



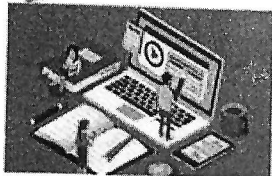
CLASS OF 2026

Let's go!

Save the DATES

CLASS OF 2026

**COLLEGE APPLICATION & FUTURE
PLANNING NIGHT FOR SENIORS & PARENTS**
AUGUST 14TH W 6:30 P.M. MHS CAFE
OPTIONS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL
COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS
MONEY FOR COLLEGE ACT & SAT
PRESENTED BY CAREER SPECIALIST
MICHELE CHAMBERLIN



SENIORS ARE YOU STRESSED?

COMPLETE YOUR COMMON APPLICATION

WITH MRS. CHAMBERLIN

Lunch & Learn Dates

August 18th-20th

other dates TBD

Come to the CRC during your lunch!

Manic Mondays

8/25, 9/8 & 8/15 other dates TBD

Media Center 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

You Can Do It!



common
app

Register Here
for 8/14



Create, start, & submit your common application

CHOOSE YOUR PATH!

There are 3 main paths students can take after high school, depending on their future goals—education, service, or work.

EDUCATION

Career and technical education (CTE) programs help students 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.

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

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

SERVICE

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

Students may choose to do a **service program** that allows them to explore their interests. Organizations like AmeriCorps allow them 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, students have the option to start **working**. To increase their earning potential, they should consider exploring **apprenticeship programs**, which provide on-the-job training and education while earning a wage.

GETTING READY FOR COLLEGE

WHAT COLLEGES LOOK FOR:

It is the responsibility of the college admissions committee to assemble a freshman class that meets the requirements of its institution. As colleges and universities become more competitive for admission every year and colleges have more applicants than available space; therefore, certain criteria are established for admission.

No single factor will determine acceptance or rejection. A school desires to see that the student has selected challenging courses in high school that will help the student grow academically. They want to know about interests, accomplishments, and future goals. Most importantly, a college looks at an interest in learning and a connection between what the college has to offer and what the student wants out of his/her education.

Admission considerations include, but are not limited to:	
	Academic record (GPA)
Strength of high school program (rigorous course schedule)	Standardized Test Scores
School Organizations & Community Activities	Special Interests (Clubs, Activities, Work, Volunteering)
Essay/Resume	Some schools may consider Counselor/Teacher Recommendations or student interview

Colleges look for students who demonstrate initiative and will be life-long learners. Also, colleges are looking for diversity and rigor in the high school academic record. If a student hopes to be admitted to a selective college, a demanding high school course load should be pursued. Listed below is a typical college-prep course load. Keep in mind the more competitive colleges will expect that students take advantage of the most rigorous curricula in their schools.

- English (4 Units)
- Mathematics (4 Units)
- Social Studies (3-4 Units)
- Science (3-4 Units)
- Foreign Language (2-4 Units)
- Fine Practical Arts
- Electives

Many colleges review a student's record to determine if the college works best for an individual's interests and abilities. Often, the smaller the school, the more likely the schools look at the "whole" student.

