



APPLY YOURSELF! STUDENT GUIDE

2016



Welcome!

You're about to start an exciting new journey, and the first step is applying to college. In the following pages, you will learn about how to choose colleges that are right for you, the steps to take to apply to college, and the next steps after you've applied. We hope this guide provides a roadmap for your college journey—good luck!

Table of Contents

Where do I apply? How to choose the college that's right for you. -----	page 3
How do I apply? Preparing what you need to apply to college.-----	page 7
You did it! Now what? Next steps after you've applied to college. -----	page 14
Worksheets -----	page 16

This guide was adapted for Apply Yourself Florida from materials provided by the American College Application Campaign, Michigan College Access Network, and Take Stock in Children Serving DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands Counties. A special thanks to all three for permission to adapt these resources. Thanks also to Helios Education Foundation and the Swift Family Foundation, who generously support this program.



(1) Where do I apply?

How to choose the college that's right for you.

With so many options available to you, it's important to do your homework to select a short list of colleges that suit your needs, interests, and talents. This section provides tips on how to research and decide on the colleges you apply to.

Think About Fit, Match & Cost

Does the college **fit** your preferences?

Several factors will help you decide whether a college is a good fit for you, including the size of the school, the location of the school, and services available on campus. The college's graduation rates and retention rates (the number of students who return to school for their second year) are also important to know. Finally, does the school offer your major? If you're not sure what you'd like to major in, visit **MyCareerShines** (mycareershines.org) to learn more about careers that align with your interests and talents, and the education you need to get there!

Does the college **match** your academic record?

Ideally, you should select a college that is a good "match" for your interests and academic record. For this, you'll need to understand how your high school grade point average (GPA), your college entrance exam scores (SAT and/or ACT), and the courses you've taken in high school match the college's entrance requirements AND the average GPAs and scores of students admitted. Keep in mind that a school's *minimum* test score or grade requirements will be different from the *average* scores or GPAs of who they actually admit. As you research schools you might be interested in, sort them into the following three categories:

- **"Reach" School** – This does not mean *out* of reach, it just means that the school may be more selective (look at the percent of applicants admitted) and your academic record may be on the lower end of what the college typically accepts. In other words, you have a chance to be admitted to this school.
- **"Match" School** – Typically, at a match school, your academic record will be similar to the "average" student admitted. In other words, you are *likely* to be admitted.
- **"Safety" School** – A safety school will usually have either open enrollment (meaning anyone who submits a completed application is admitted) or will be considered a "less selective" institution compared to your qualifications. Your academic record will exceed the institution's requirements and averages for students admitted. In other words, you will almost *definitely* be admitted. Florida state and community colleges are open enrollment institutions.

What will the college cost?

The “sticker” price of a college may be very different from the “net” price of a college after you consider the amount of financial aid and scholarships that is typically available to students. You can research the percent of students who had full need met, the average financial aid package, and the average amount of debt at graduation. Colleges are also required to have “net price calculators,” which can be used to create a personalized estimate of how much you will pay. You may also want to take into account how much the average graduate makes. You can find this information using resources such as BeyondEducation.org and the College Scorecard.

The “2+2” System

Many Florida students begin their education with an associate in arts (AA) degree at a Florida state or community college, and then transfer to a four-year institution to pursue a bachelor’s degree. The state of Florida guarantees that students who complete an AA degree at a Florida college have the opportunity to earn a bachelor’s degree at one of the twelve state universities.

Do Your Research

There’s a number of online resources available to help you explore your options after high school—any of the options below are a good place to start. As you’re doing your research, fill out the worksheet on page 17 for a few of the schools you are thinking about applying to. This will help you figure out if the school is a good fit and match, and whether the costs seem reasonable.

MyCareerShines

www.mycareershines.org

Starting from the very beginning? Use MyCareerShines to help you figure out what careers might be a good fit, what major you might be interested in, and which schools offer the program you need. The MyCareerShines search includes technical schools as well as 2- and 4-year colleges and universities.

