Growing up I never had expensive shoes, clothes, or even school supplies. We were always on a budget. My mom worked 16 hours a day most of the year, most of that money going into house repairs because I live in a trailer park. My home was always hard to maintain in good shape when it slowly continued to fall apart in random places. My mom was constantly trying to put food on our table, clothes on our backs, and as she said "una cobija, para que estes calientita en la noche," or a blanket to keep you warm at night. Even though we didn't have everything, she made sure to always have some money in the end for fun.

Money has always been an issue, but this has taught me to value what I have, do not fuss! My upbringing has pushed me farther, to work harder, so in the future I can return the favor to my mom. Thinking of the goal of one day buying her a house is what motivates me to put more effort on essays, projects, tests. Everything that could possibly bring me closer to helping my mom for every drop of sweat she has put into making me the person I am today. She constantly complains of body pain, yet she fights each day, to get my brother and me the best materials we can have for school.

FSU CARE #2

As I matured, I began to realize the importance of valuing what you have, not to take things for granted. At any point in life things can just disappear. I learned to have patience, to remain calm, because in the end things will be okay as long as you have faith and work hard. At Florida State University, I would have the mindset of working nonstop and I would continue pushing myself no matter how tough the day may have been. I believe that knowing that my mom went through so much is only an inspiration to continue working persistently throughout college to achieve my goals of my true potential. This life lesson will allow me to motivate myself to be successful while in school, it would transform me into an outgoing student. If there is anything my mother's struggle has taught me, it would be, that things happen for a reason, accept it.

My mother's lifestyle has showed me to accept and learn from whatever is thrown at me, any obstacle or challenge. No matter how complicated things may be, if I pour every drop of sweat into my work at Florida State University I will become an extraordinary student who would never let her professors down. I would continuously fight and continue to create my own path to become the best I can possibly be.

FSU CARE #3

As a first generation student, I hope to experience the whole college dorm adventure. I want to see how it feels to be independent and to do as I please to enjoy myself while I am away from home. Mostly, I want to experience the classrooms, the vast array of choices and the campus. College life sounds so interesting

when students speak about the sizes of the classes, how a class can be so big that there is the chance of being in a class with up to 200+ students, where a professor sometimes would not even remember your name. This would introduce me into a large diverse group of people, where they all meet and learn about one another's background and personality.

Along with the new perspective of cultural identities, I would have the exciting lifestyle of walking to class in a new environment. An area filled with trees, nature and just people talking amongst themselves. Especially when winter finally arrives to Florida, the air gets colder and friends get closer. While bringing a special feeling to my heart, it would remind me of home when my mom gave me a mug of hot chocolate, "tenga, para que no te me enfermes", she would always say, "here, so you don't get sick." The surroundings would make me feel at home while being away from home.

FSU CARE #4

While at Florida State University, I believe that the campus itself provides a sense of relaxation and calmness just with its environment. This would allow me, as a student to find areas on campus to calmly and successfully study for tests and get my work done. Having the support from the FSU CARE program would guide me through the college experience, step by step. Being a first generation student can make it difficult to find out how to do things correctly, as well as even knowing the right person to ask the hundreds of questions that I will surely have. The CARE program would be like my guardian angel, always there in my time of need. I know CARE would absolutely keep me on track, keep me up to date with advice and solutions even when my issues may not just be academic. Florida State CARE would provide for me during the most stressful of times, starting college! The staff and fellow students would help me maintain the pace I need to be at, supporting me to stay ahead of the game.

In our youth, we start with innocence and a positive outlook on life. As we begin to mature, our perspective modifies along with our understanding and acceptance of our future path. Throughout my childhood I was always focused and determined to achieve good grades and nothing more. My mother's expectations were perfect attendance, and grades no less than A's and B's. Ever since elementary school I always met and even exceeded my mom's standards, I never let her down. Well not until 8th grade, when I got a boyfriend. This guy who I had always liked, since 2nd grade finally became part of my life. I thought it was the best thing to ever happen to me. As usual in relationships, we began happy and nothing but that. We would always be together in school, never out because I had not told my mom yet. I was only 13 at the time, young and innocent. He was 14, a bit more mature, but in ways that did not involve growing into a responsible and caring man. Our relationship to me was great, strong even, yet there were always issues on his side. None which were necessary to deal with because of our age. As months passed he began to ask for things, things I was not really ready for.

One night in September 2015 I was forced to do what my mom always warned me about. With a shaken up mind and tears down my cheeks, he said everything would be alright, I would always be safe if I was with him. Being so young, I was struck with relief, as I believed the things he told me, which he said to keep me by his side and do as he pleased. I had also believed that no harm would come to me if I gave him what he wanted, even though he threatened to hurt me. Months passed by and now he started to tell me how fat and ugly I was, how much of a slut I was for even talking to a guy. I was not allowed to speak to any guys, no social media, or contact of any kind with anyone who he thought was a "threat". He constantly told me that no one would ever want me, I was lucky to have him. Every time I tried to fight back or even defend myself, I would end up with more and more bruises. My mom saw them, yet I lied and said they were from sports. I repeatedly told myself that everything he did and said to me I deserved. I was the one to always apologize because in his eyes I was the one in the wrong.

Every day he brought me down more and more. In 2016, I met a new friend who I eventually got extremely close with and I ended up telling everything to her. She listened to everything I had to possibly say, stood up and stated that I had to speak up. With more and more tears and pain each day, I finally decided to say something. My mom, along with the whole school, found out what happened. I was ashamed, yet I felt free, the pressure was off my shoulders. As time went by, I began to realize how much of myself I had lost, and started working to regain my confidence and my happiness. Recovering each and every day, I am forever thankful for my friend, for being by my side.

I have grown in my own eyes, becoming a strong and independent young woman who believes she is capable of so much. This shaped me into believing I deserve more, to accept and fight whatever life throws at me because I am nothing but extraordinary. I will bring my determination and passion to FSU and do everything in my power to be the best Seminole I can be.

Although I was four years old, I still vividly remember the uncomfortable plane ride from Panama to the United States. That plane ride was the beginning of the memories I would make in the United States and the end of my memories from Panama. Unaware of the ground my feet were planted on, unique obstacles were already lined up ahead of me due to my citizenship status: undocumented immigrant.

When I arrived in 2006, I was quickly enrolled in school before I could recognize we were in Florida and not Panama. Being a pre-kindergartener, I did not notice the language barrier between my peers and I, and never felt ostracized by the other children. Their acceptance catalyzed my language acquisition, and I found myself speaking English on par with my Spanish. My mother was quick to point out that this country had many opportunities, and that if we had stayed in Panama, I would have never learned English. She still made sure I practiced Spanish, since she firmly believed that being bilingual is a great asset. So with these two languages at my side, I assimilated with my classmates while holding onto the semblance of my home's culture.

Before ninth grade, I lived my life as if I was born and raised in Florida, mentally pretending that the first four years of my life in Panama was a fever dream. I never focused on my being an immigrant, I remained adamant on getting good grades and aiming for the top of my class. My mother made sure to raise me to work hard, and reasonably push me to be my best, so I kept my schoolwork as my highest priority. Through my mother's influence, I felt confident in myself, despite feeling disparaged by the fact that I was an undocumented immigrant. She always made me feel proud of our Panamanian heritage and made sure I never lost touch with who I am culturally.

Along with the cultural clash that came with coming to the United States, there also came financial hardships and a family divide. My mother and father lived separately due to their jobs, whereas I lived with my mother in Cape Coral and my father lived in Marathon, which was a long car ride away. After spending years away from his children, watching them grow up from afar, my father suggested that we move to Marathon with him. Marathon, being in the Florida Keys, was undoubtedly expensive to live in, and given that my mother had to sacrifice her job in Cape Coral, it was difficult to support a family there. The financial disparity between my parents' income and the cost of living was grave, as we had to live in a trailer for a few years before we could afford an adequate home.

When the time came and I was inducted into Take Stock in Children, I was finally applying for my first job. At this time, I was the last of my siblings to get a job, and we were all striving to pool together money for a better home. Having to juggle school and community service on top of my job during my junior year was a feat I could not have done without sheer willpower and my mother's support. She always reminded me that I have to work harder because of our situation in this country, but that I should be working for my own happiness and success, not hers. Immigrating to the United States has presented me with challenges but they did not deter me from pursuing a higher education and making myself, along with my parents, proud.



Applications

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Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL
Admissions: (850)644-6200

University of Northern Florida
Jacksonville, FL
Admissions: (904)620-5555



University of West Florida
Pensacola, FL
Admissions: (850)474-2230



University of Central Florida
Orlando, FL
Admissions: (407)823-3000



Florida A & M University
Tallahassee, FL
Admissions: (850)599-3796

A Map of Public Florida Universities

University of Florida
Gainesville, FL
Admissions: (352)392-1365



Florida Polytechnic University
Lakeland, FL
Admissions: (863)874-4774



University of South Florida
Tampa, FL
Admissions: (813)974-3350



Florida Gulf Coast University
Ft. Myers, FL
Admissions: (239)590-7878



Florida Atlantic University
Boca Raton, FL
Admissions: (561)297-3040



New College of Florida
Sarasota, FL
Admissions: (941)487-5000



Florida International University
Miami, FL
Admissions: (305)348-7000

Florida Colleges

1. Broward College – Fort Lauderdale
2. Chipola College – Marianna
3. College of Central Florida – Ocala
4. Daytona State College – Daytona Beach
5. Eastern Florida State College – Cocoa
6. Florida Gateway College – Lake City
7. Florida Keys Community College – Key West
8. Florida SouthWestern State College – Fort Myers
9. Florida State College at Jacksonville – Jacksonville
10. Gulf Coast State College – Panama City
11. Hillsborough Community College – Tampa
12. Indian River State College – Fort Pierce
13. Lake-Sumter State College – Sumterville
14. Miami Dade College – Miami
15. North Florida Community College – Madison
16. Northwest Florida State College – Niceville
17. Palm Beach State College – Lake Worth
18. Pasco-Hernando State College – New Port Richey
19. Pensacola State College – Pensacola
20. Polk State College – Winter Haven
21. Santa Fe College – Gainesville
22. Seminole State College – Sanford
23. South Florida State College – Avon Park
24. St. Petersburg College – St. Petersburg
25. St. Johns River State College – Palatka
26. State College of Florida – Manatee-Sarasota
27. Tallahassee Community College – Tallahassee
28. Valencia College – Orlando



For more information on where your Florida Pre-Paid plan can be used, visit the following website for colleges, technical, and vocational schools.

<https://www.myfloridaprepaid.com/existing-customers/schools/>



College Application Deadlines - Class of 2022

(Expected dates and procedures based on Class of 2021)

Florida Public Universities

These dates may change. ALWAYS verify dates on the university websites!

