

Pine View College Night:

College Planning and the College
Admissions Landscape 2025-26

April 2026

Class of 2027
Spring College
Planning
Calendar

- January-February 2026
Senior Scheduling (Classrooms)
- February/March 2026
- *Intro to College Planning I (C&CC)*
- March - June 2026
Meetings with Mr. Bergman

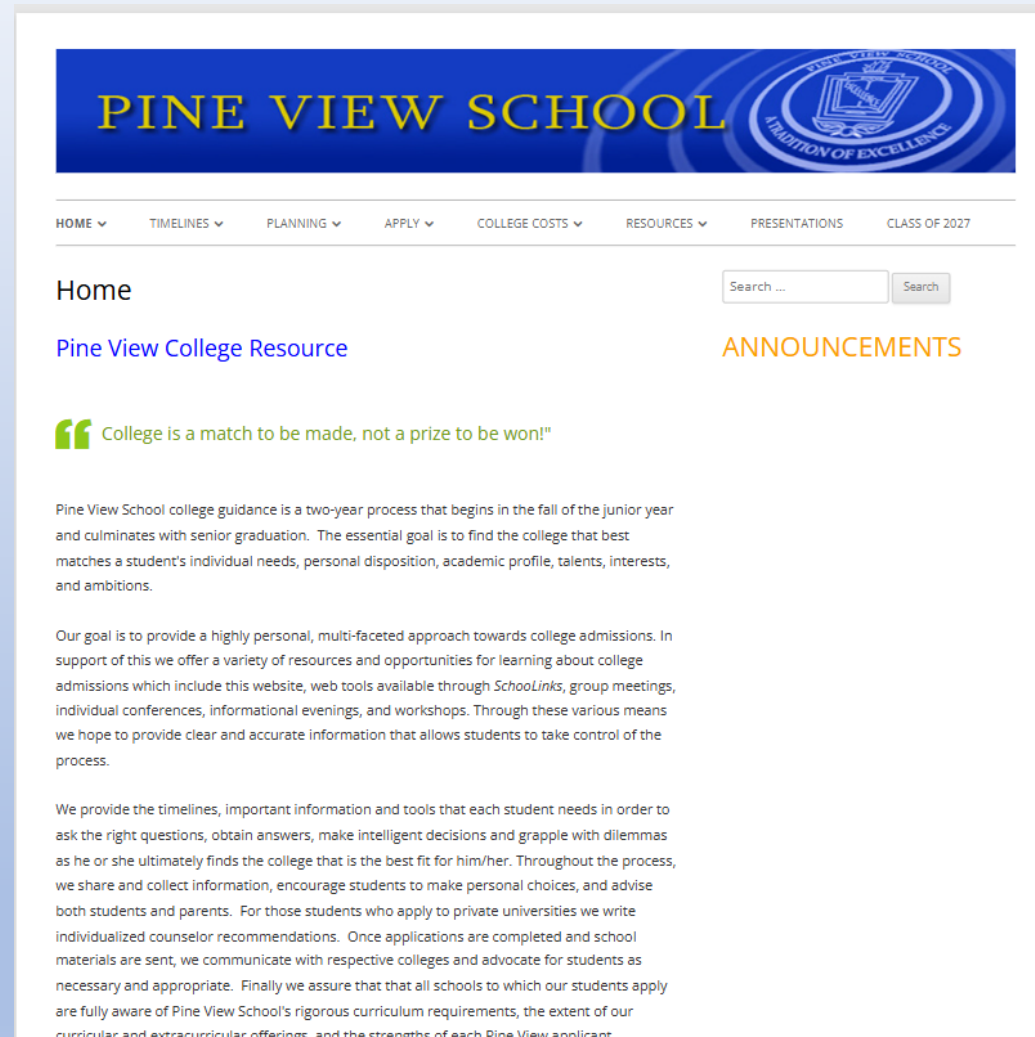
- Wednesday, April 15th
Junior College Night Presentation