2024-2025 State University System (SUS) Admissions Matrix

Universities	FAMU RAYLERS	FAU	Florida Gulf Coast University	FIU FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY	FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY	FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY	New College of FLORIDA	University of Central Florida	UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	UNF UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA	USF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA	UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA
Location	Tallahassee	Boca Raton	Ft. Myers	Miami	Lakeland	Tallahassee	Sarasota	Orlando	Gainesville	Jacksonville	Tampa	Pensacola
Undergraduate Enrollment	8,011	23,458	14,243	38,715	1,569	32,217	361	59,547	38,347	13,897	36,452	9,646
Middle 50% of Admitted FTIC 2024 (S=Summer) (F=Fall)	S: 3.47 F: 3.84	S: 3.33 - 4.0 F: 3.73 - 4.34	S: 3.16 - 4.21 F: 3.80 - 4.54	S: 3.9 - 4.4 F: 4.1 - 4.7	S: 3.96 F: 4.35	S: 4.1 - 4.5 F: 4.2 - 4.6	S: 3.36 F: 3.96	S: 3.91 - 4.38 F: 4.01 - 4.55	S: 4.5 - 4.7 F: 4.5 - 4.7	S: 3.69 - 3.96 F: 4.14 - 4.57	S: 3.61 - 4.15 F: 4.07 - 4.55	S: 3.51 - 4.1 F: 3.69 - 4.24
	S: 10.25 F: 11.20 - 11.50	S: 10.30 - 10.90 F: 10.90 - 12.70	S: 10.30 - 11.60 F: 10.70 - 12.30	S: 10.90 - 11.90 F: 12.50 - 13.90	S: 11.30 F: 11.60 - 13.60	S: 12.80 - 13.60 F: 13.60 - 14.70	S: 10.45 F: 11.70	S: 11.80 - 12.40 F: 13.00 - 14.20	S: 12.40 - 14.00 F: 13.80 - 15.10	S: 10.00 - 11.60 F: 11.30 - 13.00	S: 11.00 - 11.90 F: 12.50 - 14.00	S: 10.00 - 12.10 F: 10.40 - 12.40
	S: 19.88 F: 21 - 23	S: 20.24 F: 22-28	S: 19 - 24 F: 21 - 26	S: 21 - 24 F: 26-31	S: 23 F: 25 - 31	S: 28 - 30 F: 30 - 33	S: 23 F: 24	S: 24 - 26 F: 29 - 31	S: 27 - 32 F: 31 - 34	S: 19 - 25 F: 24 - 29	S: 22-25 F: 27-31	S: 19 - 25 F: 20 - 27
	S: Not Reported F: 76	S: 78 - 91 F: 76 - 90	S: 54 - 68 F: 63 - 67	S: 63 - 78 F: 83 - 94	S: Not Reported F: 81	S: 84 - 86 F: 92 - 97	S: 82	S: 81 - 88 F: 92 - 100	Not reported Too few	S: 58 - 65 F: 71 - 86	S: 67 - 82 F: 81 - 91	Not Reported
Type of Applications Accepted	Institutional OR Common App	Institutional OR Common App	Institutional OR Common App	Institutional OR Common App	Institutional OR Common App	Institutional OR Common App	Institutional OR Common App	Institutional OR Common App	Institutional OR Common App	Institutional OR Common App	Institutional OR Common App	Institutional OR Common App
Application Fee	\$35	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$0	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30
Application Fee Waivers Accepted	SAT, ACT, NACAC, Common App Fee Waivers	SAT, ACT, NACAC, Common App Fee Waivers	SAT, ACT, NACAC, Common App Fee Waivers	SAT, ACT, Common App Fee Waivers	SAT, ACT, NACAC, Common App Fee Waivers	SAT, ACT, NACAC, Common App Fee Waivers	Application Fee waived for all students	SAT, ACT, NACAC or Common App Fee Waiver; Documentation showing eligibility for a Free/Reduced Lunch; most recent tax return	Common App Fee Waiver	SAT, ACT, NACAC, Common App Fee Waivers	SAT, ACT, Common App Fee Waivers	SAT, ACT, NACAC, Common App Fee Waivers or Letter of financial hardship
Essay	Required 500 words	NA	Required	NA	NA	Required	Required	Optional (strongly encouraged)	Required and Supplemental Question	NA	NA	Optional
Recommendation Letter	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Optional - see website for specifics	NA	NA	NA	NA	Optional
Transcript Or SSAR	SSAR or Official transcript sent through FASTER	SSAR - submit application first, link will appear on status page	Official transcript sent through FASTER	Official transcript sent through FASTER	SSAR - link within admissions portal or email SSAR Code to admissions@fau.edu	SSAR	SSAR or Official transcript sent through FASTER	SPARK - find link in Future Knight Portal	SSAR - submit application first, link will appear on Gator Portal	SSAR - submit application first, link will appear on status portal	SSAR - submit application first, link will appear on applicant portal	SSAR or Official transcript sent through FASTER
Super Score SAT/ACT	SAT-Yes ACT-Yes	SAT-Yes ACT-Yes	SAT-Yes ACT-Yes	SAT-Yes ACT-Yes	SAT-Yes ACT-Yes	SAT-Yes ACT-Yes	SAT-Yes ACT-Yes	SAT-Yes ACT-Yes	SAT-Yes ACT-Yes	SAT-Yes ACT-Yes	SAT-Yes ACT-Yes	SAT-Yes ACT-Yes
Test Score Report Deadline	Official EA: Nov 1 RD: April 1	Self-Report Priority: 11/1/24 Final: 3/14/25	Official EA: Nov 15 RD: Mar 1	Official EA: Nov 1 RD: Dec 3	Official or Point Click Send email or text scans/pics of scores to admissions csf	Self-Report 1 score by application deadline; updated by 2/2025	Official or Self-Reported EA: Nov 1 Feb 1 & April 1	Official EA: Nov 1 RD: Fall May 1	Self-Report in Gator Portal or send Official EA: Nov 15 RD: Jan 31	Official Priority: Nov 15 RD: April 15	Official Priority: Nov 15 Rolling: Mar 15	Official Priority: Dec 1 Rolling: April 1