Florida A&M University (FAMU)		
KEY DATES	Ways to Apply	IMPORTANT INFO/LINKS
June 15 – Application Opens October 30 – FAMU Scholarship & Priority Deadline May 1 – Deposit Deadline (\$200) http://admissions.famu.edu/freshman	Institutional Application ➤ http://admissions.famu.edu/	Three decision dates based on timing of application Essay – 500 words, part of application SSAR – Required https://ssar.selfreportedtranscript.com 2 letters of recommendation, part of application

Florida Atlantic University (FAU)		
KEY DATES	Ways to Apply	IMPORTANT INFO/LINKS
August 1 – Application Opens December 1 – FAU Scholarship Deadline February 15 – Priority Deadline May 1 - Deposit Deadline (\$200) https://www.fau.edu/admissions/deadlines	Institutional Application ➤ https://www.fau.edu/apply-now/ Common Application ➤ https://apply.commonapp.org/createaccount	Rolling Admissions, Decisions 4 weeks after all application materials are submitted and considered complete Essay – Not Required SSAR – Required ➤ https://ssar.selfreportedtranscript.com

Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU)		
KEY DATES	Ways to Apply	IMPORTANT INFO/LINKS
August 1 – Application Opens November 1-FGCU Scholarship Deadline November 1-Early Action Deadline April 1– Application CLOSES May 1 – Deposit Deadline(\$200) https://www.fgcu.edu/admissionsandaid/undergraduateadmissions/applicationdeadlines	Institutional Application ➤ https://fgcu.elluciancrmrecruit.com/Apply/ Common Application ➤ https://apply.commonapp.org/createaccount	Priority Deadline, Rolling Admissions notification after Essay – Required SSAR – Required (Link will appear IN your Eagle Account) ➤ https://ssar.selfreportedtranscript.com



College Application Deadlines - Class of 2022

(Expected dates and procedures based on Class of 2021)

Florida Public Universities

Florida International University (FIU)		
KEY DATES	Ways to Apply	IMPORTANT INFO/LINKS
July - Application Opens January 15-FIU Scholarship Deadline April 1-Final Application Deadline May 1 – Deposit Deadline (\$200) https://admissions.fiu.edu/how-to-apply/freshman-applicant/index.html	Institutional Application ➤ https://admissions.fiu.edu Use College Board Fee Waiver for application	Rolling Admissions Create an account @ Raise.me (FIU specific scholarships) Essay – Not Required; SSAR – Not Required Holistic Review Option: good test scores, lower GPA – Essay Requirement for consideration Special programs: STEP / Connect4Success - Students will be invited for these program, if eligible

Florida Polytechnic University (FLPOLY)		
KEY DATES	Ways to Apply	IMPORTANT INFO/LINKS
August 1 – Application Opens November 1-FLPOLY Scholarship Deadline November 1 – Priority Deadline December 15 – Decisions go out for Priority May 1 – Deposit Deadline (\$200) https://floridapoly.edu/admissions-and-aid/first-time-students/undergraduate.php	Institutional Application ➤ https://floridapoly.force.com/Apply/login Common Application ➤ https://apply.commonapp.org/createaccount	Priority Deadline moves to Rolling Admission Point-Click-Send: send Test Scores and Grades via picture; Or can use SSAR ➤ https://ssar.selfreportedtranscript.com Essay – Required Letters of Recommendation (1-3) – Required

Florida State University (FSU)		
KEY DATES	Ways to Apply	IMPORTANT INFO/LINKS
August 1- Application Opens December 1 – Deadline for all Applications December 1 – CARE Program Deadline December 1– FSU Scholarship Deadline May 1 – Deposit Deadline (\$200) https://admissions.fsu.edu/first-year/deadlines	Institutional Application ➤ https://admissions.fsu.edu/ Coalition Application ➤ https://www.mycoalition.org/ Common Application ➤ https://apply.commonapp.org/createaccount	Priority Deadline, Single Decision Date Essay – Required SSAR – Required ➤ https://ssar.selfreportedtranscript.com Special programs: FSU CARE SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM, must indicate interest on application!



College Application Deadlines - Class of 2022

(Expected dates and procedures based on Class of 2021)

Florida Public Universities

New College (NCF)		
KEY DATES	Ways to Apply	IMPORTANT INFO/LINKS
August 1-Application Opens November 1-NCF Scholarship Deadline February 28-Priority Deadline May 1 – Deposit Deadline (\$200) https://www.ncf.edu/admissions/apply-to-new-college/	Institutional Application ➤ https://www.ncf.edu/admissions/apply-to-new-college/first-year-students/ Common Application ➤ https://apply.commonapp.org/createaccount	Essay – Optional SSAR or Transcript ➤ https://ssar.selfreportedtranscript.com Recommendation – Optional

University of Central Florida (UCF)		
KEY DATES	Ways to Apply	IMPORTANT INFO/LINKS
August 1 – Application Opens APPLY EARLY, by September is preferred! November 1 – Housing Application opens December 1- FAFSA/Scholarship Deadline January 15 – Top 10 Knights App. Deadline May 1 – Deposit Deadline (\$200) https://www.ucf.edu/apply-to-ucf/#undergraduate-deadlines	Institutional Application ➤ https://www.ucf.edu/admissions/undergraduate/apply/ Common Application ➤ https://apply.commonapp.org/createaccount	Rolling Admissions Spark (UCF version of SSAR) Essay – Required (website says its optional, it is required) Housing – Apply as soon as you get admitted to UCF ➤ Space is limited, goes quickly Top 10 Knights – ➤ https://www.ucf.edu/admissions/undergraduate/top-ten-knights/

University of Florida (UF)		
KEY DATES	Ways to Apply	IMPORTANT INFO/LINKS
August 1 – Application Opens November 16 – Application Deadline December 1 – SSAR Deadline December 15 – FAFSA/Test Scores Deadline February 26 – Decisions go out May 1 – Deposit Deadline (\$200) https://admissions.ufl.edu/apply/freshman/deadlines	Coalition Application ➤ https://www.mycoalition.org/ Common Application ➤ https://apply.commonapp.org/createaccount	Essay – Required SSAR – Required ➤ https://ssar.selfreportedtranscript.com Honors Program – opt in “yes” + 2 supplemental essays PACE Program - https://admissions.ufl.edu/learn/pace/ Housing – Apply as soon as you submit your UF Application Special programs: UF Machen Scholars, <i>must be invited to apply based on family income AFTER being accepted!</i>



College Application Deadlines - Class of 2022

(Expected dates and procedures based on Class of 2021)

Florida Public Universities

University of North Florida (UNF)		
KEY DATES	Ways to Apply	IMPORTANT INFO/LINKS
June 1 – Application Opens October 15 – UNF Scholarship Deadline November 1 – Recommended Deadline July 1-Application Final Deadline No deposit deadline-register for orientation https://www.unf.edu/admissions/apply/Deadlines/	Institutional Application ➤ https://www.unf.edu/admissions/ Common Application ➤ https://apply.commonapp.org/createaccount	Rolling Admissions ➤ Once an application is complete with all required documents, UNF Admissions will review applications on a 2-4 week turn-around Essay – Not Required SSAR – Required ➤ https://ssar.selfreportedtranscript.com

University of South Florida (USF)		
KEY DATES	Ways to Apply	IMPORTANT INFO/LINKS
July 1 – Application Opens January 1 – Priority Deadline January 1 – Priority Financial Aid Deadline February 15 – USF Scholarship Deadline March 1 – Final Application Deadline May 1 – Deposit Deadline (\$200) https://www.usf.edu/admissions	Institutional Application ➤ https://admissions.usf.edu/application Coalition Application ➤ https://www.mycoalition.org/ Common Application ➤ https://apply.commonapp.org/createaccount	Essay – Not Required SSAR – Not Required <i>Summer Student Support Services (Limited Access – SSS)</i> ➤ <i>Students who are low income, first generation are offered this opportunity if your application meets certain criteria (you cannot apply for the program yourself).</i>

University of West Florida (UWF)		
KEY DATES	Ways to Apply	IMPORTANT INFO/LINKS
August 1-Application Opens December 6 – Housing contracts open January 1 – FAFSA Due January 15 – Priority/Scholarship Deadline March 15 – Orientation Reg. opens May 1 – Confirmation Deadline (no deposit) June 1-Final Application deadline https://uwf.edu/admissions/undergraduate	Institutional Application ➤ https://uwf.edu/admissions/ Common Application ➤ https://apply.commonapp.org/createaccount	Priority Deadline moves to Rolling Admission Essay – Optional SSAR – Not required ZeeMee Profile – All applicants encouraged to create profile

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Self-reported Student Academic Record (SSAR)

Frequently Asked Questions

<https://admissions.fsu.edu/freshman/ssar/videos/>

What is the Self-reported Student Academic Record (SSAR)?

SSAR is a self-reported student academic record that lists all courses and associated grades that have been attempted, or will be attempted, for high school and/or college credit. Since accuracy is critical, you must have a copy of your high school transcript available to use as a reference when you create your SSAR. Be sure to indicate any courses taken through an online school.

Where do I create my SSAR?

The SSAR is created at the [Self-reported Student Academic Record](#) website. Upon completion of the SSAR, you will be given a SSAR ID Number that must be provided to your college to allow us to retrieve your SSAR.

When do I complete the SSAR?

We recommend that you complete the SSAR before submitting your application for admission. Your application for admission will not be reviewed until your application fee, SSAR, and self-reported test scores have been received.

In State Tuition/Residency

<https://admissions.fsu.edu/residency/>

Dependent Student

A student, whether or not living with his or her parent, who is eligible to be claimed by his or her parent under the federal income tax code shall be classified as a dependent student.

Parent

“Parent” means either or both parents of a student, any guardian of a student, or any person in a parental relationship to the student.”

A Florida “resident for tuition purposes” is a person who has, or a dependent person whose parent or legal guardian has, established and maintained legal residence in Florida for at least twelve months. Residence in Florida must be as a bonafide domicile rather than for the purpose of maintaining a residence incident to enrollment at an institution of higher education. To qualify as a Florida resident for tuition purposes, you must be a U.S. Citizen, permanent resident alien, or legal alien granted indefinite stay by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Other persons meeting the twelve-month legal residence requirement may be classified as Florida residents for tuition purposes only if they fall into one of the limited special categories authorized by the Florida Legislature and Florida Board of Education. All other

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persons are ineligible for classification as a Florida “resident for tuition purposes.” Living in or attending school in Florida will not, in itself, establish legal residence. Students who depend on out-of-state parents for support are presumed to be legal residents of the same state as their parents.

The determination of dependent or independent status is important because it is the basis for whether the student has to submit his/her own documentation of residency (as an independent) or his/her parent’s or guardian’s documentation of residency (as a dependent).

Required Documentation

At least one item must be from this list:

- A Florida voter’s registration card.
- A Florida driver’s license.
- A State of Florida identification card.
- A Florida vehicle registration.
- Proof of a permanent home in Florida which is occupied as a primary residence by the individual or by the individual’s parent if the individual is a dependent child.
- Proof of a homestead exemption in Florida.
- Transcripts from a Florida high school for multiple years (2 or more years) if the Florida high school diploma or GED was earned within the last 12 months.
- Proof of permanent full-time employment in Florida for at least 30 hours per week for a consecutive 12-month period.