- April 2026
Intro to College Planning II (C&CC)
- Week of May 26th
Summer College Kick-Off Student Presentations

Spring->Summer College Planning – What's Ahead

1. Finish the year strong! Grades and AP Exams!
2. Plan for additional Spring or late Summer SAT/ACT testing
3. Create/update your Resume. Complete assigned tasks prior to meeting with Mr. Bergman (Questionnaire/Prompts). Please upload these items to [Schoolinks](#) under Documents
4. Create a [Common App](#) account and review the application
5. Review the [Common App](#) essay prompts and pre-write and work on initial drafts with Junior English teacher support
6. Create a reasonable, diversified, *balanced* college list (Five Ps)
7. Develop a college spreadsheet with deadlines and requirements; testing, essay, recommendation, honors, housing...
8. Have a productive summer!

Class of 2027 College Planning Resources - PVSCC Website



The screenshot shows the website for Pine View School's college planning resources. At the top, there is a blue banner with the school's name "PINE VIEW SCHOOL" in yellow and its logo on the right. Below the banner is a navigation menu with links for HOME, TIMELINES, PLANNING, APPLY, COLLEGE COSTS, RESOURCES, PRESENTATIONS, and CLASS OF 2027. The main content area is titled "Home" and includes a search bar. Below the search bar, there are two columns: "Pine View College Resource" and "ANNOUNCEMENTS". A quote is displayed: "College is a match to be made, not a prize to be won!". The page contains three paragraphs of text describing the college guidance process, the school's goal to provide personalized support, and the resources available to students.

PINE VIEW SCHOOL

HOME ▾ TIMELINES ▾ PLANNING ▾ APPLY ▾ COLLEGE COSTS ▾ RESOURCES ▾ PRESENTATIONS CLASS OF 2027

Home

[Pine View College Resource](#) **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

“ College is a match to be made, not a prize to be won!**”**

Pine View School college guidance is a two-year process that begins in the fall of the junior year and culminates with senior graduation. The essential goal is to find the college that best matches a student's individual needs, personal disposition, academic profile, talents, interests, and ambitions.

Our goal is to provide a highly personal, multi-faceted approach towards college admissions. In support of this we offer a variety of resources and opportunities for learning about college admissions which include this website, web tools available through *SchoolLinks*, group meetings, individual conferences, informational evenings, and workshops. Through these various means we hope to provide clear and accurate information that allows students to take control of the process.

We provide the timelines, important information and tools that each student needs in order to ask the right questions, obtain answers, make intelligent decisions and grapple with dilemmas as he or she ultimately finds the college that is the best fit for him/her. Throughout the process, we share and collect information, encourage students to make personal choices, and advise both students and parents. For those students who apply to private universities we write individualized counselor recommendations. Once applications are completed and school materials are sent, we communicate with respective colleges and advocate for students as necessary and appropriate. Finally we assure that that all schools to which our students apply are fully aware of Pine View School's rigorous curriculum requirements, the extent of our curricular and extracurricular offerings, and the strengths of each Pine View applicant.

www.pvscollegecounseling.com

SchoolLinks

The logo for SchoolLinks, featuring the word "schoolinks" in a lowercase, sans-serif font next to a stylized "S" icon, all contained within a yellow rounded square.

schoolinks 

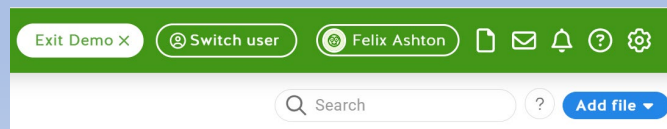
- *SchoolLinks* Resources
- **Schoolinks** Tasks – Please complete as assigned (To Dos) *AND* Upload Resume and Prompts as instructed (slides to follow)



- Pine View Transcripts, teacher recommendations, and School Profile will be sent through *SchoolLinks*
 - Recommendation requests are made through *SchoolLinks* (instructions to follow in August, after the summer refresh)
 - *SchoolLinks* is a *separate* process from your application