2024-2025 State University System (SUS) Admissions Matrix

Universities	FAMU RATTLES	FAU FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY	FGCU FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY	FIU FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	New College of Florida	University of Central Florida	UF FLORIDA	UNF UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA	USE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA	University of West Florida
Deadlines	EA: Nov 1 RD: April 1	EA: Oct 15 Rolling: Mar 14	EA: Nov 1 RD: Mar 1	EA: Nov 1 RD: Dec 3	EA 1: Nov 15 EA 2: Jan 15 RD: Mar 1	EA: Nov 1 Feb 1 & April 1	EA: Oct 15 RD: Sum Mar 1 RD: Fall May 1	EA: Nov 1 RD: Jan 15	Priority: Nov 1 Rolling: Mar 1	Priority: Nov 1 Rolling: Mar 1	Priority: Dec 1 Rolling: April 1
Materials Deadline	EA: Nov 1 RD: April 1	EA: Nov 1 Rolling: Mar 14	EA: Nov 15 RD: Mar 1	EA: Nov 1 RD: Dec 3	EA 1: Nov 15 EA 2: Jan 15 RD: Mar 1	EA: Nov 1 Feb 1 & April 1	EA: Nov 1 RD: Sum Mar 1 RD: Fall May 1	EA: Nov 15 RD: Jan 31	Priority: Nov 15 Rolling: Mar 15	Priority: Nov 15 Rolling: Mar 15	Priority: Dec 1 Rolling: April 1
Final Deadline	April 1	March 14	March 1	February 25	May 1	June 15	May 1	January 15	April 15	March 1	April 1
Priority Date for Aid & Scholarships	FAFSA: 12/1/2024 Scholarships: 10/15/24	FAFSA: 12/1/2024 Scholarships: 1/15/25	FAFSA: 12/1/2024 Scholarships: 1/1/24	FAFSA: 12/1/2024 Scholarships: 11/1/24	FAFSA: 12/1/2024 Scholarships: 11/15/24	FAFSA: 12/1/2024 Scholarships: Auto w/app	FAFSA: 12/1/2024 Scholarships: 11/1/24	FAFSA: 12/1/2024 Scholarships: 11/1/24	FAFSA: 12/1/2024 Scholarships: 1/15/25	FAFSA: 12/1/2024 Scholarships: 1/15/24	FAFSA: 12/1/2024 Scholarships: 12/1/24
Transfer: 2+2 Enhancement Programs	FAMU IGNITE	Link2FAU	Destination FGCU	Connect- 4Success		NCF Transform	DirectConnect to UCF	Gator Design & Construction @ Santa Fe	Transfer2UNF	FUSE	2UWF
2024-2025 Tuition and Fees (30 Credit Hours)	\$5,785	\$5,952	\$6,118	\$3,283	\$4,940	\$6,916	\$5,954	\$6,380	\$6,390	\$6,410	\$5,088
2024-2025 On -Campus Room and Board	\$11,644	\$15,860	\$11,107	\$6,540	\$14,482	\$13,805	\$12,070	\$12,120	\$11,810	\$14,440	\$12,432
2024-2025 Books and Supplies	\$1,138	\$1,320	\$1,200	\$675	\$839	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,260	\$2,200	\$770	\$1,600

FAMU FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY Tallahassee, Florida fau.edu/admissions 904-590-3700 SAT Code 6215 ACT Code 0726	FAU FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY Boca Raton, Florida fau.edu/admissions 561-397-3040 SAT Code 6226 ACT Code 0728	FGCU FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY Ft. Pierce, Florida fgcu.edu/admissions 239-590-1000 SAT Code 6221 ACT Code 0738	FIU FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY Miami, Florida fiu.edu/admissions 305-349-7000 SAT Code 6308 ACT Code 0776	UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA Jacksonville, FL unf.edu/admissions 904-620-5555 SAT Code 6480 ACT Code 0711	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA Tampa, Florida usf.edu/admissions 813-974-5350 SAT Code 6828 ACT Code 0761	UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA Hendersonville, Florida uwf.edu/admissions 850-374-2220 SAT Code 6859 ACT Code 0771	FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY Tallahassee, Florida fsu.edu/admissions 904-644-0200 SAT Code 6219 ACT Code 0734
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A Few Important Notes/Glossary:

