

Applying for College Cheat Sheet

Application:

1. Apply for term you want to attend!!!! Florida schools can accept you for whatever term they want.
2. Include EVERYTHING about you aside from transcript data (Resume)
3. Pay application fee (or get fee waiver if on free/reduced price lunch)
4. Essays
5. Letters of recommendation (ask teachers NOW). Follow directions! If they don't want one, they mean it!
6. Early Decision/Early Action
7. Common Application (www.commonapplication.org)
8. Coalition Application (<http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org>)
9. Financial Aid (FAFSA and/or CSS profile)
10. Get organized now....most of the application should be completed over the summer
11. Remember they are making decisions based on your senior classes. Do not send out your applications until you know what your classes are and you are sure you are staying in them.
12. **You MUST check your email every day! Colleges don't tweet or text you!!!!**

Transcripts:

1. Next year, go to Guidance and fill out a transcript request form to send your transcript to all colleges you apply for. Transcript includes all high school grades and coursework (including from middle school and dual enrollment). NO TRANSCRIPT FOR FSU/UF/FAU/FGCU/ UNF/Florida Poly/New College – SSAR
2. GPA re-calculation – Colleges look at academic units only and how well you did in academic classes!
3. Senior year classes and grades MATTER!!! – **Send mid-year senior grades to Rolling Admission Schools.**
4. 4 units of Math now required (Algebra I and above)

SAT:

1. Earliest Test Date Next Year: **August 29th** - Registration opens mid-June. sat.org/register
2. Send scores to Cypress Bay High School – HS Code 101842
3. SEND SCORES TO COLLEGES when you register for tests!!!! Not included on transcript!!!!
4. **Send new scores to Rolling Admission Schools throughout fall/early spring.**

ACT (take with writing for 4-year schools):

1. Earliest Test Date Next Year: **September (date TBD)** - Registration opens mid July. www.ACTstudent.org
2. Send scores to Cypress Bay High School – HS Code 101842
3. SEND SCORES TO COLLEGES when you register for tests!!!! Not included on transcript!!!!

Extracurricular Activities:

1. Make sure you include everything you were involved in since the summer following 8th grade.
2. Be clear and concise – **list title of organization or activity, your specific role, number of hours you contributed in that capacity; also be sure and explain the club if it is unclear what they do**
3. Don't forget to include things you did in your community, church, temple, etc.

Leadership:

1. Colleges love to see your leadership positions....don't forget to include them!!!
2. **Be real....Your voice should come through loud and clear.**

Essay Topics (Be Fearless!):

UF and FSU: (400 words) 1. Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it. 2. 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. 3. 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? 4. What is the hardest part of being a teenager now? What's the best part? What advice would you give a younger sibling or friend (assuming they would listen to you)? 5. Submit an essay on a topic of your choice

UCF: Write about 1 or 2 of the following 4 prompts: (250 words each or 1 for 500 words)

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

FAMU: 3 questions to choose:

1. Describe an activity, interest, experience, or achievement in your life (this could be a book, movie, or any experience) that has been particularly meaningful to you.
2. How has your family influenced who you are?
3. What qualities or unique characteristics do you possess that would allow you to contribute to our university community?

UNF: Essay topic will be on their website on September 1, 2019. Essay is only required if you want to be considered for their merit scholarships.

New College: Common Application essay

The following Florida public schools do not require admission essays:

1. UWF
2. USF
3. FAU
4. FIU
5. FGCU
6. UNF
7. UF

UCF is the only school that does not superscore the ACT: