

College Applications?



TAKING THE CONFUSION OUT OF APPLICATION TYPES

- **EARLY DECISION**

- BINDING AGREEMENT - A STUDENT APPLYING EARLY DECISION COMMITS TO ATTENDING THIS UNIVERSITY IF THEY ACCEPT THEM, WITHDRAWING ALL OTHER APPLICATIONS.

- **FALL DEADLINES**

- **EARLY ACTION**

- STUDENTS RECEIVE EARLY NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE BUT ARE NOT COMPELLED TO ATTEND THIS SCHOOL SPECIFICALLY.

- **FALL DEADLINES**

- **REGULAR ADMISSION**

- STANDARD APPLICATION TIMETABLE.

- **LATE FALL AND SPRING DEADLINES.**

- **ROLLING ADMISSIONS**

- COLLEGES EVALUATE APPLICATIONS AS THEY ARE RECEIVED NOT AFTER A HARD DEADLINE. SCHOOLS WILL CONTINUE TO EVALUATE APPLICATIONS UNTIL THEY'VE FILLED ALL THE SLOTS FOR THEIR INCOMING CLASS.

- **DEADLINES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**



www.commonapp.org

How it works

1

Create your profile

Your Common App profile is your chance to shine. It's everything you want a college or university to know about you – from your academic coursework to your extracurricular activities.

2

Add colleges to your list

Now you get to decide what's most important to you in a college or university. Search through the characteristics and add colleges that align with them.



3

Gather requirements

Once you've decided where you want to apply, make a checklist of everything required. Each college and university is different, so make sure you stay on top of their application requirements.

4

Submit applications

Be sure to take a moment to celebrate this huge accomplishment! And remember to finish the academic year on a high note, apply for financial aid and prepare for the future.

What Do I Accomplish at college?



DEGREES TYPES

- **ASSOCIATES DEGREES (UNDERGRAD)**
 - **2-YEAR DEGREE - TRANSFERABLE TO UNIVERSITY, NORMALLY OBTAINED AT TWO-YEAR COLLEGES**
- **BACHELORS DEGREE (UNDERGRAD)**
 - **4-YEAR DEGREE - NORMALLY OBTAINED AT UNIVERSITIES**
- **MASTERS'S DEGREE (GRADUATE/POST-GRADUATE)**
 - **2 - 4 YEAR DEGREES - NORMALLY OBTAINED AT UNIVERSITIES**
- **DOCTORATE DEGREE (GRADUATE/POST-GRADUATE)**
 - **2 - 4 YEAR DEGREE - NORMALLY OBTAINED AT UNIVERSITIES, INCLUDES ACTION RESEARCH, AY OR MAY NOT INCLUDE A DISSERTATION**
- **PHD/DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SUBJECT MATTER (GRADUATE/POST-GRADUATE)**
 - **2 - 4 YEAR DEGREE - NORMALLY OBTAINED AT UNIVERSITIES, INCLUDES ACTION RESEARCH, AY OR MAY NOT INCLUDE A DISSERTATION**
- **JD - DOCTOR OF JURISPRUDENCE (GRADUATE/POST-GRADUATE DEGREE)**
 - **LAW DEGREE OBTAINED AFTER BACHELORS DEGREE**
- **MD - MEDICAL DOCTOR**
 - **MEDICAL DEGREE OBTAINED AFTER BACHELOR'S DEGREE, USUALLY IN PRE-MED OR OTHER HARD SCIENCE,**

What Types of Colleges are There?



