



APPLY YOURSELF FLORIDA

2024-25 Student Guide



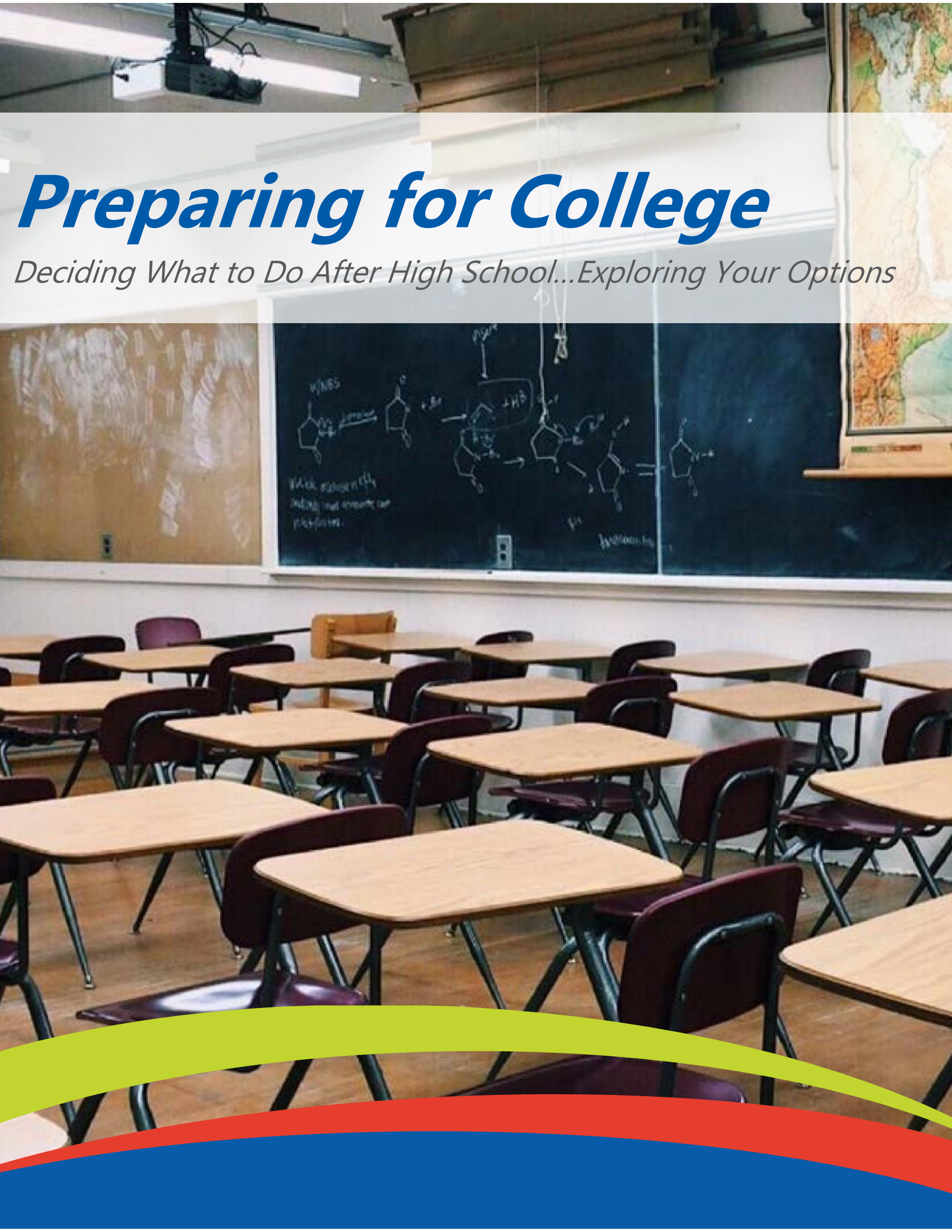
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You're starting an exciting new journey!

Soon, you'll be graduating high school and moving on to the next stage of your life.

If you plan to continue your education, the first step of this journey is applying to college. This guide will help you choose colleges that are right for you, take steps to apply to college, and identify the next steps after you've applied.

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Preparing for College

Deciding What to Do After High School...Exploring Your Options

Choose Your Path!

There are three main paths you can take after high school, depending on your future goals—education, service, or work.

EDUCATION

Career and technical education (CTE) programs help you learn skills to prepare for a specific career, such as paramedic, aircraft mechanics, digital design, veterinary assisting, culinary arts, etc. Local state colleges or technical colleges offer certificates for these types of jobs.

You can earn a **2-year associate degree**, which can help build a body of knowledge that can prepare you for a career or further education. Associate degrees in areas like healthcare or information technology/computer science can prepare you for work in specific fields.

In Florida, many **state colleges have formal 2+2 agreements** with local universities. These relationships give you the option to complete the first two years of your bachelor's degree at a state college and the second two years at a university. This can help families save money on a four-year degree.

You can complete a **4-year bachelor's degree** to prepare for work in fields like business, education, or engineering. You can also continue to **graduate school** for careers in medicine, law or other fields. As part of earning a bachelor's degree, you will build a broader body of knowledge that can offer more flexibility to change careers over time.

SERVICE

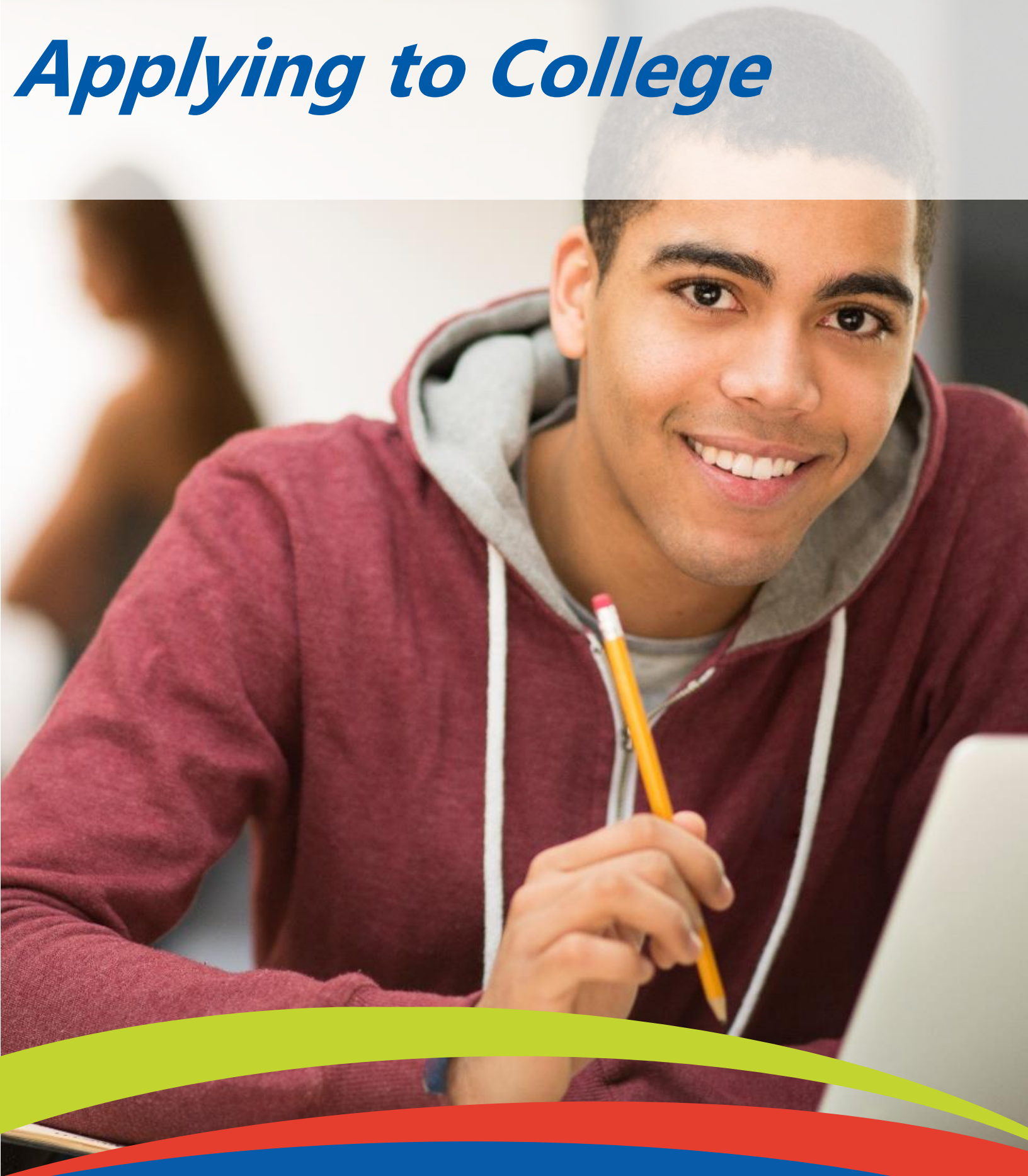
Some students enlist in the **military**, where you can receive on-going training in specific jobs that can translate to civilian work. You will also have the option to return to school later using GI Bill benefits.