FloridaShines

www.FloridaShines.org

Interested in staying in-state? FloridaShines provides a search tool and in-depth information specifically for Florida public colleges and universities.

Beyond Education

www.BeyondEducation.org

Picking the right college involves not only knowing how much college costs, but how it will pay off in the end. Beyond Education provides information on employment and earnings outcomes of graduates of the State University System, the Florida College System and District Postsecondary Career and Technical Schools. Click on the “Explore Data” tab to find out how much the average student makes after graduation at different schools and in different programs.

ACT Profile

www.actprofile.org

ACT Profile is another tool that combines career planning with college planning to help you find your path. Like MyCareerShines, it uses a series of quizzes to suggest careers that might be a good fit, and helps you figure what education you need to get there.

Note: This resource also has a social component. Please remember to use the same caution on ACT Profile as you would normally on social media.

BigFuture

www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org

Whether you already have a school in mind or are still searching, the College Board's BigFuture website can help you research your options. You can look up in-depth information about schools you're already interested in or you can use the College Search tool to find schools based on fit, match, and cost.

College Scorecard

<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>

To get a different perspective, try College Scorecard. This website has a lot of the same basic information as the other college search websites, but emphasizes average annual cost, graduation rates, and salary after attending. This can help you focus on schools that are a good value!

College Abacus & Pell Abacus

collegeabacus.org

pell.collegeabacus.org

Finally, you can get a personalized estimate of how much different colleges will actually cost you, or the net price. College Abacus allows you to compare estimated net price for up to three schools at once. Pell Abacus works the same way, but simplifies the process for students who receive free or reduced price lunch.

¡Ahora en español! Would your family prefer to view this site in Spanish? Head over to College Ábaco, collegeabaco.org, or Pell Ábaco, pellabaco.org.

Pick Your Top 4

After you've done some research, decide which schools you'll be applying to. A safe bet is to apply to at least four schools—a reach school, two match schools, and a safety school. Some students apply to more than four schools. For now, select your top four choices. You'll apply to one or more of these schools during your school's Apply Yourself Florida event.

Using the worksheet on page 18, make sure you have all the details about how to apply to these schools. You'll probably need to check the admissions page on the university website to get all the information.

Q: I already know where I want to go. Why should I apply to so many schools?

A: There are some really good reasons to apply to four or more:

- 1) It can save you money! Different colleges will offer different financial aid options. If you apply to more schools, you can compare different financial aid offers and pick the one that's best for you.
- 2) You're more likely to get into at least one college.
- 3) It increases your chances of finding a good match and fit!

(College Board)



(2) How do I apply?

Preparing what you need to apply to college.

Now that you have narrowed down the list of colleges to which you plan to apply, it's time to start gathering all of the information and documents you will need to successfully complete your applications. It's a good idea to start the process well before you submit your application.

College Application Checklist

Many colleges require more than just the application form to apply. Each college is different, so be sure to carefully review the admissions requirements for the colleges you've chosen. Here are some of the more common documents requested:

- Official Transcript
- ACT or SAT Scores
- Application Form (Remember to print out the confirmation page!)
- Application Fee Payment or Fee Waiver
- Mid-Year Report Form
- Supplemental Forms, if required
- Essays, if required
- Interviews, if required
- Recommendation Letters, if required

College Application Worksheet

On page 19 is a worksheet with the information you will **likely need** in order to fill out your college applications online. Not all colleges require the same information, and some will require much less information, but this worksheet will help you be prepared for any application. Begin filling out this list early, so you have plenty of time to track down all the information. If there are questions you don't know the answer to, ask your parents, school counselor, or another trusted adult for help. Make sure you bring this worksheet with you to your school's college application event!

Essay

Depending on which college(s) you're applying to, you might need to write an admissions essay or personal statement. This is your chance to show admissions officers who you are and to highlight your unique talents and strengths that you did not have a chance to otherwise describe on the application form. The essay also demonstrates your writing skills. Make sure you take full advantage of this opportunity to shine!

Tips for Writing Your Essay

Research Essay Requirements

Don't wait until the last minute to find out if you'll have to write a college essay.

