

Applying for College Cheat Sheet

Application:

1. Apply for term you want to attend!!!! Don't apply for summer term unless you WANT to attend summer.
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 (include something extra about yourself even for schools that do not require one)
5. Tell them how much you want to attend their school
6. Letters of recommendation (ask teachers NOW). Follow directions! If they don't want one, they mean it!
7. Early Decision/Early Action
8. Common Application (www.commonapplication.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. Seniors must go to Guidance and fill out a transcript request form to send transcripts to all colleges with applications. Transcripts include all grades and coursework completed since Kindergarten (NOT FOR UF/FSU – they require a 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 (3rd week)**- Registration opens mid-June. sat.org/register
2. **Send new scores to Rolling Admission Schools throughout Fall/early Spring.**

ACT:

1. Earliest Test Date Next Year: **September** - Registration opens mid July. www.ACTstudent.org

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**
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:

Remember: Make sure you say not only what you are interested in, but why. Let them hear your voice and what you are passionate about. This is your 2 minute window into who you are and what you care about.

UF/FSU: (500-650 words) The Coalition Application. The prompts are:

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 **2 of the following 4** prompts: (250 words each)

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?

UNF: Essay topic will be on their website on September 1. 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

None of the Florida public schools require a letter of recommendation.

The following schools are using the SSAR (Self-Reported Student Academic Record):

1. UF
2. FSU
3. Florida Polytech
4. FAU