- EA = Early Action; RD = Regular Decision
- NA means the school does not want it.
- SSAR = Self-reported Student Academic Record – the student enters all courses and grades attempted for high school and/or college credit. Must be linked to your application, link through the email from the University or through the Universities application portal. This must be accurate, best practice is to have an unofficial transcript in front of you.
- SPARK – Self-Provided Academic Record. UCF's version of SSAR. Access link in Future Knight Portal. If you applied through the institutional application, you will create your Future Knight Portal then go to the application. If you applied through Common Application, you will be emailed a link and directions for creating the Future Knights Portal AFTER you submit your application.
- FASTER – the state system for sending transcripts. You must visit your high school guidance office and request an electronic transcript be sent to the university. Transcripts take 5-7 business days to be received by the University.
- SAT/ACT – Sent directly from agency means you must log into your SAT (collegeboard.org) or ACT (act.org) account and request your scores be sent. There will be a cost unless you used a fee waiver when registering to test.

AA degrees for graduating seniors: A high school student earning dual enrollment credit and/or an AA degree in high school is considered a First-Time In College (FTIC) student and should submit an application as a first-year/freshman student, not as a transfer student. Earning the AA while in high school does not guarantee admission into a specific state university. The ONLY time you apply as a transfer student is if you have earned 12 college credit hours or more AFTER high school.

Florida Student Scholarship and Grant Programs: Students must submit a completed Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) to the Office of Student Financial Assistance for programs such as the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, Jose Marti and Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans. Please visit www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org. Application opens October 1.

FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid: For the 2024 school year this application will not open until December. Universities request you complete as soon as possible in December to receive a complete financial award letter.

The Talented Twenty Program: The Talented Twenty Program is Part of the Governor's Equity in Education Plan. The purpose is to guarantee admission to students who succeed in their respective K-12 public schools and to encourage students to strive for better grades and a rigorous curriculum. The Florida Department of Education and Florida Board of Governors has created a Frequently Asked Questions document to assist public school counselors with navigating the process. Please visit www.fdoe.org/schools/family-community/activities/programs/talented-twenty-program/ for details and step-by-step instructions.

2026 Application Info

College/ University	Freshman App Deadline	Application Portals	Essay	SAT/ACT Required	STARS (transcript)	App Fee	Decision Announced
Florida A&M University	November 1 (early action/scholarships) February 1	FAMU.edu CommonApp.org	Yes Teacher Recs Required	Yes OFFICIAL *EA deadline 11/14	Yes	\$30	Early action decisions beginning 12/14.
Florida Atlantic University	Oct. 15 (early action) January 15 (scholarships) March 13 (rolling)	FAU.edu CommonApp.org	No Honors College Essay Required	Yes, official or Self- report on portal. *scores must be received/ reported by 11/22.	Yes	\$30	Early Action decisions beginning 12/5- admit, defer, deny.
Florida Gulf Coast University	Nov 1 (early action/scholarships) March 1 (final)	FGCU.edu CommonApp.org	Yes	Yes OFFICIAL *EA scores must be received by 11/22	HS transcript request	\$30	Early action applicants will be notified in December. All others rolling.
Florida International University	Nov. 3 (early action) December 17 (regular) March 3 (final)	FIU.edu	No	Yes OFFICIAL *scores for EA must be received by 11/3.	Yes	\$30	Early decision beginning 12/11- admit, defer, deny.
Florida State University	October 15 (early action—materials deadline 10/22) December 1 (regular admission—materials due 12/8)	FSU.edu CommonApp.org	Yes Resume also recommended.	Yes, official or Self- report on portal *A test score must be reported by 10/22; can add more through 12/1.	Yes	\$30	December 11 (early action) Admit, defer, deny. February 12 (regular)
Pasco Hernando State College	No official deadline— apply beginning in January 2026	PHSC.edu	No	No but need to take PERT or show ACT/SAT for class placement only (not for admissions)	No (final transcript ONLY!)	\$25	Rolling Admissions