You may choose to do a **service program** that allows you to explore your interests. Organizations like AmeriCorps allow you to earn money for college through service. AmeriCorps members participate in service programs such as disaster cleanup, home building, and others.

WORK

After high school, you have the option to start **working**. To increase your earning potential, consider exploring **apprenticeship programs**, which provide on-the-job training and education while earning a wage. You can also look into free training opportunities online or through a local library.

Applying to College



Finding the Right Fit

When considering colleges, it is important to research your options. This will help you choose a school with features that fit your needs, interests, and talents.

Consider these factors when comparing schools:

Size

Colleges range in size. Some might be the size of your high school, while others are the size of a small town!

At a small school, you will likely take classes with 30 or fewer students. Classes at a big school could have as many as 500 students. Many classes at larger colleges are also taught by graduate students.

Big schools often have more services, programs, and activities available. By contrast, small schools may offer more specialized programs and personalized attention.

Location

Do you want to save money by living at home? Do you want to go home on weekends? Or do you want to be as far away as possible?

Do you want to go to school in an urban area (city/town) where you can use public transit? Or would you prefer a more quiet, rural setting?

These are all questions to consider when thinking about a school's location.

Culture

Big schools often offer opportunities for joining fraternities or sororities. These schools also may have nationally-recognized sports teams and a culture of school pride.

A smaller school, however, may have a more supportive environment. You can check the school's list of student clubs and organizations to find your niche.

Programs

Large schools usually offer a wide variety of academic programs. This offers you flexibility if you're not yet sure what you want to study, or if you want to change your major.

If you're interested in something specific, a small school might offer more specialized programs with opportunities to work closely with faculty earlier in your education.

Application Checklist

Make sure you are meeting all the requirements in applying to college:

- Decide on the schools you want to apply to.
- Make a note of all application deadlines, including priority scholarship deadlines.
- Request for your high school transcripts, midterm grade report, and standardized test scores (ACT/SAT/PERT) to be sent to each school. Talk to your school counselor for help.
- Request recommendation letters from teachers or counselors early.
- Write your personal essay and have someone proofread it.
- Submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Fill out the online college application.
- Pay the application fee or send the fee waiver (see [page 8](#) to learn how to use fee waivers to cover the cost of college applications). Remember that your application is not considered complete until your application fee is paid, or your fee waiver is received.

Application Worksheet

There is a lot of information you will need to complete your college application.

To make sure you have everything you need for applying, use the [Application Worksheet](#) in the back of this guide.

You may need help from your school counselor or parents to answer all the questions on this sheet.

Letters of Recommendation

A good letter of recommendation can help highlight strengths that are not reflected on the rest of your application. To get a good letter, follow these tips:

- Request letters of recommendation from teachers or counselors you have a good relationship with.
- Request the letter at the beginning of the school year to give your recommender plenty of time to write it.
- Write thank-you notes for each recommender!

Writing the Essay

Essays are your opportunity to share the story your GPA and extracurricular activities don't tell. Admissions officers want to get to know you as a person, so make sure to let your personality shine!

Tip	Don't	Do
Research essay requirements	Do not wait until the last minute to find out if you need to write an essay.	Check early to see what each college on your shortlist requires. Take note of essay topics, word limits, and formatting requirements.
Choose a topic that will highlight your strengths	Do not focus on the great aspects of the college, the amount of dedication it takes to be a doctor, or the number of extracurricular activities you have done.	Share your personal story and thoughts. Tell a specific story that highlights your best qualities.
Keep your focus narrow and personal	Do not try to cover too many topics. This will make the essay sound like a laundry list that does not provide any details about you.	Focus on one aspect of yourself so the readers can learn more about who you are. Remember that readers must be able to understand your main idea and follow it from beginning to end. Ask a parent or teacher to read just your introduction and tell you what they think your essay is about.
Show, don't tell	Do not state something about yourself rather than sharing a story. For example, saying, "I like to surround myself with people with a variety of backgrounds and interests," instead of describing a story that shows this to be true.	Include specific details, examples, stories, and reasons to develop your ideas. For the example to the left, describe a situation when various types of people surrounded you instead. What did you do? What did you take away from the experience?
Use your own voice	Do not rely on phrases or ideas that people have used many times before.	Write about an experience that you had and how it made you take action or how it changed your thinking.
Proofread	Do not turn your essay in without proofreading it or relying only on your computer's spell check to catch mistakes.	Ask a teacher or parent to proofread your essay to catch mistakes. You should also ask the person who proofreads your essay if the writing sounds like you.

Remember to bring your essay with you to your school's Apply Yourself Florida College Application Campaign event! You can bring it on a USB drive or email the essay to yourself.

Application Fee Waivers

Most colleges have an application fee of \$30-\$50. When complete your college application, if you qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, you may be eligible to have the application fee waived. If you are not sure whether you qualify, speak with your school counselor.

ACT College Application Fee Waivers

Eligibility: Students who used a fee waiver to take the ACT exam.

Access: School counselors should see if a student is eligible for the application fee waiver. [Learn more here.](#)

SAT College Application Fee Waivers

Eligibility: Students who used a fee waiver to take the SAT exam or SAT subject test.

Access: Students can access the fee waivers directly through their online College Board account. [Find more information here.](#)

National Association of College Admissions Counselors (NACAC) College Application Fee Waivers

Eligibility: Students are eligible for up to four fee waivers if they meet at least one of these criteria:

- The student used a fee waiver to take the SAT or ACT
- The student is enrolled in a free or reduced-price lunch program
- The student is enrolled in a program for low-income students (TRIO, Upward Bound)
- The student's family qualifies for public assistance
- The student is a ward of the state
- Other special circumstances outlined by the school counselor

Access: School counselors must print the form and sign off on student eligibility. [Find more information here.](#)

Don't Forget!

- The school will not consider your application complete until they receive your fee waiver.
- If you are not using a fee waiver, you will need a credit card to pay the application fee, or can send a payment with cashier's check or money order.

Admissions/Fee Waivers by School

School Name	Application Information
Florida Atlantic University (FAU)	FAU Undergraduate Admissions Webpage
Florida A&M University (FAMU)	FAMU Undergraduate Admissions Webpage
Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU)	FGCU Undergraduate Admissions Webpage
Florida International University (FIU)	FIU Undergraduate Admissions Webpage
Florida Polytechnic University	Florida Polytechnic University Undergraduate Admissions Webpage
Florida State University (FSU)	FSU Undergraduate Admissions Webpage
New College of Florida	New College of Florida Undergraduate Admissions Webpage
University of Florida (UF)	UF Undergraduate Admissions Webpage
University of Central Florida (UCF)	UCF Undergraduate Admissions Webpage
University of North Florida (UNF)	UNF Undergraduate Admissions Webpage
University of South Florida (USF)	USF Undergraduate Admissions Webpage
University of West Florida (UWF)	UWF Undergraduate Admissions Webpage

You've Applied! Next Steps

Applying to college is an important step in continuing your education, but it is not the last step! Here is what you will need to do next:

Finalize your application

- Make sure your application fee has been paid
- Make sure your transcripts have been sent

Apply for financial aid

- Create your FSA ID to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).** The username and password that you will need to log into the Federal Student Aid website. Remember your password!
 - You and your contributor will each need to create your own FSA ID.
 - Some aid is on a first-come, first-served basis. The earlier you complete the FAFSA, the more likely you are to receive some form of financial aid.
 - Go to studentaid.gov to get started.
- Complete the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA).**
 - The [FFAA](#) opens October 1.
 - It is necessary to complete this application to receive state-funded grants and scholarships, including Bright Futures.
- Apply for grants and scholarships,** which do not need to be paid back.
 - Florida offers both need- and merit-based scholarships, including Bright Futures, First Generation Matching Grant, and Florida Student Assistance Grant.
 - Some of these scholarships require that you complete the FFAA.
 - Research local scholarships through your education foundation, community foundation, or by speaking with your school counselor. Also, check out [FCAN's Scholarship Resources page](#).

Get ready to go!

- Accept an admission offer by May 1.
- Attend new student orientation.
- Sign up for housing and a meal plan if you plan to live on campus.
- Submit your housing deposit by the deadline (check your college's website).
- Get necessary supplies, like books, dorm room essentials, etc.
- Register for classes if you have not already do so.
- Have a great first semester!

Paying for College

How do I Pay for College?



What Will College Cost?

Where You Go

- **Private schools** tend to cost more than **state schools**.
- **State universities** tend to cost more than **state colleges**.
- If you qualify as a **Florida resident for tuition purposes**, you will be eligible to pay a lower in-state tuition rate at Florida schools

What You Get

- Many schools offer generous **school-based aid and scholarships** based on need and merit.
- Be sure to check schools' **priority admission/scholarship deadlines** so you can be considered for the most aid possible.

Consider All the Costs

- Yearly tuition/cost per credit hour.
- Books, supplies, and other fees.
- Housing, internet, meals, and transportation.
- Summer courses (keep in mind that Florida state universities require students to complete 9 credit hours of summer courses).

Florida's 2+2 Program

All Florida state colleges are open admission, meaning they guarantee admission to almost all students.

Students who complete an associate degree at a state college are guaranteed acceptance to a state university to complete their bachelor's degree.

In other words, you can start the first two years of your bachelor's degree at a state college, and then complete the second two years at a state university. This could help save money.

Qualifying for In-State Tuition

If you are applying to a Florida school and qualify as a **Florida resident for tuition purposes**, you will be eligible for lower in-state tuition rates. Here is what you need to know about qualifying as a Florida resident and residency requirements:

Who is a “Florida Resident for Tuition Purposes”?

- If your parent has lived in Florida for at least 12 consecutive months, then you are likely a Florida resident for tuition purposes.
- To claim residency, you must complete a residency form or affidavit. Admissions staff will review this form and related documentation to determine your eligibility for in-state tuition.

What documents can verify Florida residency?

- A copy of a Florida driver’s license or Florida state identification card
- Voter’s registration
- Florida vehicle registration

Speak with the school’s admissions office for guidance regarding other acceptable documents.

Special residency cases

- Members of the armed services stationed in Florida, as well as their spouses and dependent children, may qualify as residents for tuition purposes.

Resources for Undocumented Students

Students who are not citizens or whose parents are not citizens may be eligible for lower in-state tuition rates instead of the more expensive non-resident tuition rates.

To qualify for in-state tuition:

- You must have attended high school in Florida for 3 consecutive years immediately prior to high school graduation.
- You must apply to a Florida college or university within 24 months of high school graduation.
- You must submit an official Florida transcript to verify attendance and graduation.

After you have applied and are admitted to a school, you will need to submit an HB 851 Out-of-State Fee Waiver (ask an admissions officer where you can access this form).

Visit the following college/university webpages for more resources and support: [FAU](#), [FIU](#), [FSU](#), [UCF](#), [USF](#), [UF](#), [New College of Florida](#), [Santa Fe College](#), and [Valencia College](#).

Resources for Foster Care Youth

If you have been in foster care, programs are available to help you continue your education beyond high school. You can pay for college through exemptions that cover the cost of college tuition and fees.

The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) hosts a Postsecondary Education Services and Support (PESS) program that provides a stipend for living expenses to students attending a Florida Bright Futures-eligible institution, including vocational training. You are eligible for this program until your 23rd birthday.

Many colleges and universities provide campus coaches for on-campus support for current and former foster youth. You can find lists of foster care student advisors below:

- [State University Foster Care Liaisons & Coaches](#)
- [State College Liaisons & Coaches](#)

In some cases, you may also qualify for waived tuition and fees, which is available to you until you reach 28 years of age. Check with your school counselor on accessing the tuition fee waiver and your institution on other financial resources that are available to you as a foster youth.

Applying for Financial Aid

To qualify for financial aid, you must apply. The FAFSA is the most important step to take to access most forms of financial aid. All federal financial aid, some state aid and most aid offered by colleges require you to complete and submit the FAFSA.

Types of Aid

When you are searching for financial aid, consider a wide variety of options and apply to as many programs as possible.

- **Grants:** Grants do not have to be repaid if you successfully complete the courses in which you were enrolled. Most grants come from the federal and state governments. The Pell grant is the largest federal grant program and is designed to help students from low-income households attend college.
- **Scholarships:** Scholarships do not have to be repaid if you successfully complete your coursework. Most scholarships come from the college you plan to attend and community organizations like community and education foundations.
- **Work-study:** Work-study helps you to earn money to pay for your education by working a part-time job offered through the college.
- **Loans:** Loans for students have lower interest rates than most other types of loans. Unlike grants or scholarships, loans must be repaid with interest when you finish college, even if you do not graduate. Student loans are offered through colleges, banks, and other institutions.

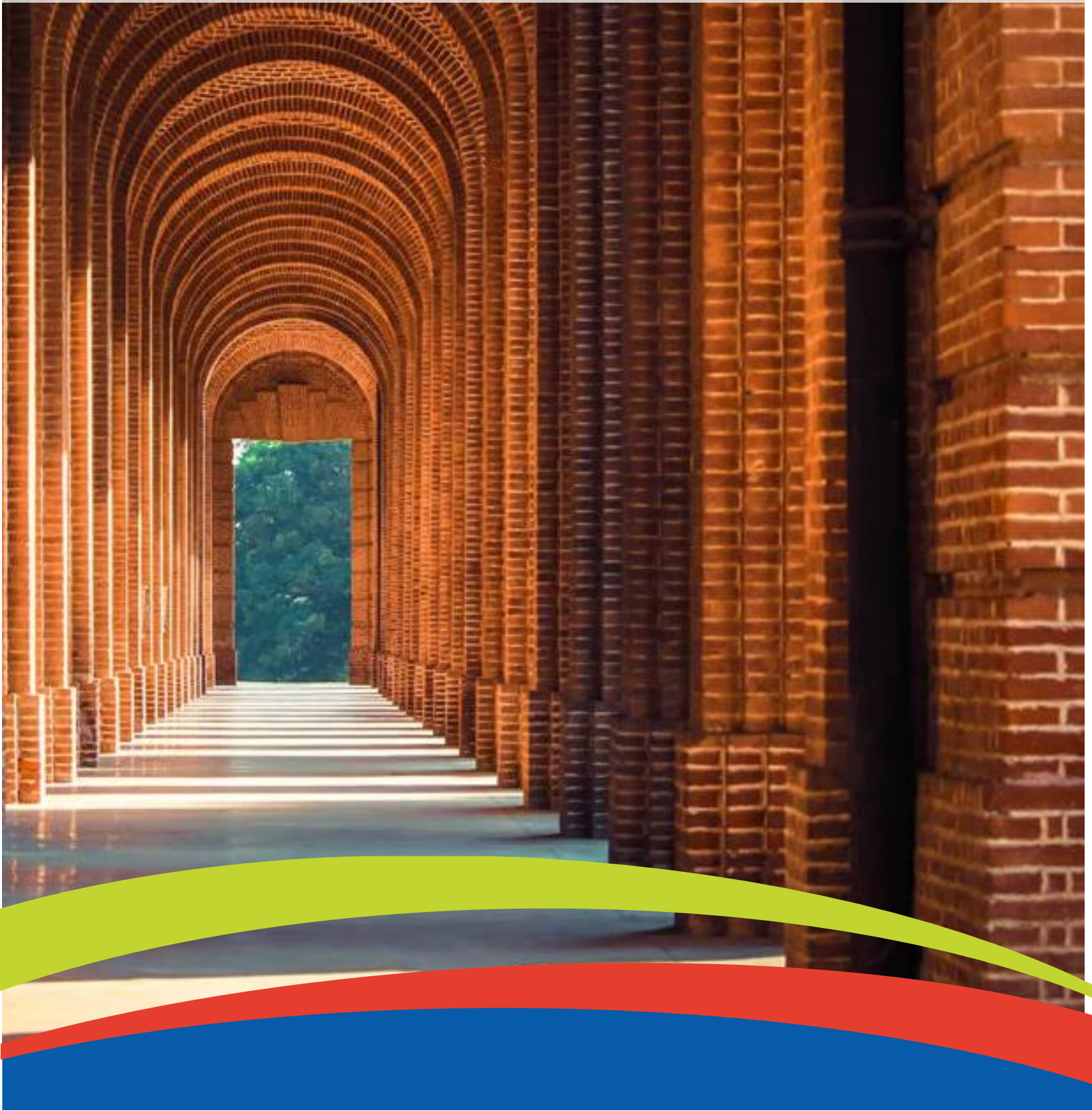
You can complete, submit, and track your FAFSA application [here](#). **You should complete the FAFSA every year that you attend college.**

First-Generation Students:

Being a first-generation student means that neither parent of the student has completed a bachelor's degree. Some colleges or universities have specific scholarships and resources focused on first-generation students. Visit the following websites to learn more: [FAMU](#), [FAU](#), [FGCU](#), [FIU](#), [FSU](#), [UF](#), [UNE](#), [USE](#), [UWF](#).

Review the [First Generation Matching Grant](#) (FGMG) to see if you are eligible to receive need-based funding from the grant.

Going to College



Summer Transition Checklist

- Have you completed your FAFSA?**
 - Completing the [FAFSA](#) is the first step to getting financial aid, which makes college more affordable for most students. Some aid is on a first-come, first-served basis.

- Have you been notified of your college awarding you financial aid?**
 - Most colleges have a cost calculator on their website, which shares the total estimated cost of going to school there, including tuition, fees, books, meals and housing. Consider how much aid you are being offered from the college and the total cost to attend school there.

- Have you logged in to your college's web portal?**
 - Every school has a student portal where you will log into your student account. Check it often as most schools send information about deadlines through this system.

- Have you confirmed your enrollment?**
 - You must confirm that you will be attending the school of your choice and pay a deposit by the school's deadline. Check with your institution to determine the enrollment deposit fee and the deadline.