Items listed below may be used in conjunction with one document from the above list:

- A declaration of domicile in Florida.
- A Florida professional or occupational license.
- Florida incorporation.
- A document evidencing verifiable family ties to a Florida resident, as defined by tuition purposes.
- Proof of membership in a Florida-based charitable or professional organization.
- Any other documentation that supports the student’s request for resident status, including, but not limited to, utility bills and proof of 12 consecutive months of payments; a lease agreement and proof of 12 consecutive months of payments; or an official state, federal, or court document evidencing legal ties to Florida.

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS



DO.....

- ✓ Read all directions carefully. **ALWAYS FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS OUTLINED BY THE COLLEGE YOU ARE APPLYING TO.** Each college has different requirements for applications. If you are confused about the requirements, contact the college directly to clarify.
- ✓ **START EARLY!** You should be working on your essays and applications during the summer before your senior year.
- ✓ **APPLY ONLINE,** create user names, PIN numbers and passwords that you'll remember easily. **WRITE THEM DOWN AND KEEP THEM IN A SAFE PLACE.**
- ✓ **APPLY TO 4-8 COLLEGES,** some colleges should be a "stretch", others perhaps "safety" schools where you feel confident you will be admitted, but they all should be places you can see yourself attending.
- ✓ **HAVE SOMEONE READ AND PROOFREAD BEFORE YOU SUBMIT** – look at all parts of your application to avoid typos and information being "cut off" in text boxes. Two sets of eyes are always better than one!
- ✓ **USE YOUR SAT COLLEGE APPLICATION FEE WAIVERS,** if applicable.
- ✓ Where possible, use your essay as a chance to show admission officers your unique interests and qualities beyond academic skills. Your essay is your personal story NOT a repeat of your resume. **AGAIN, HAVE SOMEONE READ AND PROOFREAD BEFORE YOU SUBMIT.**
- ✓ Include anything that makes you stand out from the crowd, such as honors, awards, or special talents.
- ✓ **REVIEW YOUR HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT** before you send it to colleges, making sure that it accurately reflects your courses, activities, awards, and grades.
- ✓ Find out if the college accepts special materials, such as a sample of your artwork.
- ✓ **MAKE COPIES OF EVERYTHING** you send, if applicable.
- ✓ **SUBMIT APPLICATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE.** There have been cases where college web sites get overloaded on the last day and you cannot submit your application – this will be YOUR loss, not theirs. Colleges never extend their deadlines.
- ✓ **PRINT AND SAVE A COPY OF THE CONFIRMATION PAGE,** if applicable, or record any ID numbers or account numbers assigned by the university, so that you'll have a record of your application ID number or receipt number.
- ✓ Tell your TSIC College Success Coach and your Guidance Counselor about every application you submit. This is critical because some applications, such as The Coalition and The Common App, require your counselor to upload your transcript and any other material the college may require.

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS



- ✓ Check online status on the college web sites to see if your application is complete and they have received all of your documents.
- ✓ **READ YOUR E-MAIL DAILY**, and follow up to submit or complete any missing items.
- ✓ **CALL OR E-MAIL THE COLLEGE** if you haven't received an e-mail confirmation of receipt within 48 hours. Online submissions do get lost occasionally.

DON'T.....

- ✗ **PROCRASTINATE.**
- ✗ **LIE OR EXAGGERATE** with any information you provide.
- ✗ **LEAVE OUT IMPORTANT DETAILS.** For example, if you play in the school band, include what instrument you play.
- ✗ **SUBMIT A SLOPPY APPLICATION.**
- ✗ **BORROW IDEAS FOR YOUR ESSAYS**, whether from a friend or a website.
- ✗ **GO OVER THE COLLEGE'S LENGTH LIMIT FOR AN ESSAY.** Admissions officers have limited time and many essays to review.
- ✗ **FORGET TO FOLLOW UP** once your application was sent. Write "thank you" letters to counselors, teachers, friends, or family who provided you with letters of recommendation.
- ✗ **TREAT AN APPLICATION CASUALLY** – it's an important document that reflects on you.
- ✗ **BE TOO QUICK TO CLICK.** Take your time, follow all directions and complete each step with care. Scroll each page from top to bottom and read every pop-up to be sure you don't miss any information.
- ✗ **FORGET TO PERIODICALLY SAVE YOUR WORK.** You might get "timed out" if you don't enter anything for a while (usually 30 minutes). If you need to take a break, use the save/log-out feature to store your application, and then log back in.
- ✗ **COMPOSE YOUR ESSAY OR PERSONAL STATEMENT IN THE SPACE ALLOTTED ONLINE.** Draft (and redraft) these separately in a word-processing application, such as Microsoft Word, then copy and paste the final draft into the online application.
- ✗ **APPLY ONLINE RIGHT BEFORE THE APPLICATION DEADLINE.** Because of high volume, application Web sites tend to get slow and cranky at this time. It's also the most likely time for a system failure. Most colleges only accept applications online so plan ahead.

COLLEGE APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Application Checklist	College 1	College 2	College 3	College 4	College 5
NAME OF COLLEGE					
APPLICATIONS					
Obtain or access application					
Regular application Deadline					
Early Application Deadline					
GRADES					
Request high school transcript sent					
Request midyear grade reports send					
Request College of the FL Keys transcript (if app.)					
TEST SCORES					
SAT® /ACT test required?					
SAT Subject Tests™ required?					
Send ACT scores					
Send SAT scores (and Subject Tests if applicable)					
Send AP® scores					
LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION					
Request recommendations					
Send thank-you notes					
ESSAYS					
Draft initial essays					
Proofread essays for spelling and grammar					
Have 2 people read your essays (person 1)					
Have 2 people read your essays (person 2)					
Revise your essays					
Proofread your revisions					
SSAR (Self-Reported Student Academic Record)					
Enter all courses, using Unofficial Transcript					
Review courses with TSIC Coach					
Submit (after TSIC Coach approval)					
Update after 1 st Semester grades are posted					
INTERVIEWS					
Interview at college campuses					
Alumni interview					
Send thank-you notes to interviewers					
SEND AND TRACK YOUR APPLICATION					
Make copies of all application materials					
Tell school counselor that you applied and give copy					
Pay applications fee (or use Fee Waiver)					
Sign application and send					
Confirm receipt of application materials					
Send supplemental material, if needed					

COLLEGE APPLICATION CHECKLIST

FINANCIAL AID FORMS					
Priority financial aid deadline					
Regular financial aid deadline					
Submit FAFSA					
Submit PROFILE, if needed					
Submit institutional aid form, if needed					
Submit state aid form, if needed					
AFTER YOU SEND YOUR APPLICATION					
Check online status to be sure all materials received					
Receive letter from office of admission					
Receive financial aid award letter					
Meet deadline to accept admission & send deposit					
Accept financial aid offer					
Notify the other colleges you will not attend					

NOTES:

COLLEGE LOGIN/PASSWORD SHEET

It is always good to keep a record of your login information for the different institutions you apply to should you forget. Please use this page for your convenience.

College	Login ID	Password
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Below is a note section should you need to write anything specific regarding your login/password or other information you feel you would need to remember during your application process.

NOTES:

Student Name

Current High School



College Application Fee Waivers

A Guide to FREE College Application Fee Waivers!

Using a College Application Fee Waiver from the College Board:

- If you have registered for the SAT using a fee waiver through the College Board, you are eligible to receive 4 college application fee waivers!

When will you receive your application fee waivers?

- Once you take the SAT and receive your scores you will receive your application fee waivers. If you are a junior, you will receive them in the fall of your senior year, according to the College Board website. Log into your account to retrieve them. (<https://www.collegeboard.org/?navId=aru-cb>)

How many fee waivers can I use?

- You may use up to 4 college application fee waivers for colleges that require you to submit the actual College Board waiver document.
- Some college applications automatically apply the fee waiver to your application based on your answers to certain questions, so overall, you may be able to apply to MORE than 4 colleges for free!

What colleges accept application fee waivers?

- All Florida Public Universities
- Some Florida Colleges
- Many Private Universities around the US



Unsure? Contact the school directly or go to the school website for confirmation.

Visit www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org to learn more about this opportunity!



Financial

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Get Ready for the FAFSA

**Senior Guide to the 2022-23 FAFSA
(Opens October 1, 2021)**

Step 1: Get your FSA ID, go to <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/account-info> (refer to next page, Creating and Using the FSA ID):

- a. You will need to get a FSA ID for you (the student) and one parent (should be the main parent filing the household taxes).
- b. The student and the parent MUST HAVE DIFFERENT EMAIL addresses.
- c. Remember – you must complete this process TWICE – once for the student and once for the parent!

Step 2: Gather the documents needed to apply for FAFSA:

- a. Student's Social Security Number
- b. Parent's Social Security Numbers
- c. Your driver's license (if you have one)
- d. Your Alien Registration Number if you are not a US citizen
- e. Federal tax information or tax returns, including IRS W-2 information, for both you (the student) and your parent(s). For the 2022-23 college academic year, you will need the 2020 tax information to start the FAFSA process on October 1, 2021.
- f. Records of untaxed income, such as child support received, interest income, veteran's benefits, etc.
- g. Information on cash; savings and checking account balances; investments such as stocks and bonds and real estate (your home is not included); business assets. All apply to both the student and parent.

Step 3: Attend the mandatory FAFSA Workshop in the fall of your Senior year; date to be determined by each high school. Attendance for TSIC seniors and parents is mandatory.

- a. You may complete FAFSA online at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> – FAFSA is FREE and there are many other web sites out there that try to get you to pay for help completing the FAFSA.
- b. You will NOT be awarded your TSIC Scholarship until you have provided confirmation of the completion of the 2022-23 FAFSA to your College Success Coach.
- c. If you plan to attend college in summer of 2022, you will need to complete the 2021-22 FAFSA using the 2019 taxes. You may do this at any time because the 2021-22 FAFSA became available in October 2020.

Creating and Using the FSA ID

What's an FSA ID?

The FSA ID is a username and password you use to log in to U.S. Department of Education (ED) online systems. The FSA ID is your legal signature and shouldn't be created or used by anyone other than you—not even your parent, your child, a school official, or a loan company representative. You'll use your FSA ID every year you fill out a *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA[®]) form and for the lifetime of your federal student loans.

How do I get an FSA ID?

Visit [StudentAid.gov/fsa-id/create-account](https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account) to create an FSA ID. You'll need your Social Security number, full name, and date of birth. You'll also need to create a memorable username and password, and complete challenge questions and answers so you can retrieve your account information if you forget it.

You'll be required to provide either your email address or your mobile phone number when you make your FSA ID. Providing a mobile phone number and/or email address that you have access to will make it easier to log in to ED online systems and allow additional account recovery options.

Important: A Social Security number, email address, and mobile phone number can only be associated with one FSA ID. If you share an email address with someone else, then only one of you will be able to use that email address to create an FSA ID.