College/ University	Freshman App Deadline	Application Portals	Essay	SAT/ACT Required	STARS	App Fee	Decision Announced
Saint Leo University	January 15 (priority and scholarships) July (final)	SaintLeo.edu CommonApp.org	No	No	No HS transcript request	Free	Rolling Admissions
University of Central Florida	October 15 (Early Action AND scholarships) March 1 (final)	UCF.edu CommonApp.org	No Two Short Response UCF Questions (optional but encouraged)	Yes OFFICIAL *all materials and scores must be received by 11/15 for EA.	No, must complete SPARK form through UCF portal after apply	\$30	Early Action: Dec. 5-admit, defer, deny) Regular: Rolling
University of Florida	November 1 (Early Action—HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!!!) January 15 (regular decision)	CommonApp.org	Yes	Yes, official or self- reported through portal *scores must be received/reported by 11/8 (EA) or 1/22 (regular)	Yes Must be completed by 11/8 for early action!	\$30	January 23 (early action-admit, defer, deny) March 27 (regular decision)
University of North Florida	November 1 (priority) April 1 (final)	UNF.edu CommonApp.org	No	Yes, OFFICIAL Priority: Must be received by 11/1.	Yes Must be completed by 11/1 for priority	\$30	Priority: Nov. 19 Regular: Rolling
University of South Florida	November 1 (priority) January 15 (scholarship consideration) March 1 Rolling (final)	USF.edu CommonApp.org	No	Yes OFFICIAL by 11/15 for Early Action	Yes	\$30	Early action applicants: 12/10- admit, defer, deny. Regular admissions: 2/11
University of Tampa	November 1 (early decision) and Nov 15 (early action) March 1 (regular)	UT.edu CommonApp.org	Yes	Test Optional	No Counselor uploads to Common App	\$40	Late Dec (early decision) Late Feb (EA) Rolling (regular)

2025 Application 11/9



Common App Tips

Class of 2026



Creating a Common App account is easy and should only take a few minutes. You can answer questions in the Common App tab and build a college list at any time.

- Create your account and choose your student type
 - If you haven't yet attended college, select "first-year student"
 - ***If you have college credits from dual enrollment high school courses, you should still select "first-year student"***
- Create new login credentials. Colleges may need to get in touch with you during the application process, so be mindful of which email address you choose. Sometimes your high school address may filter out these emails, so consider using a personal email address. When choosing an email address, be sure to use one that:
 - **You check regularly**
 - **Is professional and appropriate**
 - **You will have access to after you graduate from high school**
- Complete your registration information
 - Basic information about you: your name, home address, phone number, & date of birth.
 - ***Be sure to use your legal name as it appears on official school documents and standardized tests.*** This will make sure colleges can match documents to the correct person.
 - At the end, you will adjust your communication preferences and accept the Common App privacy policy.
- Select "create account" and you're done!
- Make a contact in your phone for common app with your login and password!

High School Details

J.W. Mitchell High School
2323 Little Road
New Port Richey, FL 34655
Graduation Date: June 2026

CEEB code: 101560
Class size as of 08/01/25 492
GPA Scale: 4.0 Weighted
Grades: A, B, C, D, F (no plus or minus)
Class rank reporting: EXACT /Weighted
Course Scheduling: Semester
Credits: .5 = semester only course
1 = for year long course. (DE courses are 1 HS credit
and usually 3 College credits)



Application guide for first-year students
College application guide for first-time students
applying to college with Common App.
© 2019 Common App

Adding Recommenders To Common APP & requesting Recommendations

Every college gets to choose their own recommendation requirements. You can find more details on each college's "College Information" page. **All students must add a counselor to their application in order to complete the required school report** but not all schools require recommendation letters!

How to invite and assign recommenders:

1. From the My Colleges tab select a college and open their "Recommenders and FERPA" section.

2. If you have not done so already, you will need to complete the FERPA Release Authorization.

3. Invite recommenders using the invite button from each section. You may also use the "Invite Recommenders" button at the top.

For Counselor add Mrs. Chamberlin!

4. You must Enable Application Preview or Mrs. Chamberlin not be able to complete rec letter or advise you on your application!

5. For teacher or other recommenders: Select the type of invitation you would like to send. For each invitation you will need information like their name and email address.

6. After you add a recommender, you can view their info using the Manage Recommenders button.

7. Note that teachers, and other recommenders will not receive an email invitation until you assign them to a college. To assign these recommenders, go to their section within this screen. Select their name from the dropdown and use the assign button.

In general, each college has their own recommendation requirements. For example, one college may need two teacher recommendations. Some colleges may not want any teacher recommendations. Colleges can also determine what kinds of other recommenders they want. Some may allow for any recommender type, whereas others only allow an employer recommendation.

Requesting Counselor Recommendation Letter

select Mrs. Chamberlin as the counselor, as this her area of expertise! I

The counselor serve to provide all required school documents and recommendations for the your application process.

- How to request your counselor rec letter
- Scan Code complete form
- Please answer all questions
- Provide resume to recommender via email
- Schedule a meeting with Mrs. Chamberlin
- Allow 14 days for processing and submission.
- DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE

Career Specialist, Michele Chamberlin
mchamber@pasco.k12.fl.us 727.774.9217





THE STARS FAQ'S

SELF-REPORTED TRANSCRIPT AND ACADEMIC RECORD SYSTEM (STARS)

STARS (formerly SSAR) is the student self-reported academic record that lists the courses and associated grades that have been attempted, or will be attempted, for high school and/or college credit. It replaces the high school and college transcripts used by the Office of Admissions during the initial review process.