Do check early to see whether your short list of colleges requires an admissions essay and if so, what they require. For example, some may have word or page limits and formatting requirements. Take note of the essay topic and, if there are options, decide which topic you will write on.

Choose a Topic That Will Highlight You

Don't focus on the great aspects of a particular college, the amount of dedication it takes to be a doctor or the number of extracurricular activities you took part in during high school.

Do share your personal story and thoughts, take a creative approach and highlight areas that aren't covered in other parts of the application.

Keep Your Focus Narrow and Personal

Don't try to cover too many topics. This will make the essay sound like a résumé that doesn't provide any details about you.

Do focus on one aspect of yourself so the readers can learn more about who you are. Remember that the 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 he or she thinks your essay is about.

Show, Don't Tell

Don't simply state a fact to get an idea across, such as "I like to surround myself with people with a variety of backgrounds and interests."

Do include specific details, examples, reasons, and so on to develop your ideas. For the example above, describe a situation when you were surrounded by various types of people. What were you doing? Whom did you talk with? What did you take away from the experience?

Use Your Own Voice

Don't rely on phrases or ideas that people have used many times before. These could include statements like, "There is so much suffering in the world that I feel I have to help people." Avoid overly formal or business-like language, and don't use unnecessary words.

Do write in your own voice. For the above example, you could write about a real experience that you had and how it made you feel you had to take action. And note that admissions officers will be able to tell if your essay was written by an adult.

Ask a Teacher or Parent to Proofread

Don't turn your essay in without proofreading it, and don't rely only on your computer's spell check to catch mistakes. A spell-check program will miss typos like these:

"After I graduate *form* high school, I plan to get a summer job."

"From that day on, Daniel was my best *fried*."

Do 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.

*Adapted from *The College Application Essay* by Sarah Myers McGinty.

Remember to bring your essay or personal statement with you on the day of your school's Apply Yourself Florida event! You can bring a USB with you to the event, or email the essay to yourself ahead of time.

Application Fees & Waivers

Most colleges will require you to pay an application fee when you submit your application. These fees are usually around \$30, but could be more or less. The easiest and most common way to pay the application fee is by credit card. If you cannot pay by credit card, check the admissions website of the school you're interested in to see if there are other ways you can pay the fee. Most colleges will allow you to pay by check or money order, but it depends on the school.

If the cost of the application fee is holding you back from applying, you might be eligible for a fee waiver, which will allow you to apply for free.

Who is eligible for a fee waiver?

Typically, fee waivers are available to students for whom the college application fees would create a financial burden or hardship. If you were eligible for fee waivers to take college entrance exams, such as the SAT or ACT, you're usually also eligible for college application fee waivers.

What kinds of fee waivers are there?

ACT Fee Waiver

If you received a fee waiver to take the ACT, you can also receive an application fee waiver for many colleges. The fee waiver may be found on page 43 here, and will need to be signed by your school counselor:

<https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/ACT-UserHandbook.pdf>

College Board Fee Waiver

Similarly, if you have received a College Board fee waiver for the SAT or the SAT subject tests, you may also be eligible for up to four college application fee waivers. You should receive your college application fee waivers at the beginning of senior year through your SAT account. These fee waivers do not require school counselor approval.

National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) Fee Waiver

This fee waiver can be downloaded from NACAC’s website, provided below. You and your school counselor will each fill out part of the form before submitting it to the college.

<http://www.nacacnet.org/studentinfo/feewaiver/Pages/default.aspx>

Who accepts fee waivers?

The following chart shows which Florida public universities accept which fee waivers, and how to submit the waiver. If you are applying to a school that isn’t listed here, make sure you contact the admissions office to find out what application fee waivers they accept and how to submit one.

