

College Application 101

www.pvscollegecounseling.com

- Resources (application information and all forms and presentations, including this powerpoint, are uploaded to the website under **Class of 2025**)
- *The August “letter home” was sent via email and is posted to the PVS college website. It includes important instructions and forms for applying*

The *Common Application* and *SchoolLinks*

- By now you should ALL have an active *Common Application* account through which you will apply to most colleges <https://www.commonapp.org/>
- You *must* "Match" your *CommonApp* and *Schoolinks* accounts in order to request transcripts and teacher letters of recommendations

SchooLinks

- Your *SchooLinks* accounts are active and must be updated
- Access *SchooLinks* by signing in to your *MySCS* account and clicking on *the SchooLinks tile*
- Instructions for completing tasks and 'matching' with *CommonApp* have been sent home *AND* will be the topic in Friday's Career Advisory period
- You *must* "Match" your *CommonApp* and *SchooLinks* accounts in order to request transcripts and teacher letters of recommendations

University of Florida - ALL Apply!

- Early Action *Due by November 1st* (Decision 1/24/25)
- *Common Application* submitted by November 1st
- **SSAR** (by November 15th)
- Testing required. Scores must be reported/received by 11/15 (Self-report in UF portal)
- No teacher recommendations accepted
- Emphasis on metrics (weighted gpa & rigor). If within their middle 50% your activities and essay are critical
- UF Honors College application within the application
- UF Housing - Apply ASAP for priority-\$25 fee
- If deferred March 14th second notification
- Second deadline January 15th

Florida State University

- Priority Deadline October 15th (Decision on 12/12)
- *Common Application* submitted October 15th
- **SSAR** and **Testing must be received by 10/22**
- The December 1st Regular Deadline is NOT advised
- FSU requires testing. You may self-report through the *Application Status* page
- No recommendations are accepted
- FSU Honors College application is indicated within the FSU application. Apply in December
- Apply for Housing *ASAP* once you have applied
- Pathways options - ;see FSU Admissions page

State University System Updates

- Key Information
 - All Florida Public Universities except FAMU now use the *CommonApp* (or their own institutional app)
 - Most also require the *SSAR*. You must upload to each
 - USF uses a consolidated application for all campuses
 - UCF now has an October 15th early deadline but uses its own self-reporting system (*SPARK* by 11/1). Rolling admissions thereafter
 - *Apply early for priority scholarship and admissions consideration (Rolling applications)*
 - Pay close attention to housing processes, Honors College info, FAFSA deadlines, etc.
 - More updates possible...

Student Self-Reported Academic Record (SSAR)

- UF/FSU, USF and most Florida public universities require you to complete what is known as the **SSAR**. It is a separate website where you will enter all completed coursework (including DE)
- <https://ssar.selfreportedtranscript.com/Login.aspx>

Welcome to the Self-Reported Academic Record (SSAR-SRAR)!
The SSAR allows students to self-report courses and grades that have been completed, or will be attempted (e.g., senior year courses in-progress), for high school credit.

Since accuracy is important, please use an unofficial transcript/grades report (e.g., online report card) or score report as a reference when you complete the SSAR.

▶ **Create an Account**

▶ **Preferred Browsers**

Note: Your **SSAR** and/or **SRAR** account is the **same** beginning August 1, 2022.

Self-reported Student Academic Record



Let's get started with your SSAR.

SSAR Email Address [Forgot Password?](#)

Create SSAR Account

Continue ▶

The *SSAR*

- You only need to complete the *SSAR* once. However you must link it to each application once invited in the application portals
- Please use FOCUS to complete the *SSAR*. Go to Grades-->View Detailed Report. Enter letter grades only
- Instructions for completing and uploading the *SSAR*
 - <https://admissions.ufl.edu/apply/freshman/ssar>
 - <https://admissions.fsu.edu/first-year/ssar/>
 - <https://www.usf.edu/admissions/freshmen/admission-information/ssar.aspx>
- Note that UCF uses its own system known as *SPARK*