How can I make sure my STARS is accurate?

Accuracy is very important in the completion of your STARS. Thus, you are advised to have a copy of your high school academic history or transcript available for reference when you create your STARS. If you are admitted and choose to enroll, you will be required to submit an official final transcript for verification to the Office of Admissions. **(Request your academic history from Mrs. Chamberlin)**

Where do I create my STARS?

Once you submit your application, a link will appear on your status page to create and link your STARS or you can create STARS on the website <https://ssar.selfreportedtranscript.com/Login.aspx>

When do I create my STARS?

The STARS website becomes available at the same time the application for admission opens, which is usually in August. You may begin working on your STARS at the same time you work on your application. Although it is possible to submit your STARS before submitting your application for admission, you will not be able to link your STARS to your application until your application has been submitted. Just remember, your application for admission is incomplete and will not be reviewed until your STARS and test scores have been received.

Do I need to include high school courses taken while I was in middle school/junior high school?

Every academic course that you attempted for high school credit while in middle school/junior high school must be listed on the STARS. The STARS entry process allows you to state that the courses were taken while in middle school.

How do I enter my grades on the STARS?

The STARS format collects grades on a semester basis. Please refer to the following examples to guide your grade submission: **Request your Academic History from Mrs. Chamberlin to complete the section!**

1. **Mitchell High assigns semester grades, you will enter your semester grades as shown on your high school transcript into the appropriate places in the STARS.**

2. **However, some courses with EOC's assign a final grade because the EOC is factored into that grade. So, you will enter the FINAL grade twice (first semester and second semester) for year-long classes (one credit). For example, if you earned a grade of B in Algebra I first semester and an A second semester but your FINAL grade with ECO was an A you would enter the A for both semesters. This is clearly indicated on your academic history for each course with a FINAL grade.**

How do I report my senior classes?

You should list your senior-year classes as "In Progress" since you will have no grades associated with them. If your schedule changes, you must immediately update your STARS. To make changes, simply log in to the STARS website with the email address and password used to create your original STARS.

JWMHS School Stats:

CEEB code: 101560

Class size as of 08/01/25 **492**

GPA Scale: 4.0 Weighted

Grades: **A, B, C, D, F** (no plus or minus, no percentages reported)

Class rank reporting: **EXACT /Weighted**

Course Scheduling: **Semester**

Credits:

.5 = semester only course

1 = for year long course.

(DE courses are 1 HS credit & usually 3 College credits)

What if I took courses over the summer?

You will enter the class and grade like you would any other class that you have taken during the regular school year; however, you will record the class in the preceding school year. For example, if you took a class between the 9th and 10th grades, you would enter the class with your 9th-grade courses.

How do I enter weighted courses?

There will be a separate field on the STARS (Course Level) for you to list the type of course it is (i.e. Honors, AP, dual enrollment, etc).

How do I enter my college (dual enrollment) classes and grades?

If you have taken college (dual enrollment) courses, you must self-report all college (dual enrollment) courses and grades listed on your transcript. If your dual enrollment course class fulfills a full year of high school credit, (i.e. English Comp 1) enter the grade twice (first semester and second semester). If your dual enrollment course is 1/2 credit, enter the grade once. Dual enrollment courses should be reported in the appropriate subject area (English, Mathematics, Natural Science, Social Science/History, and World Language). If the dual enrollment course does not fall into one of the subject areas mentioned in the previous sentence, it should be listed in the "Other Coursework" area.

Do I report all of the classes taken and grades earned that are reflected on my transcript?

All attempted coursework must be listed on the STARS, including repeated coursework or coursework that receives pass/fail grades.

What if I repeated or withdrew from one or more of my classes, or I took a course Pass/Fail?

You must list all attempts on your STARS including repeats and withdrawals. The same is true for classes in which you earned a grade of pass or fail. Your STARS must match what is on your high school transcript.

Does it matter if I attended more than one high school and/or college during my academic career?

No. When completing the STARS you should list all coursework regardless of how many different schools you attended. The high school listed on your STARS should be the school from which you are graduating.

Can I change the STARS once it is completed?

Yes. Your STARS should be as accurate as possible so, if you need to make corrections or your schedule changes, you should update your STARS. To make changes, log in to the STARS website with the email address and password used to create your original STARS. Changes and corrections should be made prior to the STARS deadline for the college. Your STARS information will be locked after that time for the selection process.

Do I have to submit my first semester grades in the senior year?