	WAIVERS ACCEPTED	HOW TO USE THE WAIVER
FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY (FAMU)	ACT, SAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To use a fee waiver, you must apply on-line using the application for FL Fee Waiver applicants. You will be able to attach the fee waiver before you submit your application.
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY (FAU)	ACT, SAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit application without payment. Mail fee waiver to the address listed on application screen.
FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY (FGCU)	ACT, SAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the entire online admissions application and answer the question regarding qualifying for an application fee waiver. After answering all the questions on the application, stop and wait for a fee waiver code to be sent to you by the admissions office. Do not complete the credit card information. Mail the ACT/SAT application fee waivers to the address below, or email to undergrad@fgcu.edu: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Florida Gulf Coast University Office of Undergraduate Admissions 10501 FGCU Blvd. S. Fort Myers, FL 33965-6565 When they receive both your application and the fee waiver form, you will receive an email with additional information on completing the application.
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (FIU)	ACT, SAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After completing the application and reaching the payment page, select the pay by check option.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Then mail in the fee waiver to the admissions office address on the page, or email the waiver to your admissions counselor or admiss@fiu.edu.
FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY	ACT, SAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the payment page at the end of the application, select the waiver option. Mail fee waiver to the admissions office address listed or email to admissions@flpoly.org.
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY (FSU)	NACAC, ACT, SAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete and submit Part 1 of the online application. In Part 2 of the online application, upload copy of your signed fee waiver. Alternatively, the signed waiver may be faxed to 850.644.0197, emailed to admissions@fsu.edu, or mailed to: FSU Admissions PO Box 3062400 Tallahassee FL 32306
NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA	NACAC, ACT, SAT, Common App	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit fee waiver through Common Application website
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA (UCF)	NACAC, ACT, SAT, Common Application, Free/Reduced Lunch, Tax Return	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit application without payment. Mail a written request and fee waiver to the address listed on application screen or submit via email to uaoperations@ucf.edu. Please include your name and date of birth. If a Social Security Number (SSN) appears on the waiver request, please black out all but the last four digits for security purposes. OR If using the Common Application, submit the fee waiver through the Common Application website.
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA (UF)	SAT, ACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select “mail payment” as the payment option and then mail in the waiver. The address will be listed on the application screen.
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA (UNF)	NACAC, ACT, SAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bypass the payment page and submit your application without payment. Fax your application fee waiver to 904-620-2414.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA (USF)	ACT, SAT, NACAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit application without payment. • Mail fee waiver to the address listed on application screen, email to admissions@usf.edu, or fax to 813-974-9689.
UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA (UWF)	NACAC, ACT, SAT, Free/Reduced Lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application should give the option to mail in application payment. Select this option. • Send waivers to UWF via email, fax, regular mail or stop by to drop it off. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fax: (850) 474-3360 Email: admissions@uwf.edu Mail to: UWF Undergraduate Admissions 11000 University Pkwy. Bldg. 18 Pensacola, FL 32514

Application is not considered complete until either payment or the application fee waiver is received by the university. All information verified as of 07/2016

Make sure you bring a way to pay your application fee with you to your school's Apply Yourself Florida event. If you're paying by check or mailing in a fee waiver, you'll need to bring a stamped envelope as well.

Residency

If you are applying to a Florida college or university, you will be asked whether you are a Florida “resident for tuition purposes.” This determines whether you pay the lower in-state tuition or the higher out-of-state tuition. Whether or not someone qualifies as a resident is based on state law.¹

What is a Florida “resident for tuition purposes”?

A person who has, or a dependent person whose parent or legal guardian has, established and maintained **legal residency** in Florida for **at least twelve consecutive months**. As part of the admission process, a student applying to a public college or university Florida must complete a residency form or affidavit in order to declare Florida residency for tuition purposes. College staff will review the information and related documentation to verify your residency and eligibility for in-state tuition.

Some students who might not otherwise qualify as an in-state resident might still be eligible for in-state tuition. For example, members of the armed services stationed in Florida, as well as their spouses and

¹ Fl. Stat. §1009.21. For full text, see <https://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2016/1009.21>

dependent children, may qualify as residents for tuition purposes.² For a full list of students in special situations who might qualify as an in-state resident, see Florida Statute 1009.21 (10).

For more information, please see the Florida Department of Education's webpage: bit.ly/FLResidency

Am I a dependent or independent person?