FSA ID Tips

- If you need to provide information about your parents on the FAFSA[®] form, one of your parents will need an FSA ID to sign the form. Your parent can create an FSA ID and then sign the FAFSA form electronically using that FSA ID. Not sure whether you'll need to put your parents' information on the FAFSA form? Check out [StudentAid.gov/dependency](https://studentaid.gov/dependency). **Remember:** You should create your own FSA ID, and your parent should create his or her own FSA ID. Also, make sure to use the correct FSA ID when signing the FAFSA form electronically.
- When you first create your FSA ID, the use of your FSA ID will be restricted to completing, signing, and submitting an original (first-time) FAFSA form. You'll have to wait one to three days for your information to be confirmed by the Social Security Administration (SSA) before you can use your FSA ID for other actions, such as submitting a FAFSA Renewal or signing a *Master Promissory Note*. If you provided an email address, then you'll receive an email letting you know that your information was successfully matched with the SSA and you can begin using your FSA ID.
- If you forget your FSA ID username or password, look for the "Forgot My Username" and "Forgot My Password," links on log-in pages. These links will direct you to web pages where you can request a secure code to be texted to your verified mobile phone number or emailed to your verified email address. The secure code will allow you to retrieve your username or reset your password. You can also retrieve your username or reset your password by successfully answering your challenge questions. **Remember:** If you verified your email address or mobile phone number during account creation, you can enter your email address or mobile phone number instead of your username to log in.

Learn more about how you can use your FSA ID at [StudentAid.gov/help-center/answers/article/how-can-i-use-my-fsa-id-username-and-password](https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/article/how-can-i-use-my-fsa-id-username-and-password). Find this fact sheet at [StudentAid.gov/resources#fsaid](https://studentaid.gov/resources#fsaid).

March 2020

Cómo crear y utilizar la credencial FSA ID

¿Qué es una credencial FSA ID?

La credencial FSA ID es un nombre de usuario y una contraseña que se utilizan para iniciar una sesión en los sistemas en línea del Departamento de Educación de EE. UU. (ED, por sus siglas en inglés). La FSA ID es su firma legal y no debería ser creada o utilizada por ninguna otra persona más que por usted mismo; ni siquiera por sus padres, sus hijos, una autoridad de una institución educativa ni tampoco por un representante de una compañía de préstamos. Utilizará su FSA ID todos los años en los que llene un formulario *Solicitud Gratuita de Ayuda Federal para Estudiantes (FAFSA®)* y mientras duren sus préstamos federales para estudiantes.

¿Cómo obtengo una FSA ID?

Visite [StudentAid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/account-info](https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/account-info) para crear una FSA ID. Necesitará su número de Seguro Social, su nombre completo y su fecha de nacimiento. También deberá crear un nombre de usuario y una contraseña fácil de recordar, y completar preguntas y respuestas de seguridad para que pueda recuperar la información de su cuenta en caso de olvidarla.

Se le solicitará que proporcione su dirección de correo electrónico o su número de teléfono móvil cuando cree su FSA ID. Brindar un número de teléfono móvil o una dirección de correo electrónico a la que tenga acceso, o ambos, hará que sea más fácil iniciar una sesión en los sistemas en línea del ED y ofrecer opciones adicionales de recuperación de la cuenta.

Importante: cada número de Seguro Social, dirección de correo electrónico y número de teléfono móvil puede estar asociado con una sola FSA ID. Si comparte una dirección de correo electrónico con otra persona, solo uno de ustedes podrá utilizar esa dirección de correo electrónico para crear una FSA ID.

Consejos relativos a una FSA ID

- Si necesita brindar información sobre sus padres en el formulario FAFSA®, uno de ellos necesitará una FSA ID y deberá firmar el formulario. Uno de sus padres puede crear una FSA ID y luego firmar el formulario FAFSA de forma electrónica utilizando dicha FSA ID. ¿No está seguro de si necesitará incluir información de sus padres en el formulario FAFSA? Consulte [StudentAid.gov/dependencia](https://studentaid.gov/dependencia). **Recuerde:** usted debería crear su propia FSA ID, y uno de sus padres debería crear su propia FSA ID. También, asegúrese de usar la FSA ID correcta cuando firma el formulario de la FAFSA en forma electrónica.
- Cuando crea su FSA ID por primera vez, el uso de su FSA ID quedará restringido a llenar, firmar y enviar un formulario FAFSA original (por primera vez). Tendrá que esperar entre uno y tres días para que la Administración del Seguro Social (*Social Security Administration* o SSA, por sus siglas en inglés) confirme su información antes de que pueda utilizar su FSA ID para otras actividades, tales como enviar una FAFSA de renovación o firmar un *Pagaré Maestro*. Si brinda una dirección de correo electrónico, luego recibirá un correo electrónico en el que se le hará saber que su información ha sido cotejada en forma exitosa con la de la SSA y que puede comenzar a utilizar su FSA ID.
- Si olvida el nombre de usuario o la contraseña de su FSA ID, busque los enlaces “Olvidé mi nombre de usuario” y “Olvidé mi contraseña” en las páginas de inicio de sesión. Estos enlaces lo llevarán a las páginas web donde puede pedir que se le envíe un código seguro por mensaje de texto al número de teléfono móvil verificado o por correo electrónico a la dirección de correo electrónico verificada. El código seguro le permitirá recuperar su nombre de usuario y volver a configurar su contraseña. También puede recuperar su nombre de usuario y volver a configurar su contraseña cuando responde en forma exitosa las preguntas de seguridad. **Recuerde:** si ya verificó su dirección de correo electrónico o número de teléfono móvil durante la creación de la cuenta, puede introducir su dirección de correo electrónico o número de teléfono móvil en lugar de su nombre de usuario para iniciar una sesión.

Para acceder a más información sobre cómo puede usar la FSA ID, visite

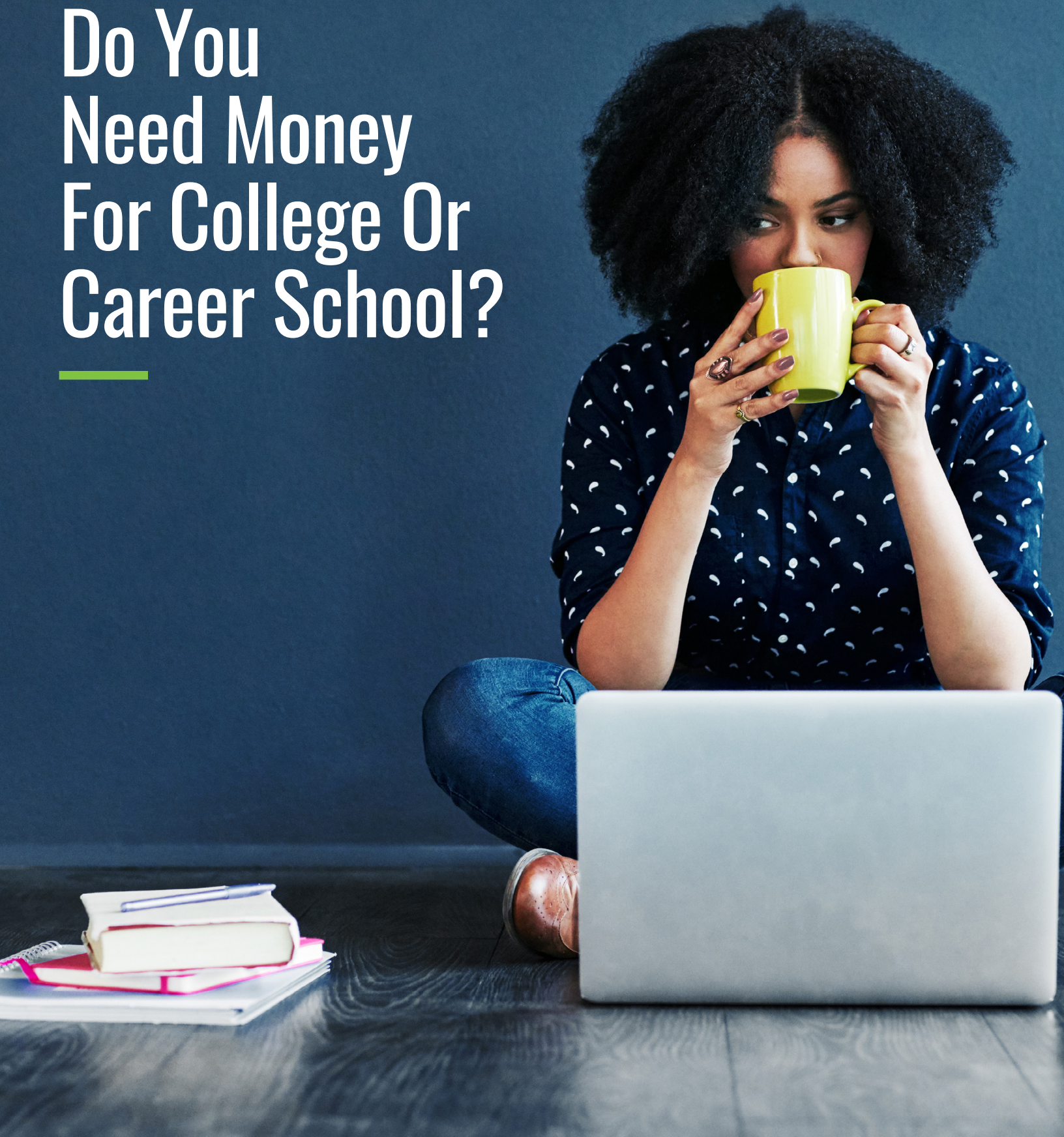
[StudentAid.gov/help-center/answers/article/how-can-i-use-my-fsa-id-username-and-password](https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/article/how-can-i-use-my-fsa-id-username-and-password)

(Esta página está solo disponible en inglés).

Encuentre esta hoja informativa en [StudentAid.gov/es/resources](https://studentaid.gov/es/resources).

Marzo de 2020

Do You Need Money For College Or Career School?





Apply for Federal Financial Aid

What is federal student aid?

It's money from the federal government that helps you pay for college, career school, or graduate school expenses. Federal student aid is available through grants, work-study funds, and loans.

How do I apply for aid?

You need to complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form by logging in at fafsa.gov to apply online, filling it out in the myStudentAid mobile app (available in the Apple App Store or the Google Play store), or completing and mailing the FAFSA PDF.

Students and parents will need an FSA ID (account username and password) to sign the form through the mobile app and online. You'll also use your FSA ID to access information about your financial aid on U.S. Department of Education websites. You can create an FSA ID in advance or while you fill out the FAFSA form. To find out more about the FSA ID, visit StudentAid.gov/help-center/answers/article/fsa-id.

When should I apply?

Each October, the FAFSA form is available for the next school year. You'll need to reapply for aid every year you are in school. Here's a summary of key dates for submitting the FAFSA form depending on when you plan to go to school:

2021–22 Award Year

If you plan to attend college from
July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022

You will submit this FAFSA form
2021–22 FAFSA Form

You can submit the FAFSA form from
Oct. 1, 2020–June 30, 2022

2020–21 Award Year

If you plan to attend college from
July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021

You will submit this FAFSA form
2020–21 FAFSA Form

You can submit the FAFSA form from
Oct. 1, 2019–June 30, 2021



The FAFSA® form is free!