Some schools may require applicants to update the SSAR after the 7th Semester! Be sure to check your application portal to see if the STARS opens for 7th semester grades! However much of the freshman selection process will have been completed prior to the availability of your first semester senior year grades.

What if I am unsure about the classes that I will be taking during the 2nd semester of my senior year?

You should provide the best estimation of what classes you will be taking when completing the STARS. If your schedule changes, you will be able to update the STARS as long as it is prior to the deadline. If the correct information is not listed on your STARS when we validate your classes and grades from your official high school and college transcripts, your admission is subject to revocation and, if discovered after classes begin, cancellation of registration.

When do I send my official high school and college (if dual enrolled) transcripts?

Only applicants offered admission will be required to submit official high school and college transcripts after graduation. These transcripts will be used to validate the information on the STARS. Students with inaccurate STARS will be contacted and their admission is subject to revocation and, if discovered after classes begin, cancellation of registration.

Final tips: Always check the college website for STARS tutorials & instructions!

Don't hesitate to contact admissions if you have questions!

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'ts	Do's
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. These could include statements like, "There is so much suffering in the world that I feel I have to help people."	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.

Writing Your Personal Statement

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?
- Do you live in a non-traditional family?
- Do your parents have unusual jobs?
- 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?
- Do you have someone at school you look up to?
- Has your school gone through any hard times lately?
- Are you part of a special college-going or gifted program?

ACTIVITIES

- Do you play a sport?
- Are you part of a school organization?
- Are you a leader of a team or club?
- Were you an underdog?
- 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 role model?
- Do you have a favorite quote?

EVERYTHING ELSE – UNIQUENESS!

- Do you have anything about you that makes you stand out?
- Have you ever been outside the United States?

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 back 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.

What Will College Cost? It Depends!

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 you save money!

Where will the money come from?