If you're a recent high school graduate, you're probably a dependent, but there are some exceptions. If you think you might be an independent, ask your school counselor or a trusted adult for assistance.

Who is the claimant, or the person claiming residency?

If you are a dependent, the claimant, or person claiming residency, is your parent or legal guardian.

What do I need to do to prove Florida residency?

You and/or your parent or legal guardian will be asked to provide various forms of documentation, such as copies of driver's licenses or State of Florida Identification Card, voter registration, Florida vehicle registration, or other form of documentation. The admissions office will provide you with guidance about the process.

What if I'm an undocumented student?

Additionally, undocumented students who meet certain requirements, such as graduating from a Florida high school, may qualify for in-state tuition.³ However, if you are an undocumented student, you will not qualify as a "resident for tuition purposes." Instead, after you complete your college application, you should contact your school about an "out-of-state tuition waiver." For more information, see the Florida Department of Education's memo on the subject: bit.ly/ResidencyMemo.

To complete the residency section of the application, you'll need to have copies of at least **two** documents establishing the **claimant's** residency. For most students, the claimant will be your parent or legal guardian.

You'll also need to know the date that the **claimant** became a legal resident of Florida. That is either their birthday (if they were born in Florida) or the date they moved here (month and year)

Examples of documents that apply include: driver's license, vehicle registration, voter registration, or resident alien information. Bring a scanned copy saved on a USB or in an email with you to fill out your application!

² Fl. Stat. §1009.21(10). For full text, see <https://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2016/1009.21>

³ Fl. Stat. §1009.26(12). For full text, see <https://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2016/1009.26>



(3) YOU DID IT! Now what?

Next steps after you've applied to college.

Congratulations—you've applied! You've taken the first step in continuing your education beyond high school, but you're not done yet. Here are some tips and reminders for what to do once you've filled out the application:

- ✓ **Make sure your application fee has been paid.** If you completed an online application, you likely paid your application fee using a credit card when you submitted the application. If not, follow the school's instructions for submitting payment as soon as possible. Keep track of the institutions you paid a fee to as well as the method of payment and delivery. If you are using a fee waiver, make sure that you submitted it according to the college's procedures. Your application is not complete until payment or a fee waiver is received by the school.
- ✓ **Make sure your transcripts have been sent.** Follow up with the colleges where you have applied to ensure they received your transcript and all the necessary documents that went along with your application.
- ✓ **Create a FSA ID for your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).** Students and parents will each need a "FSA ID," which consists of a user-created username and password, to apply for federal financial aid. Do this early! To create a FSA ID, go to fsaid.ed.gov.
- ✓ **Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).** You CAN afford to go to college – fill out the FAFSA on or after October 1st to unlock thousands of dollars in grants and loans. Check your school's website for the priority aid deadline, and get your FAFSA in early. However, be sure to complete the form even if you don't meet your school's deadline, as you might still qualify for federal aid. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov to complete your application, or ask your school counselor for assistance. Some communities offer programs, such as College Goal Sunday and financial aid nights, to help students and their families with the financial aid application process.
- ✓ **Apply for Florida state grants and scholarships.** In addition to the grants and loans available through the federal government, the State of Florida offers a variety of merit- and need-based scholarship and grant programs. These include Bright Futures, First Generation Matching Grant, and Florida Student Assistance Grant. Some of these programs require that you complete the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA), which will be available beginning October 1st, 2016, at bit.ly/FLAidApp. Learn more at www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org.
- ✓ **Apply for scholarships.** There are thousands of scholarship dollars available, based on both need and merit. Contact your local community foundation, local education foundation, ask your

school counselor, and research local scholarships available in your community and national scholarships.

