



College Application Cheat Sheet

Application:

- Apply for term you want to attend!!!! Florida schools can accept you for whatever term they want. It is significantly easier to gain acceptance if you apply for the Summer term as opposed to the Fall.
- Include EVERYTHING about you aside from transcript data. Your activities need to reflect all of your resume.
- Pay application fee (or get fee waiver if on free/reduced price lunch)
- Essays
- Letters of recommendation (ask teachers NOW). Follow directions! If college say they don't want one, they mean it!
- Early Decision/Early Action
- Common Application (www.commonapplication.org)
- Coalition Application (<http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org>)
- Financial Aid (FAFSA and/or CSS profile)
- Get organized now....most of the application should be completed over the summer
- Remember they are making decisions based on your senior classes. Do not send out your applications until you know what your classes are and you are sure you are staying in them.
- **You MUST check your email every day! Colleges don't tweet or text you!!!!**

Transcripts:

- All transcripts must be requested through Xello and by adding your guidance counselor to your Common App application portal. Transcripts includes all high school grades and coursework (including from middle school and dual enrollment). NO TRANSCRIPT FOR FSU/UF/FAU/FGCU/ UNF/Florida Poly/New College – SSAR
- GPA re-calculation – Colleges look at academic units only and how well you did in academic classes!
- Senior year classes and grades MATTER!!! – **Send mid-year senior grades to Rolling Admission Schools and be sure to update your SSAR and SPARK in January if asked to do so!**
- 4 Units of math are required

SAT:

- Earliest Test Date Next Year: **August 24th** – Register early!
- Send scores to Cypress Bay High School – HS Code 101842
- When your score reports come out, make sure to send your super-score's to schools where you have applied that require them!
- **Send new scores to Rolling Admission Schools throughout Fall/early Spring.**

ACT (take with writing for 4-year schools):

- Earliest Test Date Next Year: **September 14th** – Register early!
- Send scores to Cypress Bay High School – HS Code 101842
- When your score reports come out, make sure to send your super-score's to schools where you have applied that require them!

Extracurricular Activities:

- Make sure you include everything you were involved in since the Summer following 8th grade.
- Be clear and concise – **list title of organization or activity, your specific role, number of hours you contributed in that capacity; also be sure and explain the club if it is unclear what they do**
- Sample formatting for your 10 activities can be found in the College Application Checklist.
- You have **150 characters** to describe your involvement in your extracurricular activities- be concise!
- Don't forget to include things you did in your community, church, temple, etc.
- The way you spend your Summer's matters- be purposeful the Summer before your senior year!

Navigating the Common App:

- The majority of your applications will be submitted via commonapp.org
- Set up your username and password and WRITE IT DOWN! You can access it before August 1st however everything will go down and up again August 1st so anything you put in the Common App may be lost. Wait until August 1st and instead go inputting all the components of your application into word or Google docs so that when it opens you are just copying and pasting information.
- There is a list of schools that accept the common app on the website. Any schools that accept them, you should apply that way.
- Many schools on Common App also have a supplement, so you will fill out the generic application that all of your selected schools see and then a supplement (additional application or essay) for each individual school you selected – this can all be done on the commonapp.org website.
- You can send the application to as many schools as you want by selecting the schools on the application.
- The cost is determined by the individual schools, most public in-state applications cost \$30 and out of state or private schools can range from \$70-\$150.

Common App FAQ's

- Everyone should be using the weighted GPA out of a 4.0 scale
- Our rank is based on your weighted GPA
- Cumulative GPA is unweighted on Virtual Counselor
- Graduation date as of now is June 3, 2025 (this is NOT confirmed)
- We have a 99% graduation rate
- You can list your AICE scores and if they have they are an AICE Diploma Award Candidate under "Additional Information" (They will need to fill out the form on the website for Cambridge to send their scores to the colleges)
- If you have the option to write it in.... "Cambridge AICE English Lit" ...you should do it
- All Cypress Bay classes are worth 1.0 credit unless they are split on the course card (ex. Psychology/Sociology). Then you would list each one as .5
- Government .5/Economic Honors .5
- Most dual enrollment classes are 3.0 credits, but students should check
- Honors worth 1.0/.05 (colleges)
- AP/AICE worth 2.0/1.0 (colleges)
- All classes including the repeated classes should be reported to the colleges
- A reminder that our weighted GPA will look drastically different than what Bright Futures and the colleges will calculate