Completing and submitting the FAFSA form is free and quick, and it gives you access to most sources of financial aid to pay for college or career school—federal, state, and school resources.

Who gets federal student aid?

Every student who meets certain eligibility requirements can get some type of federal student aid. Some of the most basic eligibility requirements for students are that you must

- demonstrate financial need (for most programs);
- be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen;
- have a valid Social Security number (some exceptions apply);
- be registered with Selective Service if you're a male between the ages of 18 and 25;
- be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an eligible degree or certificate program;
- be enrolled at least half-time (for most programs); and
- maintain satisfactory academic progress in college, career school, or graduate school.

For the full list of eligibility requirements, visit [StudentAid.gov/eligibility](https://studentaid.gov/eligibility).



Are you considered a dependent or independent student when it comes to the FAFSA® form? Find out at [StudentAid.gov/dependency](https://studentaid.gov/dependency).

Types of Aid

Amounts shown are awarded annually and are subject to change

1 Federal Grants: Money that doesn't have to be paid back

Federal Pell Grant

Up to \$6,345 for the 2020–21 award year

For undergraduates with financial need who have not earned a bachelor's or professional degree. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/pell-grant.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

Up to \$4,000 a year

For undergraduates with exceptional financial need. Federal Pell Grant recipients take priority. Funds depend on availability at school. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/fseog.

Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant

Up to \$6,345 for the 2020–21 award year

For undergraduate students who are not Pell-eligible and whose parent or guardian died as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/iraq-afghanistan.

Teach Grant

Up to \$4,000 a year

For undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, and graduate students who are completing or plan to complete course work needed to begin a career in teaching. To receive a TEACH Grant, a student must agree to teach for four years in a high-need field at an elementary school, secondary school, or educational service agency that serves low-income families. If a student doesn't complete the teaching service requirement, all TEACH Grants the student received will be converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan that must be repaid, with interest. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/teach.

2 Federal Work-Study: Money is earned through a job and doesn't have to be repaid

Your total work-study award depends on

- ✓ when you apply,
- ✓ your level of financial need, and
- ✓ your school's funding level.



For Federal Work-Study program details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/workstudy.

3 Federal Student Loans: These are loans that accumulate interest; they must be repaid.

Who is it for?

Direct Subsidized Loan

For **undergraduate students** who have financial need. A student must be enrolled at least half-time.

Direct Unsubsidized Loan

For **undergraduate** and **graduate or professional students**. A student must be enrolled at least half-time. Financial need is not required.

Direct Plus Loans

For **parents of dependent undergraduate students** and for **graduate or professional students**. A student must be enrolled at least half-time. Financial need is not required.

What is the annual award amount?

Direct Subsidized Loan

Up to \$5,500, depending on grade level and dependency status.

Direct Unsubsidized Loan

Up to \$20,500 (less any subsidized amounts received for the same period), depending on grade level and dependency status.

Direct Plus Loans

Maximum amount is the cost of attendance minus any other financial aid received.

What is the interest rate?

Direct Subsidized Loan

Interest rates for new Direct Subsidized Loans can change every year. Loans made to undergraduate students during the 2020–21 award year have the rate fixed at 2.75% for the life of the loan.

Direct Unsubsidized Loan

For **undergraduate students**: Interest rates for new Direct Unsubsidized Loans can change every year. Loans made to undergraduate students during the 2020–21 award year have the rate fixed at 2.75% for the life of the loan.

For **graduate or professional students**: Interest rates for new Direct Unsubsidized Loans can change every year. Loans made to graduate or professional students during the 2020–21 award year have the rate fixed at 4.30% for the life of the loan.

Direct Plus Loans

Interest rates for new Direct PLUS Loans can change every year. Loans made during the 2020–21 award year have the rate fixed at 5.30% for the life of the loan.

For more information on interest rates, visit [StudentAid.gov/interest](https://studentaid.gov/interest).

Where do I go for more details and updates on loans?

Direct Subsidized & Unsubsidized Loans

[StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub](https://studentaid.gov/sub-unsub)

Direct Plus Loans

[StudentAid.gov/plus](https://studentaid.gov/plus)

For more details about the different types of federal student aid available, visit [StudentAid.gov/types](https://studentaid.gov/types).



Don't let your interest capitalize!

If you have unsubsidized or PLUS loans, then interest accumulates on these loans before you begin repayment (e.g., while you are in school). Consider paying interest on your federal student loans while you're in school, and during grace, deferment, and forbearance periods to avoid capitalization (the addition of unpaid interest to the principal balance of your loan). Capitalization increases your loan balance, and interest will then accrue on that higher principal amount.



Ready to fill out the FAFSA® form?
Go to fafsa.gov!

I completed the FAFSA® form. Now what?

After you submit your FAFSA form, you'll receive a *Student Aid Report* (SAR) that summarizes the data you submitted. If you provided a valid email address in your application, you'll receive an email with instructions on how to access an online copy of your SAR within three days (if you apply at fafsa.gov or through the myStudentAid mobile app) or three weeks (if you mail in a paper FAFSA form).

When you receive your SAR, review it to make sure you didn't make any mistakes on your FAFSA form.

- If you don't need to make any changes to the information on your SAR, just keep it for your records.
- To find out how to correct mistakes or make updates to your FAFSA form, visit StudentAid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/review-and-correct or contact the school to which you are applying.

The information in your SAR will be provided to the schools you listed on your FAFSA form. You will receive an aid offer from the schools at which you were accepted for admission.



Do I have to repay my Loans?

Yes. Student loans, unlike grants and work-study funds, are borrowed money that must be repaid, with interest, just like car loans and home mortgages. You cannot have these loans canceled because you didn't like the education you received, didn't get a job in your field of study, or are having financial difficulty. So think about the amount you'll have to repay before you take out a loan and only borrow the amount you need. Learn more about loan repayment at StudentAid.gov/repay.



What's an aid offer and how much aid will I get?

If you applied for admission to a college or career school you listed on your FAFSA form, that school will get your FAFSA information. The school will calculate your aid and send you an aid offer (often electronically).

Most schools will wait to send you an aid offer only after they accept you for admission. The aid offer will tell you how much aid you're eligible to receive at that school and will include the types and amounts of financial aid you may receive from federal, state, private, and school sources. This combination of help from different sources is your financial aid package. How much aid you receive depends on some factors, including

- cost of attendance (for each school);
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC)—the EFC does not represent a dollar amount but, instead, it's a number used to calculate how much financial aid you're eligible to receive based on your FAFSA information;
- year in school; and
- your enrollment status (e.g., full-time, half-time, etc.).

You can compare school aid offers and see which school is most affordable once financial aid is taken into account. Contact the school's financial aid office if you have any questions about the aid being offered to you. For more information on how aid is calculated, visit [StudentAid.gov/how-calculated](https://studentaid.gov/how-calculated).



How will I receive my aid?

Your college or career school—not the U.S. Department of Education—will distribute your aid. In most cases, your federal student aid will be applied directly to your school account. The financial aid staff at your school will explain exactly how and when your aid will be disbursed (paid out).

What else do I need to remember when applying for federal student aid?

- ✓ Only borrow what you need and what you can afford to pay back.
 - ✓ Your FAFSA information has to be correct to ensure that you receive your aid promptly and in the right amount. Always respond to (or act upon) any correspondence your school sends you—and meet all deadlines.
 - ✓ Contact the school if you're interested in school or state grants.
-

Free Help Is Available

Free help is available any time during the application process. Online help is available while you complete your application at fafsa.gov. You can also get free information and help from your school counselor, the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend, or the U.S. Department of Education at StudentAid.gov or 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243; TTY for the deaf or hard of hearing 1-800-730-8913). You should never have to pay for help!

Stay Connected

 /FederalStudentAid

 /FederalStudentAid

 /FAFSA

Access your federal student aid information at StudentAid.gov/login.

Contact Us: 1-800-4-FED-AID

(1-800-433-3243); TTY for the deaf or hard of hearing: 1-800-730-8913

U.S. Department of Education
Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC)
Box 84
Washington, DC 20044-0084

August 2020



Scholarship Checklist

A checklist to keep track of your scholarship applications!

Name of Scholarship	Date Due (Fill In as they become available)	Have You Applied? (Yes/No)
FAFSA	Opens Oct. 1, 2022 – complete ASAP	
Raise.me	Sep. 15, 2021 to Jan. 1, 2022 (varies by college)	
Bright Futures	Opens Dec. 1, 2021 All criteria met by Aug. 31, 2022	
Monroe County Education Foundation Housing Scholarship Application (Dorm)	Usually mid-March 2022	
Southern Scholarship Foundation Housing	Usually Apr. 1, 2022	
Local Scholarship 1 Name: _____	Varies, posted Jan-Apr, due dates from Feb-May 2022	
Local Scholarship 2 Name: _____	Varies, posted Jan-Apr, due dates from Feb-May 2022	
Local Scholarship 3 Name: _____	Varies, posted Jan-Apr, due dates from Feb-May 2022	
Local Scholarship 4 Name: _____	Varies, posted Jan-Apr, due dates from Feb-May 2022	
Local Scholarship 5 Name: _____	Varies, posted Jan-Apr, due dates from Feb-May 2022	
Local Scholarship 6 Name: _____	Varies, posted Jan-Apr, due dates from Feb-May 2022	
Local Scholarship 7 Name: _____	Varies, posted Jan-Apr, due dates from Feb-May 2022	
Local Scholarship 8 Name: _____	Varies, posted Jan-Apr, due dates from Feb-May 2022	



Raise.me

Scholarship Guide

raise.me

What Is Raise.me?

Raise.me allows high school students to earn scholarships from colleges for their achievements in and out of the classroom from 9th-12th grade.

What Florida Public Colleges Are Participating?

University of Florida, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida International University, Florida Atlantic University, University of South Florida ... plus a number of private college too!

Get Started Guide for Students from the Raise.me website:

As a student, there are a few steps to joining and getting started with Raise.me.

- **Step 1: Sign Up At:** <https://www.raise.me/>
 - Let Raise.me know who you are, where you're from, and what you're about!
- **Step 2: Build your Portfolio:**
 - Create a portfolio of all your achievements in high school which can include good grades, community service, sports, awards etc.
- **Step 3: Follow Colleges:**
 - Visit the Raise.me Colleges page and start following colleges you're interested in. Some may offer scholarships, and some may not, but Follow any and all that you're interested in.
- **Step 4: Earn \$100 (or \$1000) in 10 seconds:**
 - "It's as easy as clicking the +100 button at the top of your Portfolio and inviting your friends. When they sign up for Raise.me from your referral, you'll both earn \$100 to over 60 colleges via Raise.me!" (Raise.me website)
- **Step 5: Keep it up!**
 - "Now that you've done the bulk of the work, don't forget to follow through so you can get your scholarship dollars. Update your Portfolio with any new achievements, and be sure to check the requirements for colleges you follow that offer micro-scholarships." (Raise.me website)



Florida Bright Futures Guide

Florida Bright Futures FAQ's

What is the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship?