- ✓ **Accept an admission offer.** Schools have a deadline, usually around May 1, by which you need to confirm you are attending. Once you start getting offer letters, research each school's deadline and make sure you confirm your attendance to the school of your choice in time.
- ✓ **Figure out next steps for the summer.** Aside from buying books and other supplies you'll need for college, you may need to attend orientation. Make sure you know your college's orientation schedules, and SIGN UP EARLY. You'll be scheduling courses at orientation, and you want to make sure you get your first choice!
- ✓ **Have a great first day of college and a wonderful semester!**

WORKSHEETS

College Fit, Match & Cost

Make copies of this form and complete one for each college you are considering using one or more of the college search tools suggested on page 4.

Name of College: _____

FIT

Location of College (City, State): _____ Setting: _____

Size of College: _____ Number of Undergraduate Students: _____

4-year or 2-year? _____ Students live on campus or commute? _____

Public or Private? _____ Co-ed? Women/Men Only? _____

Do they offer my major? _____ Is the campus diverse? _____

% Students that return sophomore year: _____ Graduation Rate: _____

What services are available on campus that are important to me? _____

How does the college fit your preferences? Excellent Good OK Somewhat Doesn't Fit

MATCH

How selective is this college? _____ Percentage of Applicants Admitted: _____%

Have I taken the required high school courses? _____

How does my GPA compare with the average GPA of admitted students? Below Matches Above

How do my test scores compare with the average scores of admitted students? Below Matches Above

Comparing my academic record to this college, this would be a: Reach Match Safety

COST

Total estimated cost to attend: \$ _____

% freshmen with need who received aid: _____ % of need met: _____

% of need met through scholarships/grants: _____ % of need met through loans: _____

My calculated net price: \$ _____

Does the cost seem reasonable? _____

I plan on applying to this college: Yes No

My Top 4 Colleges

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
ESSAY OR PERSONAL STATEMENT REQUIRED? TOPIC/REQUIREMENTS	<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 _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
RECOMMENDATIONS REQUIRED? HOW MANY?	<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 _____
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 PAYMENT DEADLINE	\$ _____ _____	\$ _____ _____	\$ _____ _____	\$ _____ _____
APPLICATION FEE WAIVER ACCEPTED? WHICH ONES?	<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 DEADLINE	_____	_____	_____	_____
FAFSA DEADLINE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS/ FINANCIAL AID	_____	_____	_____	_____

College Application Worksheet

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Legal Name: _____

Any Other Names Used: (for transcripts, etc): _____

Social Security Number: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Place of Birth: _____ Are you a US citizen? YES NO

If you are not a citizen, what type of visa do you hold, or are you applying for? _____

If you are a permanent resident, what is your alien registration number? _____

**If you are a permanent resident, you will need to attach a photocopy of your alien registration card to the application.

Gender: M F Race/Ethnicity: _____

Are you an active duty service member? YES NO

Are you a veteran? YES NO

Are you a dependent who is eligible for military/veterans benefits? YES NO

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Type of Application: _____ Term: _____

Planned Major: _____

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

Name of School: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Expected Graduation Date: _____

OTHER POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

*includes dual enrollment

Name of Institution: _____

Dates Attended: _____ to _____ Credit Hours Completed: _____

Degree Obtained/Expected: _____ Date: _____

CURRENT & EXPECTED COURSEWORK

Courses you are currently enrolled in (FALL): _____

Courses you expect to complete before entering college (SPRING/SUMMER): _____

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

ACT Date(s) Taken: _____ Scores: _____

SAT Date(s) Taken: _____ Scores: _____

SAT Subject tests: Subject: _____ Date(s) Taken: _____ Scores: _____

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Are you currently or have you ever been charged with or subject to disciplinary action for scholastic or any other type of misconduct at any educational institution? YES NO

Have you ever been charged with a violation of the law which resulted in, or, if still pending, could result in probation, community service, a jail sentence, the revocation or suspension of your driver's license (including traffic violations which resulted in a fine of \$200 or more)? YES NO

If your answer to either of the above questions is yes, you must submit a full statement of relevant facts, and may be required to supply the institution with copies of all official documentation explaining the final disposition of the proceedings.