Transcript Release Authorization

- Complete the **Transcript Request** form (green sheet). This grants permission to send your transcripts to college
 - Colleges *must* reflect those in your *SchoolLinks* list
 - Include *all* colleges (even SSAR colleges, e.g. UF/FSU)
 - Please adhere to the following deadlines to assure timely submission of transcripts/recommendations
 - *October 4th* for Early and Rolling/Priority deadlines
 - *December 2nd* for Regular Decision
- You may submit multiple transcript request forms

Private College/University & Public Out of State Deadlines

- Early v. Regular Admissions deadlines
 - Most early deadlines are November 1st including most out-of-state public universities (some earlier)
 - Early Decision (binding) 11/1
 - Restrictive Early Action and Early Action 11/1
 - Be aware of Priority Scholarship deadlines (Emory/Vandy/BU and others)
 - Rolling deadlines. The earlier the better
- Regular Deadlines occur in early January (as do EDII)

Private Colleges / Universities

General Requirements

- All but a few will use and require the *Common Application* and the CA main essay (exceptions include)
- Most require additional, school-specific supplemental essays (shorter). Large, public universities typically do not have supplements (*CommonApp* essay only)
- Most private colleges require 1-2 teacher letters of recommendation and one counselor letter
- Some more selective colleges offer interviews

Teacher Recommendations

- Please request letters by **October 4th** for early priority applications and **December 2nd** for Regular Decision applications. This allows teachers 3+ weeks notice
- Teacher Letters of Recommendation
 - Personally ask recommenders first!
 - Request teachers electronically through *Schoolinks* (You must first sign the *FERPA waiver* and then MATCH your *CommonApp* and *Schoolinks* accounts)
 - Provide teachers with LoR Student Information form
- Outside recommenders protocol = invite via email through the *Schoolinks*

Counselor Recommendation

- A counselor recommendation is required by most private colleges. It is automatic and does not require you to request it from me. That said...
- *PLEASE* make certain that you upload your resume/ activities list and previously assigned questionnaires and prompts to [Schoolinks](#) (and send to me via email)

Interviews - Mock Interviews

- o If you are interested in a "mock interview" with local alumnus/alumna please send me an email
 - o To receive an interview you will be required to attend a brief presentation on interview tips, and "do's and don'ts"
 - o You will be matched with an interviewer (an alumnus/alumna when possible) and be responsible for arranging the interview
- o Helpful information on interviews may be found here:
<https://pvscollegecounseling.com/interviews/>

FAFSA 2025-26!

- o The 2025-26 FAFSA will open on October 1st on a limited basis, and will open for all by December 1st, 2024
- o **ALL students (parents) should complete and submit the FAFSA regardless of financial situation.**
- o Most colleges require FAFSA completion for financial aid *and* scholarship eligibility. *This includes merit-based scholarships, work study opportunities, loans and more*
- o The earlier the better. Money is awarded on a “first come, first served” basis. Early completion helps make award letters and negotiations possible!

Bright Futures 2025-26

- o Florida Academic Scholars (100% tuition+)
 - o GPA 3.5 weighted (recalculated)
 - o *SAT 1340 (CR/M) or ACT 29 - superscored*
 - o 100 Community Service Hours (or work*)
- o Florida Medallion Award (appx 75% tuition)
 - o GPA 3.0 weighted (recalculated)
 - o *SAT 1210 (CR/M) / ACT 25 - superscored*
 - o 75 Community Service Hours (or work*)

The Bright Futures application opens October 1st. All PV students will be asked to apply regardless of their college intentions! Instructions forthcoming

College Meetings

- o If you are applying to Florida Public Universities *only* there is no urgency to meet (unless you wish). Shorter, follow up appointments between 1:00-2:00PM may be sufficient. You may also email me anytime, anything
- o *If* applying early or under special circumstances it is advisable that we meet before submission. This includes ED or REA plans, Questbridge, or through the Military Academy or athletic recruitment process
- o Initial meetings may be scheduled through <https://lancebergman.youcanbook.me/>

Miscellaneous / Reminders

- o All applications *must* appear in *Schoolinks*. This list must also appear on your *Transcript Request* form
- o You are strongly encouraged to submit applications *early*. Transcripts and Recommendations are sent *after you submit*
- o Review the *Scholarship* section on *Schoolinks*
- o Please see me or email if you have questions