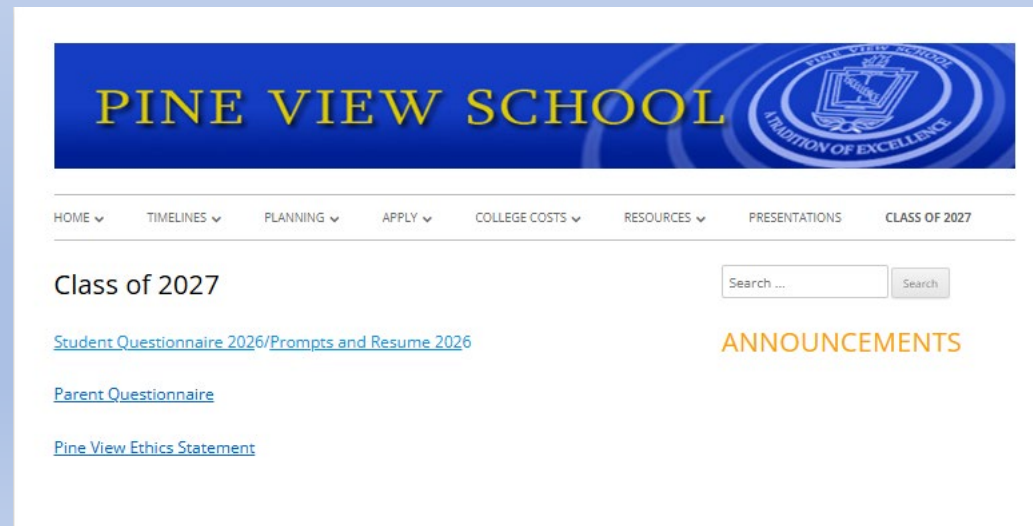
Creating a College Resume

- Many Universities/Colleges will accept a resume in addition to the Activities portion of the *Common Application*
- A resume allows you to showcase academic achievements, extra-curricular activities, leadership roles, and work or volunteer experience
- Templates and suggestions for a college resume can be found on the *pvscollegecounseling* website (action verbs!)
- Please upload your resume to **SchoolLinks** and/or send to me via email prior to our appointment



Student Questionnaire, Prompts and Parent Qs

- In order to know you better and to write a counselor letter on your behalf, please complete and return the Student Questionnaire and prompts found under the Class of 2027 dropdown on the pvs college counseling website. <https://pvscollegecounseling.com>
- An optional Parent form may also be completed and returned



When Can I Begin Applying?

- Applications open in mid-August (*CommonApp* refresh August 1st). You may begin early applications as well as all Florida public university applications over the summer
 - Note the FSU and UCF (mid-October) and UF (November 1st) early deadlines (All other Florida publics-Priority Rolling)
 - Other in-state public university campuses use priority rolling admissions plans. Apply early in all cases (for admission and scholarship priority)
 - Most colleges use the *Common Application*. A few select colleges still use their own application

Admissions Decision Plans – Planning Ahead!

Application Timelines

- UCF Priority & FSU Early Action (October 15th)
- UF Early Action deadline (November 1st)
- Other Florida publics (Rolling ASAP)
- Out of State publics - Priority (Most 11/1)
- *Early Decision I (Binding 11/1)*
- *Restrictive Early Action (aka Single Choice EA 11/1)*
- Early Action (Most November 1st)
- Early Decision II (Binding- early January)
- Regular Decision (most occur in early January)

STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?					
Non-Restrictive Application Plans			Restrictive Application Plans		
Regular Decision	Rolling Admission	Early Action (EA)	Early Decision (ED)	Restrictive Early Action (REA)	
DEFINITION: Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.	DEFINITION: Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.	DEFINITION: Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.	DEFINITION: Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.	DEFINITION: Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.	
COMMITMENT: NON-BINDING	COMMITMENT: NON-BINDING	COMMITMENT: NON-BINDING	COMMITMENT: BINDING	COMMITMENT: NON-BINDING	
Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.			Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.		