- Have you submitted all housing forms and deposits if you are going to live on campus?**
 - Housing fills up fast, so you don't want to delay. Housing deposits are required to secure your spot. It is the student's responsibility to check their student account to determine any outstanding balances and check your school's housing website for payment deadlines.

- Have you registered for or attended new student orientation and registered for classes?**
 - All schools have a required Freshman Orientation that you must attend. This can be another cost; check with your institution to determine any costs to attend new student orientation.
 - Often, at new student orientation you will register for your classes. Check with your college about the process.

- Have you signed up for a meal plan?**
 - Many students find it helpful to sign up for a meal plan for at least their first year, especially if they are living on campus. That way, they don't need to worry about making meals.

- Have you made a plan for transportation?**
 - Make a plan for getting to campus. Find out what local transportation options are available on campus and in the area. Check if your school allows freshmen to bring their own car. If so and you choose to do so, buy a parking permit.



Worksheets

What's My Ideal College?

Directions	Scoring
Rate schools based on how well they fit your criteria. Total the scores. (Place a ★ next to the criteria most important to you.)	5 – 8: Perfect fit. 3 – 4: Kind of meets my criteria. 0 – 2: Doesn't fit.

SCHOOL 1: SCHOOL 2: SCHOOL 3:

	★			
I want a school that is located:				
a. Close to home				
b. Far away				
c. Somewhere in between				
I prefer a campus size that is:				
a. Small (under 5,000)				
b. Medium (5,000 – 15,000)				
c. Large (15,000+)				
I want the school to be in the:				
a. City				
b. Suburbs				
c. Country				
I want to be able to live:				
a. On campus, in a dorm or apartment				
b. Off campus, in an apartment or house				
c. At home				
I want to participate in the following activities:				
a. Sports				
b. Student government				
c. Community service				
d. Greek life (fraternities and sororities)				
e. Other clubs and activities				
I want to complete my degree in:				
a. 2 years or less (CTE, associate degree)				
b. 4 years (bachelor's degree)				
I want to use the following student services:				
a. Tutoring/academic support				
b. Counseling and health services				
c. Study abroad				
d. Disability access				
e. Other:				
Total				

College Visit Profile

	SCHOOL 1		SCHOOL 2		SCHOOL 3	
School name						
School website						
School type (technical college, 2-year, 4-year, etc.; public, private)						
School setting (city, suburb, country)						
Student body size						
Location (in-state, out-of-state)						
Distance from home						
Degree types offered (AA, AS, BA, BS)						
Majors I'm interested in	1. 2. 3.		1. 2. 3.		1. 2. 3.	
Admissions contact	Name: Phone: Email:		Name: Phone: Email:		Name: Phone: Email:	
Admissions requirements	ACT/SAT: GPA:		ACT/SAT: GPA:		ACT/SAT: GPA:	
On-campus housing	Available	Not available	Available	Not available	Available	Not available
Deposit amount						
Deposit due date						
Estimated Cost of Attendance						
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	School code: Deadline:		School code: Deadline:		School code: Deadline:	
Available financial aid (grants, work-study, loans)						
Available scholarships	Name: Deadline:		Name: Deadline:		Name: Deadline:	
	Name: Deadline:		Name: Deadline:		Name: Deadline:	
	Name: Deadline:		Name: Deadline:		Name: Deadline:	

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS						
	Available	Not available	Available	Not available	Available	Not available
Career Center
Computer labs
Free tutoring
Math center
On-campus health center
Summer orientation
Writing center
Other:
Other:

My Top 4 Colleges

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
ESSAY OR PERSONAL STATEMENT REQUIRED? <i>TOPIC/REQUIREMENTS</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
RECOMMENDATIONS REQUIRED? <i>HOW MANY?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <hr/>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <hr/>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <hr/>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <hr/>
SAT/ACT REQUIRED?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
APPLICATION COST <i>PAYMENT DEADLINE</i>	\$ _____ <hr/>	\$ _____ <hr/>	\$ _____ <hr/>	\$ _____ <hr/>
APPLICATION FEE WAIVER ACCEPTED? <i>WHICH ONES?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <hr/>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <hr/>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <hr/>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <hr/>
APPLICATION DEADLINE	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
DEADLINE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS/ FINANCIAL AID	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
ACCEPTANCE OF ADMISSION DEADLINE	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Requesting a Recommendation Letter

Teacher's Name: _____

Course(s) with this Teacher): _____

Sample messaging:

Thank you so much for agreeing to write this letter of recommendation on my behalf. I asked you because I think you are someone who knows me well and who can accurately speak on my potential for academic success in college. This information may be helpful as you write the recommendation. For each recommendation being mailed, I have attached a stamped, addressed envelope for your convenience. I appreciate the time and effort you will take in writing this recommendation for me.

