



# QUICK GUIDE TO COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

courtesy of the wohs college + career center

## SECTION I: APPLYING FOR COLLEGE

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### SECTION I: APPLYING FOR COLLEGE

#### HOW MANY SCHOOLS SHOULD I APPLY TO?

As many as you would like to consider! There is no limit to the number of schools you can apply to so give yourself options but, it is suggested that you consider at least these options:

**1 - 2 REACH** : your GPA and test scores are BELOW the middle 50% but have an outstanding student profile demonstrating academic rigor, leadership, and extracurricular activities.

**3 - 4 MATCH** : your GPA and test score are WITHIN THE RANGE of the middle 50%

**1 - 2 SAFETY** : your GPA and test scores are SAFELY ABOVE the middle 50%.

*\*consult the FL SUS Matrix for in state schools' middle 50% and college admissions websites for individual schools*

Use SCOIR or Big Future on College Board to help you narrow down schools by your GPA, SAT/ACT scores, interest of study, or future major.

#### HOW DO I KNOW IF A SCHOOL IS A FIT FOR ME?

- 1. VISIT CAMPUS** If possible, visit the colleges you are planning to apply to and take a student-led tour. Virtual Tours are also a good option if you aren't able to visit in person and can be found on the school's admissions websites.
- 2. ASK QUESTIONS**
  - a. Am I an academic fit for this school?
  - b. What kind of campus do I prefer
  - c. What type of student engagement do I want?
  - d. How quickly/easily can I visit home?
  - e. What are the housing options and can I bring a car my freshman year?
- 3. CONSIDER FINANCIAL IMPACT**
  - a. Staying in state is usually less expensive than out of state schools BUT, many out of state schools compete with in state tuition and even accept Bright Futures reciprocity or merit based aid that "matches" or exceeds in state awards.
  - b. Complete the FAFSA and consider the financial aid being offered from each school.
  - c. Work to avoid undergraduate debt by applying for as many scholarships as you can!

#### HOW DO I APPLY TO COLLEGE?

There are FIVE main college application platforms but you only need to choose ONE. If a college offers multiple options (for example; Common App *and* Internal Application) you only need to apply using ONE of the options. *Colleges do not prefer which platform you use, just choose ONE.* It is a best practice to consult each school's admissions websites to determine which application platform(s) they accept.

- 1. Common Application** <https://apply.commonapp.org/Login>
  - a. Common App is the most widely used application platform.
- 2. Black Common Application** <https://commonblackcollegeapp.com/>
  - a. A Common App platform for HBCU schools.

3. **Internal College Application:** application available directly on the college's admissions website.
4. **Coalition App** <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>
5. **Applying through SCOIR:** The CCC only recommends using your SCOIR account to apply ONLY if the college you are applying to accepts the Coalition application. Keep in mind you will be creating more work for yourself if you use SCOIR to apply and then link it to your Common App later.

### WHAT TERM SHOULD I APPLY FOR?

College admissions is the most competitive it has ever been. Therefore, best practice is to apply for the term you are the best academic fit for, not necessarily the term you would prefer to start in. Most schools will automatically consider you for a different term if they feel you are a better fit for that term - EXCEPT FSU. *\*\*FSU will no longer automatically consider you for a Summer start if you apply for the Fall term. It is VITALLY important you apply to FSU for the term you are the best academic fit for because a denial from FSU is a final admission decision.*

### HOW DO I FILL OUT THE COMMON APP?

A "How To Guide to the Common App" is available on the WOHS website → College + Career webpage, utilizing the support section on the Common App website, and Common App social media accounts.

### HOW DO I COMPLETE THE SSAR?

A "How To Complete the SSAR" is available on the WOHS College + Career webpage. *Note: Some colleges (for example; UCF, Penn State) use their own self report forms. Consult each school's admissions portal for school specific information..*

### HOW DO I GET AN APPLICATION FEE WAIVER?

Fee waivers are available in several ways.

1. **Financial Need:** If you are eligible, or think you may be eligible, for free/reduced lunch you qualify for fee waivers to apply for college. Talk to your Guidance Counselor if you aren't sure.
2. **Attend On Campus College Visit:** Some colleges will provide fee waivers for students who attend WOHS college visits AND/OR visits to one of the school's informational sessions. Check individual schools for fee waiver information.

### RESOURCES FOR FIRST GENERATION AND MINORITY STUDENTS

These in state school provide programs to help first generation and minority students with additional support and financial aid.

