

Navigating the Road to College



Make a List of Schools

- Most people suggest applying to 5 or more schools.
- Plan to visit the schools. Make an appointment with an admissions counselor. Demonstrated interest is factor considered by admissions counselors.
- Use collegeboard.org/bigfuture to search for colleges and majors.
- Cost should not be a primary factor as you apply. Apply and compare offers.
- Apply Early! November 1 is the preferred deadline. Give yourself time to add supporting documents.

Make a chart of deadlines and plan to complete them at least a month before the date

1. Florida Public Universities mostly have earlier deadlines. October 15!
2. Earlier is always better. The fewer spots left, the more difficult it becomes to be admitted. After the deadline the applicants are given spots as space is available.
3. Private Schools have later deadlines and many have rolling admissions- Don't procrastinate!

Important Dates

Testing

- September and October: Retake the SAT and ACT

Applications

- Apply to College by November 1- give some time to get supporting documentation

Testing- ACT or SAT

ACT

- A. Writing/English
- B. Reading
- C. Science
- D. Math
- Act.org

SAT

- A. Evidence –Based Reading and Writing
- B. Math
- Collegeboard.org

What do I need to have ready before sitting down to apply

1. A transcript and list of current classes to complete application. Course code numbers are on transcript and schedule.
2. The Self Reported Student Academic Record or SSAR is a separate website for the student to enter transcript. If you drop a class, edit the SSAR.
3. A resume or list of activities with the years and hours spent. Highlight leadership activities or problem solving skills.
4. Test Scores
5. Proof of Florida Residency

Common Application

- Used by over 900 schools
- Demographic Information
- Test dates and scores can be reported here. Florida Universities are still requiring test scores.
- Look at the test score range for each school. If you have a good transcript, high grades and rigorous classes, you are a good candidate for test score optional.
- Essay question is uploaded. Very important
- Another question can be Why us? Or What was your favorite activity or community service?

Types of Decisions

1. Early Decision
2. Early Action
3. Regular Decision
4. Rolling Admissions

A Few Important Terms

- Admit- Admission has been granted. Can be conditional
- Waitlist- Wait until others decide. Usually a student is given an option of remaining on waitlist.
- Defer- Application remains under review. More information is requested.
- Deny- Does not meet admissions requirements.

Scholarships: 3 Sources

1. Government-

A. Federal - obtained by submitting a Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This goes online October 1 and uses last year's income tax information. Some schools will not consider you for scholarships until you submit this form. Most common award is Pell Grant.

B. State Financial Aid- Florida Bright Futures is most common. When you complete the Florida Student Financial Aid Form available on floridastudentfinancialaid.org This site screen for other state scholarships. This application opens October 1.

2. College Scholarships-

Go to the school website for information. Usually, these are given out after a student is accepted.

3. Private Scholarships-

Fastweb.com, scholar snapp, going merry, or scholarshipsearch.com – Go to blogs of moms who have worked to get 100% of tuition by setting aside a weekly time to work on applications. Micro-Scholarships like Raise.me can be easy to get.

*Often in order to get financial aid the Free Application for Federal Student Aid is required. Application opens October 1

The application for Florida Bright Futures Scholarship opens October 1.

What's New in 2021-2022

- Pandemic continues to affect education and colleges. Many, except state university system of Florida and Georgia, will remain test-optional. Some schools say they will rely on AP grades. Colleges are “treading water” and realizing COVID will affect students for several years.
- Just taking an AP exam, even if your score is 2, predicts you will be successful in college, according to a new study completed by College Board.
- More students apply to college because of Common Application, and not reporting test scores. Last year 5.6 million applications were submitted. Most students in Florida chose to stay in their home state.
- COVID question will remain on the Common Application. Do not answer if you have not been significantly impacted.
- Colleges are trying to increase diversity on campus. They want unrepresented minorities and first generation in college students. Diversity and acceptance of gender differences are affecting college admissions. Question on Common Application about gender identity has more choices. A dorm, the Lavender Dorm, has been opened for students with gender differences.
- BOGO passed by Florida legislators this summer. If a student completes their first two years of college and has a STEM major the last two years are free.
- Data Analytics, Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence are lucrative majors.
- Most colleges reporting graduation rates are reporting 6 year rates.



Graduation

May 24, 2021