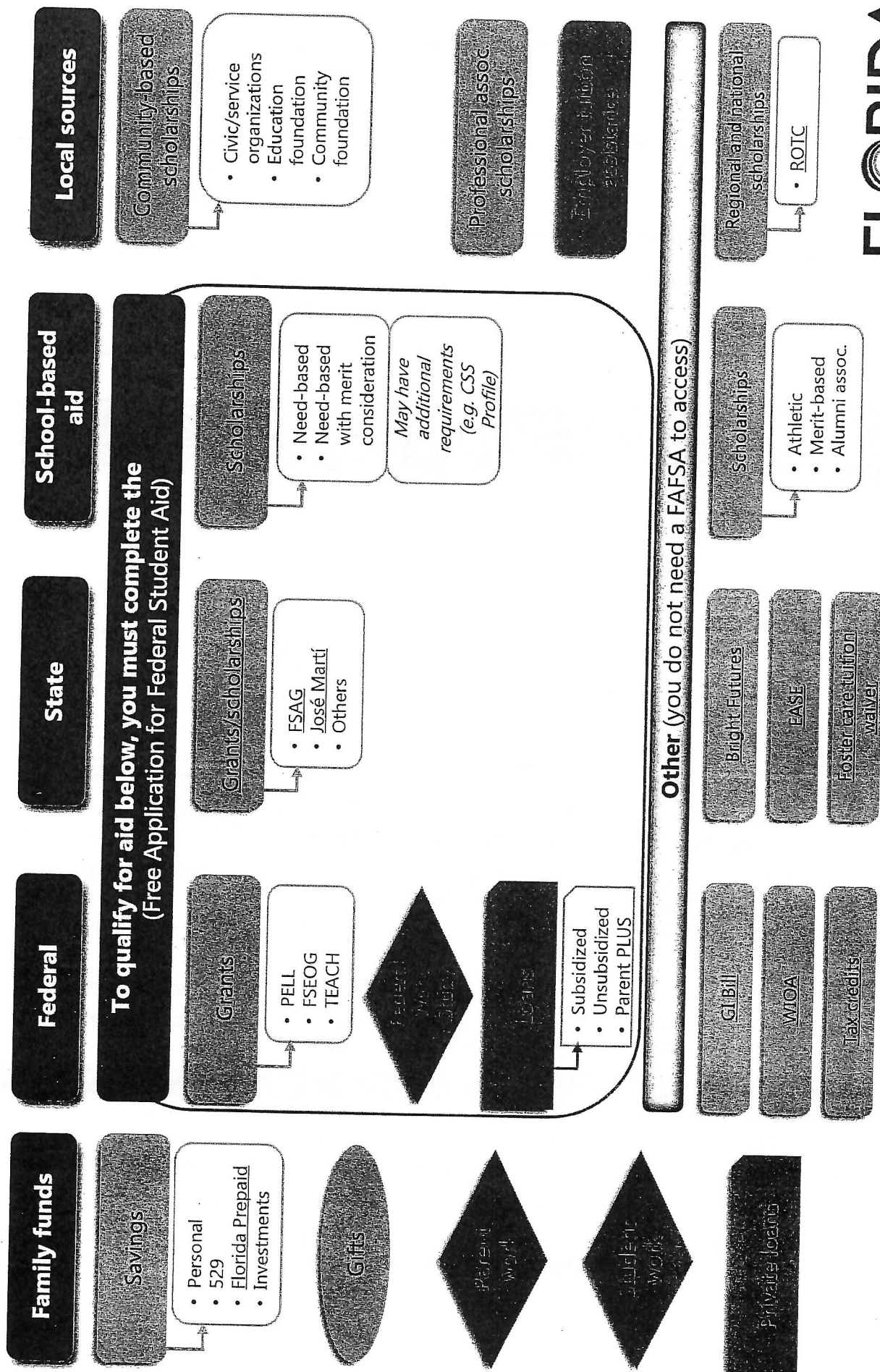
Options for Funding

- **Grants and scholarships** - these do not need to be repaid (federal, state, college-based and private sources like education foundations).
- **Savings** - which can include savings from the student and/or parent, and gifts from extended family members (e.g., grandparents, aunts, and uncles).
- **Federal and state loans** - must be repaid when you graduate.
- **Work** - can include a part-time job, participating in a federal work study program, working over the summer and breaks, and a parent's work earnings.

Complete the FAFSA!

- Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the best way to qualify for state, federal, and college-based scholarships, grants, and loans.

HOW TO PAY FOR COLLEGE



Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) / Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)
2024-25

Initial Eligibility Requirements: (As determined by the Florida Department of Education)

1. Submit the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) no later than August 31 after high school graduation.
2. Graduate from a Florida high school with a standard high school diploma or its equivalent.
3. Complete the 16 college-preparatory courses required for admission to a state university.
4. Achieve the required weighted GPA in the 16 college-preparatory courses per the chart below.
5. Achieve the required composite ACT[®] score, Overall Score on the Classic Learning Test (CLT), or combined SAT[®] score. Tests are accepted through August 31 of the student's graduation year (or through January 31 for mid-year graduates), per the chart below.
6. Complete the required number of volunteer service hours, paid work hours, or 100 total combined hours per the chart below.

Type	16 High School College-Preparatory Course Credits ¹	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year (ACT [®] /CLT [®] /SAT [®])	Volunteer Service Hours ²	Paid Work Hours ²
FAS	4 - English (three must include substantial writing)	3.50	2024-25 Graduates: 29/96/1340	100 hours	100 hours
	4 - Mathematics (at or above the Algebra I level)		2025-26 Graduates: 29/95/1330		
FMS	3 - Natural Science (two must have substantial laboratory)	3.00	2024-25 Graduates: 25/84/1210	75 hours	100 hours
	3 - Social Science		2025-26 Graduates: 24/82/1190		
	2 - World Language (sequential, in same language)				

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 must earn the required volunteer service hours, 100 paid work hours, or a combination that totals a minimum of 100 hours.

Requirements to Receive an Award: (As determined by the postsecondary institution)

1. Be evaluated by the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) as meeting initial eligibility requirements.
2. Be a Florida resident and U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen.
3. Enroll as a degree- or certificate-seeking student at a Florida institution in at least 6 non-remedial semester credit hours.

Renewal Requirements: (As determined by grade and hours submitted by the postsecondary institution)

1. Students must earn the number of credit hours based on the student's enrollment type per term.
2. The renewal cumulative GPA requirements are outlined in the table below.

	Florida Academic Scholars (FAS)	Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)
Minimum Cumulative GPA (unrounded and unweighted)	3.0	2.75

For detailed information, including other ways to qualify, please refer to the Bright Futures Student Handbook.

Eligibility requirements are subject to change with each legislative session.

Students are responsible for tracking their application and award status online and ensuring that funding for an academic year is accurate by contacting their institution's financial aid office.



Save the date!



FLORIDA COLLEGE TOUR

October 7th

6:30 pm. to 8:00 p.m.

Over 85
colleges,
universities,
tech schools,
military!

JWMHS Gym
2323 Little Road
NPR, FL 34655

Who Can Attend the Fair?

- All JWMHS Students are invited to participate!
- 11th and 12th grade students from West Pasco High Schools
- Parents can attend as well!
- Event is open house style, students can arrive anytime between 6:30 p.m. and 7:45 p.m.
- FAIR ENDS promptly at 8:00 p.m.