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program offers three types of scholarship awards: Florida Academic Scholars Award (FAS), the Florida Medallion Scholars Award (FMS) and the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award (GSV).

When and how do I apply for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship?

The application opens on December 1, 2021. Visit www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org and submit your initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA). The deadline to meet all criteria is August 31, 2022 (after high school graduation).

What are the requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship?

To receive your scholarship, you must enroll in a degree program, certificate program, or applied technology program at an eligible Florida public or private postsecondary education institution. Meet the requirements before high school graduation and throughout your college career.

Type	Weighted GPA	ACT/SAT Score	Community Service Hours
FAS	3.5	29 / 1330	100
FMS	3.0	25 / 1210	75
GVS	3.0	Reading 19 / Reading 24 English 17 / Writing 25 Math 19 / Math 24	30

**Information Based on 2020-2021 Bright Futures Scholarship Requirements.

** The Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) can only be used to fund a career education or certificate program.



Southern Scholarship Foundation (SSF)

Rent-Free Housing

What is the Southern Scholarship Foundation Housing Scholarship?

- The Southern Scholarship Foundation (SSF) awards scholarships in the form of rent-free housing to live in furnished scholarship houses that are adjacent to college campuses.

What public Florida colleges accept the SSF scholarship?

- Florida A&M University
- Tallahassee Community College
- Florida State University
- Santa Fe college
- University of Florida
- Florida Gulf Coast University

What are the eligibility requirements?

- Financial Need – Must complete your FAFSA and submit a copy of your SAR report with your application
- High GPA – Must have at least a 3.0 (unweighted) GPA
- Excellent Character
- Motivation
- An Acceptance to a University / College (must include acceptance letter with application)

How can I learn more information and where do I apply?

- You can learn more information at the SSF website: www.southern scholarship.org where you will also be able to access an application. Please visit the website in the fall of your senior year to learn more about the deadlines, usually April 1st for the next fall semester!



Local Scholarship Guide

When should I apply to local scholarships?

As soon as they become available. Typically, at the beginning of February, you will want to meet with your schools guidance counselor to confirm when scholarships will be posted. Scholarships will be continuously posted in the Second Semester and deadlines will vary widely!

Where do I find information regarding local scholarships?

- **Coral Shores High School Students:** Please visit the [Coral Shores High School](#) website to locate the local scholarships by visiting the section “For Students” and continue to “Senior Site” and continue to “Senior Scholarships”.
- **Marathon High School Students:** Please visit the [Marathon High School](#) website to locate the local scholarships by visiting the section “For Students – CCAPS Local Scholarship Information” (there may be more than one page of listings!)
- **Key West High School Students:** Please visit the [Key West High School](#) Caps Counselor for additional information.

Tips on preparing to apply to local scholarships:

Scholarships may ask for a resume, letter of recommendations or cover letters. Please refer to the Resume Guide in your senior binder for formatting tips. Be sure to request letters of recommendation EARLY – do not wait for the last minute!!!

Summer C - 2022 (6 credits)	
Tuition & Fees	\$1,300.00
Housing	\$1,600.00
Meal Plan (All Access)	\$1,000.00
Books & Supplies	\$300.00
Transportation/Personal	\$500.00
Anticipated Total	\$4,700.00
FLPP (Tuition & Fees) (no dorm scholarship in summer) (no Bright Futures first summer) University Grants	\$1,200.00
Pell Grant	
Local Scholarships	
Anticipated Total Covered	\$1,200.00
Anticipated Need	\$3,500.00

Fall - 2022 (12 credits)	
Tuition & Fees	\$2,600.00
Housing	\$3,100.00
Meal Plan (Open Access)	\$2,100.00
Books & Supplies	\$600.00
Transportation/Personal	\$1,000.00
Anticipated Total	\$9,400.00
FLPP (Tuition & Fees) 2-Year Dorm Scholarship Bright Futures University Grants	\$2,400.00
Pell Grant	
Local Scholarships	
Anticipated Total Covered	\$5,500.00
Anticipated Need	\$3,900.00

Spring -2023 (15 credits)	
Tuition & Fees	\$3,200.00
Housing	\$3,100.00
Meal Plan (Open Access)	\$2,100.00
Books & Supplies	\$600.00
Transportation/Personal	\$1,000.00
Anticipated Total	\$10,000.00
FLPP (Tuition & Fees) 2-Year Dorm Scholarship Bright Futures University Grants	\$3,000.00
Pell Grant	
Local Scholarships	
Anticipated Total Covered	\$6,100.00
Anticipated Need	\$3,900.00

University tuition - approx. \$213/credit
Bright Futures (FAS) - approx. \$213/credit
Bright Futures (FMS) - approx. \$160/credit
FLPP (Tuition & Fees) - approx. \$200/credit (never pays for ALL Tuition & Fees ... but close!)

SSF Housing Room & Board	\$ 1,100.00	per semester
Univ. Dorm Room & Board	\$ 5,200.00	per semester
Off Campus Room & Board	\$ 4,000.00	per semester



Summer Budget Worksheet

[\(Click here for worksheet instructions\)](#)

Estimated Financial Aid And College Savings		Estimated Summer Expenses	
Estimated Financial Aid		Estimated Expenses	
Scholarships (1)		Undergraduate Tuition (8)	
Bright Futures Medallion: \$160.16/hr*		In-state: \$215.55/hr*	
Bright Futures Academic: \$213.55/hr*		Out-of-state: \$721.10/hr*	
Other Scholarship(s)		Undergraduate Fees (9)	
Tuition Waivers		(Other fees not included in tuition)	
Grants (2)		Housing (10)	
Federal Pell Grant (PELL)		(Estimation for 12 weeks: \$3270) (Estimation for 6 weeks: \$1647)	
Florida State University Grant		Dining (11)	
Other Grants		(Estimation for 12 weeks: \$2039) (Estimation for 6 weeks: \$1020)	
Loans (3)		Books / Supplies (12)	
Subsidized Stafford		(Estimation for 12 weeks: \$500) (Estimation for 6 weeks: \$250)	
Unsubsidized Stafford		Health Insurance (13)	
Other Loans		(Estimation for both sessions: \$670)	
SUMMER FINANCIAL AID (4)		SUMMER ESTIMATED EXPENSES (14)	
Personal College Savings		ESTIMATED SUMMER NET COST	
Florida Prepaid (5)		Summer Estimated Expenses (15):	
Tuition: \$115.08/hr*		Summer Estimated Financial Aid + Savings (16):	
Plus Local Fees: \$34.73/hr*		Summer Estimated Cost of Attendance (17) (Negative Amount = Refund To You)	
Differential Waiver: \$49.59/hr*			
Other (6)			
(Any other financial aid you have received that is not already listed)			
SUMMER PERSONAL COLLEGE SAVINGS (7)			

*Amounts shown are for estimation purposes only and reflect the base rate assessed during the 2018-2019 academic year for undergraduate classes taken in a face-to-face setting at the main campus. Please note that some classes and majors might be subject to additional fees, like lab fees, distance learning fees, and program equipment fees. Find more detailed information about additional fees at studentbusiness.fsu.edu.



Personal Finance Guide

Understanding Personal Financial Terms



Savings Account vs. Checking Account

Savings: A bank account that earns interest.

Checking: An account at a bank against which checks can be drawn by the account depositor.

Credit Card vs. Debit Card

Credit: A credit card is used when borrowing money from a lender that you will pay back. Credit cards include interest rates. Credit cards build your credit history and credit score. However, they come with high interest rates!

Debit: A debit card takes money directly from your checking account. Debit cards do not have interest rates, however they do not build your credit history.

Credit Card Caution: Opening/Closing account(s), fees, paying off, etc.

Opening/Closing: You should always open new credit cards on an as needed basis, rather than opening one simply to attempt to boost your credit score. When you close a card, you reduce your overall available credit. Unless you scale back your spending, this will negatively affect your credit utilization rate, which is one of the most significant factors used to calculate your score.

Fees & Interest Rates: If your credit card has an APR of 15%, it will have a daily rate of .041096%. Let's say a cardholder has a balance of \$1,000 at the 15% APR standard interest rate. The next day, interest is added and the balance becomes \$1,000.41, plus any additional purchases and minus any new credits or payments.

Paying Off Credit Cards: Avoid utilizing more than 30% of your credit card balance and always pay it off asap, to avoid additional interest and fees. Late payments can cost \$35+ per transaction. Pay off the smallest balance first and pay down the loan with the highest interest.

Difference between Grants, Scholarships and Loans

Grants: Grants are the heavyweight big-hitters of the financial aid world. This is quite literally free money. Most grants will come from the government, which means you will need to fill out the FAFSA.

Scholarships: Scholarships are also chances to get people and organizations to give you free money. The difference here is that scholarships are awarded for many other reasons besides financial need. What makes you stand out? There may be a scholarship for it.

Loans: Loans are the final-resort of college funding because you have to pay them back.

Not So Fun Fact: Student Loans will not go away (unless paid off) regardless of bankruptcy.



Financial Documents

What documents to use and when to use them



MONEY ORDER - a printed order for payment of a specified sum, issued by a bank or post office.

Details: You can purchase a money order with cash or with a debit or credit card. They're available for sale at banks, credit unions, the U.S. Post Office, and even Wal-Mart stores. Most money orders typically have a \$1,000 limit, so you may need to purchase multiple money orders to make payments for bigger amounts.

Use: Mailing money, sending money more securely, limited access to checking/savings, worried about bouncing a check.

Go to: <http://www.wikihow.com/Fill-Out-a-Money-Order>

for a step by step guide on completing a money order.



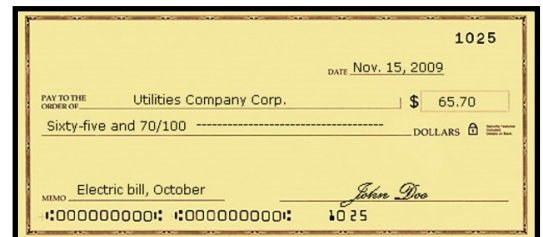
CHECK - A *check* is a written, dated and signed instrument that contains an unconditional order from the drawer that directs a bank to pay a definite sum of money to a payee. The money is drawn from a banking account, also known as a *checking* account.

Details: Checks are used less frequently today, though there may be certain bills that require you to use them. With new apps available for wiring money, writing a check is another option to send money.

Use: Paying a utility bill, rent check, sending a gift, direct deposit, etc.

Go to: <http://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Check>

for a step by step guide on filling out a check.

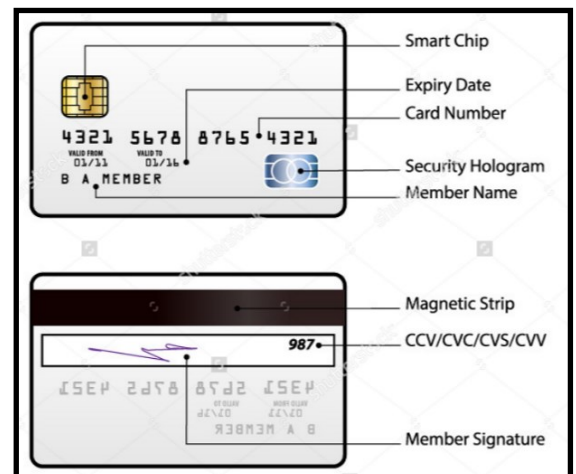


CREDIT / DEBIT CARD - a small plastic card issued by a bank, business, etc., allowing the holder to purchase goods or services on credit or debit.