Common Application 2026-27



- Most colleges use the *Common Application*. A few select universities/colleges still use their own application. The 2027 application cycle for *CommonApp* opens after August 1st
- You may create a *Common Application* account [now] for the purposes of reviewing the general application format/requirements as well as for previewing the 2026-27 Essay Prompts – Same as last year!
- You cannot *complete or submit* your *CommonApp* until the summer refresh in early August

<https://www.commonapp.org/apply/essay-prompts>

CommonApp Essay Prompts 2026-27

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story (18%)
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? (23%)
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome? (3%)
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you? (3%)
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others (20%)
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that 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? (5%)
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 (28%)

College Research (Review from Fall presentation)

- Research all colleges of interest. Gather information about academics, campus life and financial aid opportunities. Use *SchoolLinks* and resources found on www.pvscollegecounseling.com
- Talk about college costs as a family. Visit the Net Price Calculators for your desired schools to determine approximate out of pocket costs
- Narrow and balance your list to fewer than 10-12 schools (2 selective, 3-4 target, 3-4 likely). Focus on college fit and a balanced list! Apply to schools you are both willing *and* able to attend. You needn't apply to this many!
- Add your colleges to your Favorite List in *SchoolLinks*
- Create a checklist for test scores, essays, recommendations, financial aid applications, and deadlines for each college to which you are applying

State University System of Florida

- You are strongly encouraged to apply to two or more Florida public universities. Refer to the [2025-26 State University Matrix](#) for specific admissions metrics and information
- *All* in-state publics except FIU and FGCU require students to “self-report” their academic transcript through the *Self-Reported Transcript Academic Record (STARS)*. UCF uses their own self-reporting platform *SPARK* (more details on this later)
- At least one SAT or ACT *must* be reported/submitted
- Letters of Recommendation are *not* accepted

Bright Futures 2026-27

- Florida Academic Scholars (100% tuition+)
 - GPA 3.5 weighted (recalculated)
 - *SAT 1340 (CR/M) or ACT 29 - Superscored*
 - 100 Community Service Hours (or work)
- Florida Medallion Award (appx 75% tuition)
 - GPA 3.0 weighted (recalculated)
 - *SAT 1210 (CR/M)/ACT 24 - Superscored*
 - 75 Community Service Hours (or 100 work)

The Bright Futures application opens October 1, 2026. All PV students will be asked to apply regardless of their college intentions! Further instructions to follow in the Fall.

College Landscape and Outcomes (2026): Observations & Conclusions

The College Admissions Landscape

What has remained true?

- The quality of our students (it's actually improved!)
- Highly selective admissions (are even *more* selective)

What has changed and why?

- An exponential growth in applications over the past five years
 - Increased virtual outreach and access by colleges and applicants
 - A doubling of *Common App* colleges since 2015 (500-->1100+)
 - Use of Test-optional policies (not SUS of Florida), however...
 - Explosive growth in international and domestic applications
 - Thus, far more selective and competitive than ever

The College Admissions Landscape

What We Control

- Our accomplishments and experiences
 - The type and number of colleges to which we apply
 - The overall quality of our applications - What and how we share
 - *How we feel about the experience and our outcomes*
-
- **What We Do Not Control - Admissions Decisions**
 - *Decisions are not primarily based upon comparative ranking of individual student merit but instead on*
 - Policies related to **Enrollment Management**
 - The **Institutional Priorities** of each college

Overall PV Admissions Data Update 2026 - In Progress!