If your records have been expunged pursuant to applicant law, you are not required to answer yes to these questions. If you are unsure whether to answer yes to either question, it is strongly suggested that you answer yes and fully disclose all incidents. By doing so, you can avoid any risk of disciplinary action or revocation of an offer of admission.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Have you participated in any programs or activities to help you prepare for higher education (University Outreach, Talent Search, Upward Bound, etc)? _____

Do you have any special talents or skills? Have you received any awards? _____

Do you participate in any extracurricular activities? _____

Do you do community service? _____

Are you employed? _____

FAMILY INFORMATION

Parent/Legal Guardian 1

Name (First and Last): _____

Relationship: _____ Email address: _____

Occupation: _____ Highest Level of Education Completed: _____

Mailing Address (if different from yours): _____

Parent/Legal Guardian 2

Name (First and Last): _____

Relationship: _____ Email address: _____

Occupation: _____ Highest Level of Education Completed: _____

Mailing Address (if different from yours): _____

Are you living in a single-parent household? YES NO

How many people, including yourself, live in your household? _____

Please indicate your family's gross income for the most recent tax year, including both taxed and untaxed income. _____

Do you have family obligations that prevent you from participating in extracurricular activities?

Please describe. _____

COLLEGE CHECKLIST

If you're thinking about going to college after high school, but aren't quite sure where to begin, here are some important steps you'll want to take each year to help yourself prepare for college success.

9th Grade — Discover —	10th Grade — Explore —	11th Grade — Select —	12th Grade — Achieve —
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Discover your interests. Begin thinking about colleges and careers that fit well with your interests.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Your high school counselors are great resources. Make an appointment to meet with one of them and seek their advice on college planning.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Go to FloridaShines.org and use the handy College and Career Planner to choose the right classes to prepare you for college.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Practice makes perfect! Take the PSAT to get some practice and to familiarize yourself with the SAT.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Start preparing for the ACT by completing the Plan Assessment from College.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Your GPA counts! Stay on track with your courses. If you're struggling, ask your teacher for help.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Begin exploring careers that might interest you.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A fun way to learn about Florida's 40 colleges and universities is by visiting FloridaShines.org and using the College and University Profiles tool.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Continue to stay on track in your classes. Build up that GPA!</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Take the PSAT to get more practice.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Evaluate educational options.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Start building a list of your top five colleges. The College and University Profiles tool at FloridaShines.org lists the admission requirements, deadlines, and other important information about each public college and university in Florida.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Know the dates and locations of the SAT, ACT and other tests you might be planning to take, and put them on your calendar.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Check requirements and deadlines for the colleges of your choice.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Florida students: Complete your Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Take the SAT and/or ACT.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ask references for letters of recommendation.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Complete and submit all your college applications by their deadlines.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Winter: Apply for Financial Aid. Submit your FAFSA (by the end of February) along with any other financial aid forms required by the college.</p>

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<p><input type="checkbox"/> Get involved. Clubs, activities, and community involvement look great on a college application.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Record and keep track of your credentials (awards, volunteer hours, etc.).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Start learning about college. Look at the information available in your counselor's office, at the library, and on the web.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Begin your college search. Go to www.FloridaShines.org and check out the College and University Profiles tool.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Consider taking SAT subject tests. Ask your school's guidance counselor for more information about these valuable prep tools.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Begin putting together a job resume. Even if you're not ready to get a job, learning how to write and present a resume is a skill that will come in handy throughout your life.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Search for scholarships.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Complete your College Scholarship Service.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Build community service hours needed for Bright Futures Scholarships. (Florida students)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Contact individuals who will be writing your letters of recommendations and begin.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Plan college visits.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Organize financial aid information.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Start college application essays.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> March: Admission letters begin arriving. Watch for them in the mail!</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> April: Compare financial aid packages.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> May 1: Make a final choice of the college you will attend.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Graduate high school!</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Make your summer count. Continue to build credentials (awards, volunteer hours, etc.).</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Find a summer job! A steady summer job can offer valuable work experience, allows you to network, and will help you along your path to college and a successful career.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Stay involved in extra-curricular activities, and seek out leadership roles in your community that will look good to colleges.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Congratulations! You are well on your way to earning your college degree.</p>

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