COLLEGE TYPES

- **STATE COLLEGES**
 - **OPEN ENROLLMENT (18-CREDIT HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIRED, ENTRANCE TESTING DETERMINES IF REMEDIAL COURSES NECESSARY)**
 - **TWO-YEAR PROGRAMS OFFERED, OCASSIONALLY FOUR-YEAR PROGRAMS**
- **UNIVERSITIES (24-CREDIT HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIRED)**
 - **LIMITED ENROLLMENT WITH APPLICATION PROCESS**
 - **CAN BE TEST OPTIONAL OR TEST REQUIRED (ACT/SAT)**
 - **FOUR-YEAR PROGRAMS OFFERED**
 - **GRADUATE PROGRAMS OFFERED**
- **SPECIALTY PROGRAMS**
 - **TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, DESIGN SCHOOLS, BUSINESS SCHOOLS, ECT.**
 - **DEGREES (USUALLY ASSOCIATE) AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS OFFERED, OFTEN DESIGNED TO LEAD DIRECTLY TO SPECIFIC CAREERS**

Bright Futures Scholarships

Bright Futures handbook



Florida high school students who wish to qualify for the Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) award or the Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) award must meet the following initial eligibility requirements:

- Graduate high school from a Florida public high school with a standard Florida high school diploma ([high school graduation requirements](#)), graduate from a registered Florida Department of Education private high school, earn a [GED](#), complete a [home education](#) program, or graduate from a non-Florida high school if specific conditions are met (see the Out-of-State (OOS) guide referenced here for additional details – [OOS](#));
- Complete the required high school coursework;
- Achieve the required minimum high school grade point average (GPA);
- Achieve the required minimum score on either the ACT®, CLT®, or SAT® college entrance exam. Tests taken on or before August 31 of the high school graduation year are accepted for evaluation purposes.
- Complete the required number of volunteer service, paid work hours, or the combination of 100 total hours; and
- Submit an FFAA during your senior year between October 1, 2026, through August 31, 2027.

Type	16 High School Course Credits ¹	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year (ACT®/CLT®/SAT®)	Volunteer Service Only	Paid Work Hours Only	Combination of Volunteer/Paid Hours
FAS	4 - English <i>(three must include substantial writing)</i> 4 - Mathematics <i>(at or above the Algebra I level)</i> 3 - Natural Science <i>(two must have substantial laboratory)</i>	3.50	2026-27 Graduates ² : 29/95/1330 2027-28 Graduates ³ : 29/96/1350	100 hours	100 hours	100 hours
FMS	3 - Social Science 2 - Foreign/World Language <i>(sequential, in same language)</i>	3.00	2026-27 Graduates ² : 24/82/1190 2027-28 Graduates ³ : 25/83/1200	75 hours	100 hours	100 hours

¹ The required coursework aligns with the State University System admission requirements found in [Florida Board of Governor's Regulation 6.002](#). Additional information regarding high school coursework can be found within the [Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook](#).

² Students seeking postsecondary funding for the 2027-28 academic year.

³ Students seeking postsecondary funding for the 2028-29 academic year.

College Entrance Essay



ESSAY TYPES

- **COMMON APP ESSAYS**

- **7 COMMON TOPICS**

- 1. SOME STUDENTS HAVE A BACKGROUND, IDENTITY, INTEREST, OR TALENT SO MEANINGFUL THEY BELIEVE THEIR APPLICATION WOULD BE INCOMPLETE WITHOUT IT. IF THIS SOUNDS LIKE YOU, PLEASE SHARE YOUR STORY.
 - 2. 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?
 - 3. REFLECT ON A TIME WHEN YOU QUESTIONED OR CHALLENGED A BELIEF OR IDEA. WHAT PROMPTED YOUR THINKING? WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?
 - 4. 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 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.
 - 5. DISCUSS AN ACCOMPLISHMENT, EVENT, OR REALIZATION THAT SPARKED A PERIOD OF PERSONAL GROWTH AND A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF YOURSELF OR OTHERS.
 - 6. DESCRIBE A TOPIC, IDEA, OR CONCEPT YOU FIND SO ENGAGING 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?
 - 7. 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.

- **SCHOOL-SPECIFIC ESSAYS**

- MAY BE REQUIRED BY CERTAIN SCHOOLS, WHETHER THROUGH COMMON APP OR INDEPENDENT APPLICATION