Total Applications: 1,584 (a 24.4% increase when accounting for class size)

Total Acceptances: 810

Total Waitlists: 142 (LY110)

	2026 (182)	2025 (161)	2024 (157)	2023 (175)
Total Apps	1584 (8.70/student)	1126 (6.99)	1229 (7.8)	1348 (7.7)
Admits	824	602	640	664
% Accept	52%	53.4%	52%	49%
# of Colleges	193	168	216	201
# Admitted	152	138	170	145
# Matriculated	34+ TBD	49	62	48
In-state %	TBD	71	62	71

PV Data In-State USF and UCF*

University of South Florida

2026	107 Apps	106 Admit	1 Pending
2025	88 Apps	87 Admit	1 Deny
2024	79 Apps	77 Admit (16)	2 Deny
2023	109 Apps	108 Admit (28)	1 Deny
2022	112 Apps	106 Admit (29)	6 Deny

University of Central Florida

2026	95 Apps	89 Admit	(4 Waitlist/2 Deny)
2025	58 Apps	58 Admit	
2024	43 Apps	42 Admit (7)	1 Deny
2023	59 Apps	54 Admit (7)	5 Deny
2022	67 Apps	64 Admit	3 Deny

* 33/35 Applicants accepted at ALL other in-state public universities (FAMU/FAU/FGCU/FIU/FPI/NCF/UNF/UWF)

Florida State University Admissions Data 2026

Total Applicants: 92,000+ applications (+12%)

Pine View Outcomes

- 152 Total Applications
- **136 Admitted - 89% admit rate!**
 - *5 Pathway Offers*
 - *In addition to 18 Benacquisto Scholars we have 74 Vires Scholarship recipients (\$4000/year)*
 - *57 Offered Honors College*

Five-year FSU Data

2025 Admissions (130 Apps)
111 Admitted (85%) 51 Enrolled

2024 Admissions (107 Apps)
97 Admitted (85%) 32 Enrolled
1 Pathways Offer

2023 Admissions (119 Apps)
102 Admitted (86%) 43 enrolled
7 Pathways

2022 Admissions (122 Apps)
98 Admitted (80%) 29 Enrolled

2021 Admissions (105 Apps)
90 Admitted (86%) 33 Enrolled

University of Florida Admissions Data 2026

Total Applicants: Anticipated to be over 100,000 (*92,000* in 2025 and *74,000* in 2024) For comparison:

- 2018-19 38,905 Applications - 15,077 Admitted (38.7%)*
- 2013-14 27,107 Applications - 12,618 Admitted (46.5%)*

UF Class of 2030 - Pine View Outcomes

- 146 Applications (v. 126 last year - GatorFlood2!!)
- *102 Admitted/39 denied (Student-reported)*
- *5 Unknown/Not reported*
- 5 PaCE/1 Innovation

**Common Data Set* <https://ir.aa.ufl.edu/reports/cds-reports/>

University of Florida Admissions Data

2026 Admissions (182 Seniors)

- 146 Applications
- 102 Admitted (5 Unknown/2 Pending Appeals) – E#50?
- Honors College – Current count 24 (Data not released)

Conclusions

- *Pine View admits increased significantly*
- *Admit rate will likely fall between 69-71%*
- *PaCE/Gator Engineering numbers declined*
- *WHY? A combination of an adjustment in enrollment priorities, a recognition of PV student strength, and advocacy*
- *Despite the continued explosion in UF applications these outcomes bode well for the Class of 2027 and beyond*

Six year UF Data

2025 Admissions (126 Apps)
55 Admitted (44%) 22 enrolled
7 PaCE/2 Gator

2024 Admissions (105 Apps)
54 Admitted (51%) 22 enrolled
11 PaCE/4 Gator Engineering/11A 29% of total acceptances

2023 Admissions (134 Apps)
81 Admitted (60%) 37 enrolled
17 PaCE and 15 GatorEng (40%)

2022 Admissions (159 Apps)
93 Admitted (58%) 38 enrolled
19 PaCE/6 GE - 27%

2021 Admissions (121 Apps)
64 Admitted (53%) 28 enrolled
9 PaCE/3 GE - 19%

2020 Admissions (114 Apps)
76 Admitted (66%) 35 enrolled
21 PaCE/2 GE - 30%

Elite and Most Selective Colleges (Admit rates < 12%)

Keys to Remember

- PV Student accomplishments are exceptional but not unusual in these *most* competitive applicant pools
- Limited number of seats at selective colleges (1100-->3000)
- The exponential growth in applications over the past five years
- What we control (our experiences, applications and list)