Details: This is the most popular means of making a payment (aside from cash). Credit/debit cards often require a 4-digit pin number (be prepared to hide your pin when entering it, to secure your account from criminals). Your account number is different from your credit card number, though you will often be asked to verify the last 4 digits of your credit card, expiration date and/or CVV (3 digits in the signature area on the back of the card).

Use: Paying for most goods, services and bills.

Tip: When traveling, notify your bank that of the state/country you will be traveling to. Bank's offer free services to protect against fraud. In a situation where fees are charged outside of your normal purchasing area, they may stop your card to prevent theft, leaving you without a means of finances for payment.



Request for Transcript of Tax Return

OMB No. 1545-1872

- ▶ Do not sign this form unless all applicable lines have been completed.
- ▶ Request may be rejected if the form is incomplete or illegible.
- ▶ For more information about Form 4506-T, visit www.irs.gov/form4506t.

Tip. Use Form 4506-T to order a transcript or other return information free of charge. See the product list below. You can quickly request transcripts by using our automated self-help service tools. Please visit us at IRS.gov and click on "Get a Tax Transcript..." under "Tools" or call 1-800-908-9946. If you need a copy of your return, use **Form 4506, Request for Copy of Tax Return**. There is a fee to get a copy of your return.

1a Name shown on tax return. If a joint return, enter the name shown first.	1b First social security number on tax return, individual taxpayer identification number, or employer identification number (see instructions)
2a If a joint return, enter spouse's name shown on tax return.	2b Second social security number or individual taxpayer identification number if joint tax return
3 Current name, address (including apt., room, or suite no.), city, state, and ZIP code (see instructions)	
4 Previous address shown on the last return filed if different from line 3 (see instructions)	
5 Customer file number (if applicable) (see instructions)	

Note: Effective July 2019, the IRS will mail tax transcript requests only to your address of record. See **What's New** under **Future Developments** on Page 2 for additional information.

- 6 **Transcript requested.** Enter the tax form number here (1040, 1065, 1120, etc.) and check the appropriate box below. Enter only one tax form number per request. ▶ _____
- a **Return Transcript**, which includes most of the line items of a tax return as filed with the IRS. A tax return transcript does not reflect changes made to the account after the return is processed. Transcripts are only available for the following returns: Form 1040 series, Form 1065, Form 1120, Form 1120-A, Form 1120-H, Form 1120-L, and Form 1120S. Return transcripts are available for the current year and returns processed during the prior 3 processing years. Most requests will be processed within 10 business days
 - b **Account Transcript**, which contains information on the financial status of the account, such as payments made on the account, penalty assessments, and adjustments made by you or the IRS after the return was filed. Return information is limited to items such as tax liability and estimated tax payments. Account transcripts are available for most returns. Most requests will be processed within 10 business days
 - c **Record of Account**, which provides the most detailed information as it is a combination of the Return Transcript and the Account Transcript. Available for current year and 3 prior tax years. Most requests will be processed within 10 business days
 - 7 **Verification of Nonfiling**, which is proof from the IRS that you **did not** file a return for the year. Current year requests are only available after June 15th. There are no availability restrictions on prior year requests. Most requests will be processed within 10 business days
 - 8 **Form W-2, Form 1099 series, Form 1098 series, or Form 5498 series transcript.** The IRS can provide a transcript that includes data from these information returns. State or local information is not included with the Form W-2 information. The IRS may be able to provide this transcript information for up to 10 years. Information for the current year is generally not available until the year after it is filed with the IRS. For example, W-2 information for 2016, filed in 2017, will likely not be available from the IRS until 2018. If you need W-2 information for retirement purposes, you should contact the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213. Most requests will be processed within 10 business days

Caution: If you need a copy of Form W-2 or Form 1099, you should first contact the payer. To get a copy of the Form W-2 or Form 1099 filed with your return, you must use Form 4506 and request a copy of your return, which includes all attachments.

- 9 **Year or period requested.** Enter the ending date of the year or period, using the mm/dd/yyyy format. If you are requesting more than four years or periods, you must attach another Form 4506-T. For requests relating to quarterly tax returns, such as Form 941, you must enter each quarter or tax period separately.
- | / / | / / | / / | / / |

Caution: Do not sign this form unless all applicable lines have been completed.

Signature of taxpayer(s). I declare that I am either the taxpayer whose name is shown on line 1a or 2a, or a person authorized to obtain the tax information requested. If the request applies to a joint return, at least one spouse must sign. If signed by a corporate officer, 1 percent or more shareholder, partner, managing member, guardian, tax matters partner, executor, receiver, administrator, trustee, or party other than the taxpayer, I certify that I have the authority to execute Form 4506-T on behalf of the taxpayer. **Note:** This form must be received by IRS within 120 days of the signature date.

Signatory attests that he/she has read the attestation clause and upon so reading declares that he/she has the authority to sign the Form 4506-T. See instructions.

Phone number of taxpayer on line 1a or 2a

▶ Signature (see instructions)	Date
▶ Title (if line 1a above is a corporation, partnership, estate, or trust)	
▶ Spouse's signature	Date

Sign Here

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

Future Developments

For the latest information about Form 4506-T and its instructions, go to www.irs.gov/form4506t. Information about any recent developments affecting Form 4506-T (such as legislation enacted after we released it) will be posted on that page.

What's New. As part of its ongoing efforts to protect taxpayer data, the Internal Revenue Service announced that in July 2019, it will stop all third-party mailings of requested transcripts. After this date masked Tax Transcripts will only be mailed to the taxpayer's address of record.

If a third-party is unable to accept a Tax Transcript mailed to the taxpayer, they may either contract with an existing IVES participant or become an IVES participant themselves. For additional information about the IVES program, go to www.irs.gov and search IVES.

General Instructions

Caution: Do not sign this form unless all applicable lines have been completed.

Purpose of form. Use Form 4506-T to request tax return information. Taxpayers using a tax year beginning in one calendar year and ending in the following year (fiscal tax year) must file Form 4506-T to request a return transcript.

Note: If you are unsure of which type of transcript you need, request the Record of Account, as it provides the most detailed information.

Customer File Number. The transcripts provided by the IRS have been modified to protect taxpayers' privacy. Transcripts only display partial personal information, such as the last four digits of the taxpayer's Social Security Number. Full financial and tax information, such as wages and taxable income, are shown on the transcript.

An optional Customer File Number field is available to use when requesting a transcript. This number will print on the transcript. See Line 5 instructions for specific requirements. The customer file number is an optional field and not required.

Tip. Use Form 4506, Request for Copy of Tax Return, to request copies of tax returns.

Automated transcript request. You can quickly request transcripts by using our automated self-help service tools. Please visit us at IRS.gov and click on "Get a Tax Transcript..." under "Tools" or call 1-800-908-9946.

Where to file. Mail or fax Form 4506-T to the address below for the state you lived in, or the state your business was in, when that return was filed. There are two address charts: one for individual transcripts (Form 1040 series and Form W-2) and one for all other transcripts.

If you are requesting more than one transcript or other product and the chart below shows two different addresses, send your request to the address based on the address of your most recent return.

Chart for individual transcripts (Form 1040 series and Form W-2 and Form 1099)

If you filed an individual return and lived in:

Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas, a foreign country, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or A.P.O. or F.P.O. address	Internal Revenue Service RAIVS Team Stop 6716 AUSC Austin, TX 73301	855-587-9604
Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming	Internal Revenue Service RAIVS Team Stop 37106 Fresno, CA 93888	855-800-8105
Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia	Internal Revenue Service RAIVS Team Stop 6705 S-2 Kansas City, MO 64999	855-821-0094

Chart for all other transcripts

If you lived in or your business was in:

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, a foreign country, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, A.P.O. or F.P.O. address	Internal Revenue Service RAIVS Team P.O. Box 9941 Mail Stop 6734 Ogden, UT 84409	855-298-1145
Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont	Internal Revenue Service RAIVS Team Stop 6705 S-2 Kansas City, MO 64999	855-821-0094

Line 1b. Enter your employer identification number (EIN) if your request relates to a business return. Otherwise, enter the first social security number (SSN) or your individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN) shown on the return. For example, if you are requesting Form 1040 that includes Schedule C (Form 1040), enter your SSN.

Line 3. Enter your current address. If you use a P.O. box, include it on this line.

Line 4. Enter the address shown on the last return filed if different from the address entered on line 3.

Note: If the addresses on lines 3 and 4 are different and you have not changed your address with the IRS, file Form 8822, Change of Address. For a business address, file Form 8822-B, Change of Address or Responsible Party — Business.

Line 5b. Enter up to 10 numeric characters to create a unique customer file number that will appear on the transcript. The customer file number **should not** contain an SSN. Completion of this line is not required.

Note. If you use an SSN, name or combination of both, we will not input the information and the customer file number will reflect a generic entry of "9999999999" on the transcript.

Line 6. Enter only one tax form number per request.

Signature and date. Form 4506-T must be signed and dated by the taxpayer listed on line 1a or 2a. The IRS must receive Form 4506-T within 120 days of the date signed by the taxpayer or it will be rejected. Ensure that all applicable lines are completed before signing.



You must check the box in the signature area to acknowledge you have the authority to sign and request the information. The form will not be processed and returned to you if the box is unchecked.

Individuals. Transcripts of jointly filed tax returns may be furnished to either spouse. Only one signature is required. Sign Form 4506-T exactly as your name appeared on the original return. If you changed your name, also sign your current name.

Corporations. Generally, Form 4506-T can be signed by: (1) an officer having legal authority to bind the corporation, (2) any person designated by the board of directors or other governing body, or (3) any officer or employee on written request by any principal officer and attested to by the secretary or other officer. A bona fide shareholder of record owning 1 percent or more of the outstanding stock of the corporation may submit a Form 4506-T but must provide documentation to support the requester's right to receive the information.

Partnerships. Generally, Form 4506-T can be signed by any person who was a member of the partnership during any part of the tax period requested on line 9.

All others. See section 6103(e) if the taxpayer has died, is insolvent, is a dissolved corporation, or if a trustee, guardian, executor, receiver, or administrator is acting for the taxpayer.

Note: If you are Heir at law, Next of kin, or Beneficiary you must be able to establish a material interest in the estate or trust.

Documentation. For entities other than individuals, you must attach the authorization document. For example, this could be the letter from the principal officer authorizing an employee of the corporation or the letters testamentary authorizing an individual to act for an estate.

Signature by a representative. A representative can sign Form 4506-T for a taxpayer only if the taxpayer has specifically delegated this authority to the representative on Form 2848, line 5. The representative must attach Form 2848 showing the delegation to Form 4506-T.

Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice. We ask for the information on this form to establish your right to gain access to the requested tax information under the Internal Revenue Code. We need this information to properly identify the tax information and respond to your request. You are not required to request any transcript; if you do request a transcript, sections 6103 and 6109 and their regulations require you to provide this information, including your SSN or EIN. If you do not provide this information, we may not be able to process your request. Providing false or fraudulent information may subject you to penalties.

Routine uses of this information include giving it to the Department of Justice for civil and criminal litigation, and cities, states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. commonwealths and possessions for use in administering their tax laws. We may also disclose this information to other countries under a tax treaty, to federal and state agencies to enforce federal nontax criminal laws, or to federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism.

You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as required by section 6103.

The time needed to complete and file Form 4506-T will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated average time is: **Learning about the law or the form**, 10 min.; **Preparing the form**, 12 min.; and **Copying, assembling, and sending the form to the IRS**, 20 min.

If you have comments concerning the accuracy of these time estimates or suggestions for making Form 4506-T simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. You can write to:

Internal Revenue Service
Tax Forms and Publications Division
1111 Constitution Ave. NW, IR-6526
Washington, DC 20224

Do not send the form to this address. Instead, see *Where to file* on this page.



Resources

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Family Action Plan: 12th Grade

Senior year is a whirlwind of activity. It's a big year for your child—balancing schoolwork, extracurricular obligations, and the college application process. Use the suggestions below so you and your child can meet these challenges.

SUMMER

- Visit colleges together.** If you haven't already, make plans to check out the campuses of colleges that interest your child. Use the [Campus Visit Checklist](#) to learn how to get the most out of these experiences.
- Ask how you can help your senior finalize a college list.** You can help your 12th grader choose which colleges to apply to by weighing how well each college meets their needs. Learn [how to finalize a college list](#).
- Find out a college's actual cost.** Once your 12th grader has a list of a few colleges of interest, use the [Net Price Calculator](#) together to discover the potential for financial aid and the true out-of-pocket cost—or net price—of each college.
- Encourage your child to get started on applications.** Together you can get the easy stuff out of the way by filling in as much required information on college applications as possible. Read about [how to get started on applications](#).
- Help your child decide about applying early.** If your senior is set on going to a certain college, they should think about whether applying early is a good option. Now is the time to decide because early applications are usually due in November. Read about the pros and cons of [applying early](#).
- Gather financial documents:** To apply for most financial aid, your child will need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You'll need your most recent tax returns and an FSA ID to complete the FAFSA, which opens October 1.
- Encourage your child to opt in to the College Board Opportunity Scholarships.** Your child can earn scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 by completing individual college planning steps. When they complete all six steps, they'll be eligible for a \$40,000 scholarship. Visit [cb.org/opportunity](#) to learn more.

FALL

- Encourage your child to meet with the school counselor.** This year, your 12th grader will work with the counselor to complete and submit college applications. Learn more about [the counselor's role in applying to college](#).
- Create a calendar with your child.** This should include application deadlines and other important dates. Your child can find specific colleges' deadlines in [College Search](#). Your child can save colleges in a list to get a custom online calendar that shows the deadlines of those colleges.
- Get your child ready for college admission tests.** Many seniors retake college admission tests, such as the SAT[®], in the fall. Learn more about helping your 12th grader [prepare for admission tests](#).
- Help your child find and apply for scholarships.** Your high school student can find out about scholarship opportunities from the school counselor and how to request and complete scholarship applications and submit them on time. Learn more about [scholarships](#).

FALL (CONTINUED)

- Offer to look over your senior's college applications.** But remember that this is your child's work, so remain in the role of adviser and proofreader. Respect your child's voice.
- Complete the FAFSA.** The government and many colleges use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to award aid. Now it's easier than ever to fill out this form because you can automatically transfer your tax information online from the IRS to the FAFSA. Read [How to Complete the FAFSA](#) to learn more.
- Complete the CSS Profile™, if required.** If your child needs to submit the CSS Profile to a college or scholarship program, be sure to find out the priority deadline and submit it by that date. Read [How to Complete the CSS Profile](#).
- Encourage your child to set up college interviews.** An interview is a great way for your child to learn more about a college and for a college to learn more about your child. Get an overview of the [interview process](#).

WINTER

- Work together to apply for financial aid.** Have your child contact the financial aid offices at the colleges of interest to find out what forms students must submit to apply for aid. Make sure your child applies for aid by or before any stated deadlines. Funds are limited, so the earlier you apply, the better.
- Learn about college loan options together.** Borrowing money for college can be a smart choice—especially if your high school student gets a low-interest federal loan. Learn more about the [parent's role in borrowing money](#).
- Encourage your senior to take SAT Subject Tests™.** These tests can showcase your child's interests and achievements—and many colleges require or recommend that applicants take one or more Subject Test. Read more about [SAT Subject Tests](#).
- Encourage your child to take AP® Exams.** If your 12th grader takes AP or other advanced classes, have your child talk with teachers now about taking these tests in May. Read more about the [AP Program](#).

SPRING

- Help your child process college responses.** Once your 12th grader starts hearing from colleges about admission and financial aid, you need to help your child decide what to do. Read about [how to choose a college](#).
- Review financial aid offers together.** Your 12th grader will need your help to read through financial aid award letters and figure out which package works best. Be sure your child pays attention to and meets any deadlines for acceptance. Get more information on [financial aid awards](#).
- Help your child complete the paperwork to accept a college's offer of admittance.** These steps should be taken once your child has decided which college to attend: review the offer, accept that college's offer, mail a tuition deposit, and submit other required paperwork. Learn more about your high school senior's [next steps](#).

Visit bigfuture.org for more information.



You Are Accepted, Now What?

Steps to follow once you've been accepted to a University

Step 1: Read your email EVERY DAY!

- a. This is the only way that a University will communicate with you
- b. You are the only one that the University will communicate with (NOT your parents and NOT your TSIC College Success Coach!)

Step 2: Activate your University Student Account per their email instructions – each University has a different system!

- a. There will be a “To Do List” – work on completing all items as soon as possible
- b. Follow any specific checklists provided by your University

Step 3: Check the status of your Financial Aid in your newly created Student Account!

- a. Complete dependent verification forms and/or submit tax transcripts as requested – almost every student will have some additional paperwork to complete BEFORE financial aid is posted
- b. Refer to Financial Section of this notebook, page 18, for the IRS Form 4506-T to request tax transcripts
- c. If you plan to attend summer, you will need to review both the 2021-22 (summer) financial aid offerings, as well as the 2022-23 (fall/spring) financial aid

Step 4: Pay tuition deposit once you decide which university you will attend!

- a. This can be up to \$200; however, if you applied using a college board application fee waiver, the tuition deposit is often waived
- b. If you did not get an automatic tuition deposit waiver, contact the university and request one

Step 5: Apply for Housing!

- a. Consider the **Southern Scholarship Foundation (SSF) Housing** if you are going to Tallahassee, Gainesville or FGCU (females only) – see page 14 of the Financial Section of this notebook
- b. Fall/Spring housing application should be completed as soon as possible to ensure you have a place in the dormitory so that you may be eligible for the Monroe County Florida Prepaid Housing scholarship. This will likely cost money, so be prepared!
- c. Summer housing application should also be completed if applicable, it may or may not be a separate application, and it may or may not cost additional money!

Step 6: Register for Orientation!

- a. All Universities require that students attend a mandatory Orientation session – this is done differently at each university, but you must register and this will cost money!
- b. Consider best time to attend (if you are starting in summer, your orientation session may be in May and you will need to schedule carefully around exams and high school graduation events)
- c. Consider if your parent(s) will attend also (this will cost more money)
- d. If possible, schedule your Orientation for summer session to coincide with when you have to move in as this will mean your family only needs to make one trip (this is how the FSU CARE Orientation is done, some other Universities also offer an orientation right before summer session begins)

Step 7: Submit Proof of Health Insurance and Immunization Record!

- a. All Universities require that students have health insurance – if you already have health insurance, you will have to provide proof of insurance. If you do not, you will have to pay for the university insurance or purchase your own insurance and provide proof to the university.
- b. You must provide your Immunization Record, including specific immunizations required to attend university which you may need to get prior to graduation (these shots are free at the Monroe County Health Department while you are still in high school)

Fresno State Information:

How to Write a Thank You Letter

The Importance Of Thanking Your Donor

Scholarship donors are generous and caring people who unselfishly give to support the educational endeavors of students like you. They typically ask for nothing in return, but receiving a well written thank you letter from a student is always special and lets the donor know that his or her scholarship was greatly appreciated. Your letter reminds them why they gave in the first place and often help secure continuing gifts for future students.

Writing A Well Written Letter

Make sure the letter is free of both grammatical and spelling errors. You are an important part of the Fresno State Family, and the literacy demonstrated in your letter is a reflection on all of us.

Thank You Letter Tips

1. Write clearly and concisely.
2. Double-check for typos and grammatical errors.
3. Express enthusiasm.
4. Be sincere.
5. Send it typewritten in business format.
6. Use quality paper.

You were awarded a scholarship because your personal qualities and academic abilities stood above all other applicants. Sending a typed thank you letter confirms that this scholarship was important enough to you to take the time to present yourself in a professional manner. The sample letters (provided below) are to help you compose your own thank you letter in a professional business format.

Sample Thank You Letter 1

[Date]

*[Mr./Mrs. First and Last Name of Donor or Name of Organization]
[Name of Scholarship]
[Address]
[City, State, Zip]*

Dear *[Donor Name or Organization Name]*,

First paragraph: State the purpose of your letter

I am writing to thank you for your generous \$500 *[Name of scholarship]* scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship.

Second paragraph: Share a little about yourself and indicate why the scholarship is important.

I am a Biology major with an emphasis in physiology and anatomy. I plan to pursue a career in pharmacy upon graduating from Fresno State. I am currently a junior carrying 17 units, and plan to graduate in the fall of 2007. After graduation, I will attend San Francisco Pharmacy School to earn my pharmaceutical degree. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal.

Third paragraph: Close by thanking the person again and make a commitment to do well with the "donor's investment."

By awarding me the [Name of scholarship], you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

Sincerely,

[Sign your name here]

[Type your name]
[Your address]
[City, State, Zip]

Sample Thank You Letter 2

[Date]

[Mr./Mrs. First and Last Name of Donor or Name of Organization]
[Name of Scholarship]
[Address]
[City, State, Zip]

Dear [Donor Name or Organization Name],

First paragraph: State the purpose of your letter.

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making the [Name of Scholarship] possible. I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor and I am deeply appreciative of your support.

Second paragraph: Share a little about yourself and indicate why the scholarship is important.

I am currently majoring in Early Childhood Education with hopes of becoming an elementary teacher. The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying.

Third paragraph: Close by thanking the person again and make a commitment to do well with the "donor's investment."

Thank you again for your generosity and support. I promise you I will work very hard and eventually give something back to others, both as teacher and possibly a scholarship to future students like myself.

Sincerely,

[Sign your name here]

[Type your name]
[Your address]
[City, State, Zip]