Applying for College Cheat Sheet

**Application:**

1. Apply for term you want to attend!!!! Don’t apply for summer term unless you WANT to attend summer.
2. Include EVERYTHING about you aside from transcript data (Resume)
3. Pay application fee (or get fee waiver if on free/reduced price lunch)
4. Essays (include something extra about yourself even for schools that do not require one)
5. Tell them how much you want to attend their school
6. Letters of recommendation (ask teachers NOW). Follow directions! If they don’t want one, they mean it!
7. Early Decision/Early Action
8. Common Application (www.commonapplication.org)
9. Financial Aid (FAFSA and/or CSS profile)
10. Get organized now….most of the application should be completed over the summer
11. 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.
12. **You MUST check your email every day! Colleges don’t tweet or text you!!!!**

**Transcripts:**

1. Next year, go to Guidance and fill out a transcript request form to send your transcript to all colleges you apply for. Transcript includes all grades and coursework completed since Kindergarten (NOT FOR UF – SAR)
2. GPA re-calculation – Colleges look at academic units only and how well you did in academic classes!
3. Senior year classes and grades MATTER!!! **– Send mid-year senior grades to Rolling Admission Schools**.
4. 4 units of Math now required (Algebra I and above)

**SAT:**

1. Earliest Test Date Next Year: **October 3rd**- Registration opens mid June. sat.org/register
2. Send scores to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School – HS Code 101348
3. SEND SCORES TO COLLEGES when you register for tests!!!!! Not included on transcript!!!!!
4. Get test fee waiver before school ends this year!
5. **Send new scores to Rolling Admission Schools throughout fall/early spring.**

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

1. Earliest Test Date Next Year: **September 12th** - Registration opens mid July. [www.ACTstudent.org](http://www.ACTstudent.org)
2. Send scores to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School – HS Code 101348
3. SEND SCORES TO COLLEGES when you register for tests!!!! Not included on transcript!!!!!
4. Get test fee waiver before school ends this year!

**Extracurricular Activities:**

1. Make sure you include everything you were involved in since the summer following 8th grade.
2. Be clear and concise **– list title of organization or activity, your specific role, number of hours you contributed in that capacity**
3. Don’t forget to include things you did in your community, church, temple, etc.

**Leadership:**

1. Colleges love to see your leadership positions….don’t forget to include them!!!
2. **Be real**….**Your voice should come through loud and clear.**

**Essay Topics (Be Fearless!):**

**UF:** Not available yet (500 words)

**FSU:** Florida State University is more than just a world-class academic institution preparing you for a future career. We are a caring community of well-rounded individuals who embrace leadership, learning, service, and global awareness. With this in mind, which of these characteristics appeal most to you, and why? (500 words)

**UCF:** Write about 2 of the following 4 prompts: (250 words each or 1 for 500 words)

1. If there has been some obstacle or bump in the road, in your academic or personal life, please explain.

2. How has family history, culture or environment influenced who you are?

3. Why did you choose to apply to UCF?

4. What qualities or unique characteristics do you possess that would allow you to contribute to the UCF community?

**FGCU and FAMU:** Optional for FGCU, Required for FAMU. 3 questions to choose:

1. Describe an activity, interest, experience, or achievement in your life (this could be a book, movie, or any experience) that has been particularly meaningful to you.

2. How has your family influenced who you are?

3. What qualities or unique characteristics do you possess that would allow you to contribute to our university community?

**UNF:** Essay topic will be on their website on September 1, 2015. Essay is only required if you want to be considered for their merit scholarships.

**New College:** Common Application essay

The following Florida public schools do not require admission essays:

1. UWF
2. USF
3. FAU
4. FIU
5. FGCU (essay optional)
6. UNF

The following schools do not want a letter of recommendation:

1. UF
2. FSU

**The following is a list of 10 Great Opening Lines from Stanford Admissions Essays. The writers of each of these essays were offered admission to Stanford:**

1. I change my name each time I place an order at Starbucks.
2. When I was in the eighth grade I couldn’t read.
3. While traveling through the daily path of life, have you ever stumbled upon a hidden pocket of the universe?
4. I have old hands.
5. I was paralyzed from the waist down. I would try to move my leg or even shift an ankle but I never got a response. This was the first time thoughts of death crossed my mind.
6. I almost didn’t live through September 11th, 2001
7. The spaghetti burbled and slushed around the pan, and as I stirred it, the noises it gave off began to sound increasingly like bodily functions.
8. I have been surfing Lake Michigan since I was 3 years old.
9. I stand on the riverbank surveying this rippled range like some riparian cowboy – instead of chaps, I wear vinyl, thigh-high waders and a lasso of measuring tape and twine slung over my arm.
10. I had never seen anyone get so excited about mitochondria.

**Notice how NONE OF THESE talk about helping people or doing community service! Boring!!!! – Do not write an essay about anything you have already discussed in your application.**