Outcomes and Conclusions

- Over 100 Pine View combined acceptances to these
- As of now 26 will be matriculating, a majority of whom applied ED or REA
- Keeping in mind that there is considerable duplication

Highly Selective Data Observations and Conclusions

- Overall applications to Highly Selective Colleges/Universities have increased exponentially over the past five years as well
- Emory, UMichigan, Davidson, Vassar, Wake Forest, Tulane, UMiami...
- PV applications to these remain nearly as high as Ivies. Used as “back-ups.” Acceptances are *not* considerably higher
- Very few PV admits matriculate (most opting to remain in-state!)

Consequences of overapplication and low matriculation

- Future harm and Waitlist offers! This year 142 (LY 110) - 2023=77WL
- *Increased importance of Early Decision applications at these!!*

A Partial List of College Acceptances "Left on the Table" for FL Public Universities 2022-26 (This year, so far!)

American University

Boston College (4)

Boston University (5)

Brandeis College

College of William and Mary

Colorado College

Cornell University (6)

Davidson College

Duke University (2)

Emory University (6)

Georgetown Univ

Georgia Inst of Tech (4)

Johns Hopkins University

Macalester College

New York University (5)

Northeastern University (3)

Northwestern University

Oberlin College

Purdue University

Tufts University

Tulane University

University of California (ALL)

University of Chicago (5)

University of Georgia

University of Miami (18)

University of Michigan (10)

University of North Carolina (5)

University of So California

University of Virginia

University of Washington

University of Wisconsin

Washington & Lee Univ

Williams College

Vanderbilt University (6)

Consequences of Overapplication

Individual

- Diffused effort and lack of focus (intention)
- Unnecessary workload and anxiety
- Poorer outcomes & sadness

Institutional

- Pine View reputation as a low yield institution
- Fewer Regular Decision offers of admission to PV students over time
- Use of Waitlist to protect yield and gauge interest

General Observations

Each year 60-70%.+/- of Pine View students remain in-state. Why?

- In-State tuition, Bright Futures and Florida Prepaid opportunities
- Full use of AP and DE Credits (up to 45 credits)
- Long-term trajectory (graduate school)

That said, approximately 80% of PV Seniors apply to one or more private universities each year. Why?

- Motivation and opportunity (Means...*maybe*)
- Accomplishments at PV, individual aspirations, expectation, valuing of undergraduate setting and selves

What does this all Mean? What to do?

- Select Colleges based on how they match your interests and priorities
- Properly value colleges and your family's *willingness to pay* (both public and private). Be willing to consider other colleges
- Be sure to make a compelling case for how and why you are a match
- Assess the role of demonstrated interest and the appropriateness of an Early Decision application
- Assess your short and long-term goals (graduate or medical school?)
- Approach the process realistically understanding the selective admissions environment (enrollment management)

Summer Planning - "To Do" List

1. Create a reasonable, diversified, balanced college list (Five Ps)
2. Create/update your resume. Complete assigned tasks prior to meeting with Mr. Bergman (Questionnaire/Prompts). Upload these items to [Schoolinks](#) under Documents
3. Plan for any additional Spring or late Summer SAT/ACT testing
4. Create a [Common App](#) account and review the application
5. Review the [Common App](#) essay prompts and work on drafts
6. Find and review, as possible, supplemental college essays
7. Develop a college spreadsheet with deadlines and requirements; testing, essay, recommendation, honors, housing...
8. *Have a productive summer!*

Appointments and Contact Information

- Appointments with Mr. Bergman will continue through end of May (to resume after summer break-August through November)
- Spring appointments are not required, but can be important for early applications (ED) and special circumstances (military, athletic, or special programs or circumstances)
- My appointment calendar is open and books three weeks out. Don't despair if you don't see availability as the calendar will update each week.
[Mr. Bergman's Appointment Calendar](#)
- Please email any questions to lance.bergman@sarasotacountyschools