- **FSU CARE** <http://care.fsu.edu>
- **UF Promise** <https://oas.aa.ufl.edu/programs/uf-promise/>
- **USF Student Support Services** <http://www.usf.edu/undergrad/sss>
- **UCF SOAR** <http://access.sdes.ucf.edu/>.
- **FAMU Access** <https://www.famu.edu/academics/undergraduate-academics/freshman-studies/access-summer-bridge.php>
- **FIU Golden Scholars** <https://sas.fiu.edu/golden-scholars/>
- **FAU JumpStart** <https://www.fau.edu/admissions/freshman/admissions-pathways/>

### WHAT SHOULD MY PERSONAL STATEMENT/ESSAY BE ABOUT?

Common App, and most other college applications, use the same seven prompts. Consult the *Essay Writing Workshop* presentation on the WOHS College + Career webpage for details and best practices for essay writing. Ask at least TWO other people to proofread and edit your essay. *\*If you submit your essay to Mrs. Maroth, your essay title should be your FIRST/LAST NAME and include the date you need edits returned. Please allow at least 3 days for edits and reviews.*

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST *(some items will not apply to all applications, check each school's requirements)*

- Create spreadsheet with deadlines, required supplementals, login information, etc
- Create professional, personal email
- Create resume: template on WOHS website
- Take free SAT at school on Oct 12th
- Register for other ACT/SAT dates ASAP!
- Do FREE SAT test prep on Khan Academy
- Review Common App essay prompts
- Review *Essay Writing Workshop* on WOHS CCC page.
- Start essay + submit to at least 2 people for review. *Put your name as the title of a shared Google doc.*
- Stay up to date on NCAA Clearing (if applicable)
- Letters of Recommendation (if applicable)
- Complete profile for Letters of Recommendation
  - Give teacher/counselor at least 2 weeks
  - Write a THANK YOU NOTE!

### NOVEMBER 1

Goal date to submit all applications

### DECEMBER 15

goal date to submit community service hours

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## SECTION II : AFTER YOU SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

***Submitting your application is only the FIRST STEP!*** After you submit your application, MOST colleges will email within 24-48 hours after submissions to inform you they received your application and provide you with login credentials for their "Future Student" portal or admissions "Status Check" page..

You need to login into EACH school's portal ASAP. Most school's will provide a checklist with items they need from you in order to complete your application. **YOUR APPLICATION IS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL YOU SUBMIT ALL THE REQUIRED ITEMS IN THEIR CHECKLIST!**

- Complete your SSAR (if needed) by the school you are applying to. Some schools, like UCF and Penn State for example, use their own self report form. Check your "Future Student" portal!
  - Download the "How To Complete the SSAR" on the WOHS website.
- Create FSA ID [www.fsaaid.ed.gov](http://www.fsaaid.ed.gov) **You will need a valid Social Security number, personal email and cell phone number**
- Apply for FEDERAL Financial Aid: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>
- Apply for FLORIDA Financial Aid <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome?url=home>
- Keep track of Early Action/Early Decision/Regular Decision Deadlines
- Check emails and/or the college's admissions portal DAILY!
- Send transcripts **PLEASE NOTE, make sure the application is submitted before requesting. Give at least 48 hours for processing.**
- TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS:
- Send official test scores
  - SAT [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
  - ACT [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)
- Collect Application Fee Waivers
- Print, sign, and mail fee waivers or upload as a PDF.
- To locate SAT fee waivers to pay for applications, login to your [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) account.
  - Sign in, then select MY SAT

- Log in again to open a new screen
- You will then see a link that reads VIEW and PRINT FEE WAIVERS
- Click that link and your fee waivers will open.

*CONTACT YOUR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR TO SEE IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FEE WAIVERS!*

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### **SECTION III : AFTER ACCEPTANCE**

Once you have made your FINAL DECISION on where you will attend college, you need to submit your ENROLLMENT DEPOSIT. This secures your admissions decision and for most schools, the earlier you pay your enrollment deposit, the earlier you are able to secure priority position for housing lotteries.

- Pay Enrollment Deposit; final enrollment decision deadline may be as late as May 1
- It is best practice to send decline emails to universities you were admitted to but will not be enrolling in.
- Submit updated immunizations/medical records.
- Complete housing application/select meal plan if applicable
- Schedule and attend New Student Orientation.
- Meet with your new college advisor and register for classes.

*\*Remember! Every school has different admissions guidelines, deadlines, and requirements. You are responsible for contacting the college admissions' offices for school specific deadlines and information.*

***As always, if you need help, just ask!***

***Mrs. Maroth is available to help and support you through this process!***

***Make an appointment on the WOHS CCC webpage,***

***on Instagram @WOHS\_CCC, or stop by the CCC!***