STUDENT INFORMATION FOR COLLEGE RECOMMENDATION

STUDENT NAME: _____

GRADE IN SCHOOL: ____ junior ____ senior GPA: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

1. List colleges to which you are applying and due dates:

_____	_____	Online option: ____ Yes ____ No
_____	_____	Online option: ____ Yes ____ No
_____	_____	Online option: ____ Yes ____ No

2. College major/interests: _____

3. Career goals: _____

(Include the Highlights Sheet on the next page with your request.)

Highlights Sheet

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Extracurricular Activities (clubs, sports, etc.):

Activity	School Years	# of hours per week	Description
	__9 __10 __11 __12		
	__9 __10 __11 __12		
	__9 __10 __11 __12		
	__9 __10 __11 __12		

Awards & Honors:

Name of Award	School Years	Organization & Responsibilities
	__9 __10 __11 __12	
	__9 __10 __11 __12	
	__9 __10 __11 __12	
	__9 __10 __11 __12	

Leadership Positions:

Position	School Years	Organization/Activity & Responsibilities
	__9 __10 __11 __12	
	__9 __10 __11 __12	
	__9 __10 __11 __12	
	__9 __10 __11 __12	

Community Service:

Activity	School Years	# of hours per week	# of weeks per year
	__9 __10 __11 __12		
	__9 __10 __11 __12		
	__9 __10 __11 __12		
	__9 __10 __11 __12		

Work Experience:

Position, Place of Employment	School Years	# of hours per week	Responsibilities
	__9 __10 __11 __12		
	__9 __10 __11 __12		
	__9 __10 __11 __12		
	__9 __10 __11 __12		

Writing Your Personal Statement

The essay portion of your application is where the college gets to know *you*. It tells the story that the rest of your application (e.g. GPA, SAT scores) does not. Take this opportunity to share about what makes you unique or helps them get to know you as a person.

Writing the Essay

Step 1: Review the list of questions below and come up with a few answers. This will help you come up with topics to write about.

HOME AND FAMILY

- Have you ever lived outside the United States/in another country?
- Are you the first person in your family to go to college?
- Does your family speak any language(s) other than English?
- Did you move a lot growing up?
- Do you live in a town with a unique setting?
- Do you look up to anyone in your family?
- Has your family faced any hardships?

EDUCATION

- Have you won any awards and/or recognitions?
- Have you worked on a special class project?
- Do you have a favorite class that relates to your intended college major?
- Have you had any hard classes that you were determined to do well in?
- Are you part of a special college-going or gifted program?

ACTIVITIES

- Do you play a sport or participate in a club?
- Are you part of a school organization?
- Do you perform community service outside of school?
- Have you made any contributions to your community?

HOBBIES

- Do you play an instrument?
- Do you do anything creative?
- Do you have a favorite book?
- Do you have a favorite quote?

EVERYTHING ELSE – UNIQUENESS!

- What is it about you that makes you stand out?

Step 2: Write down a paragraph about yourself as it relates to your answers from Step 1. It doesn't have to be perfect; it's just an exercise to help you get started.

Step 3: Search essay prompts for the college(s) you will apply to. Jot down the answers below.

Name of college/university: _____

Prompt/topic: _____

Word/page count: _____

Any additional instructions: _____

Name of college/university: _____

Prompt/topic: _____

Word/page count: _____

Any additional instructions: _____

Name of college/university: _____

Prompt/topic: _____

Word/page count: _____

Any additional instructions: _____

Name of college/university: _____

Prompt/topic: _____

Word/page count: _____

Any additional instructions: _____

Name of college/university: _____

Prompt/topic: _____

Word/page count: _____

Any additional instructions: _____

Step 4: Refer to your answers from Step 1 to see which ones best fit the essay prompt(s) of your chosen college(s). Start outlining what you will discuss in each paragraph of your essay:

Paragraph 1: _____

Paragraph 2: _____

Paragraph 3: _____

Paragraph 4: _____

Paragraph 5: _____

Step 5: Begin the first draft of your essay.

FCAN's work is possible thanks to the generous contributions of our supporters.



Florida College Access Network (FCAN) leads the collaborative movement to ensure that every Floridian achieves an education beyond high school and a rewarding career. We envision a Florida working together where education is the pathway to economic mobility for all.