

College Kickstart

Hernando Christian Academy





The college application process is a rare opportunity in life.

Applicants shouldn't just go through it with the goal of getting into a school but with the mindset that they want to learn more about themselves – learn more about their values, crystallize their aspirations and identify the experiences that they need to make an impact on the world



Why College?

What is at stake today is no less than career and economic opportunities that will last a lifetime. A four-year college degree can result in an additional \$500,000 in income over the student's working career. Over 70% of the entry level jobs in the workforce today require education beyond high school. Almost half of the students with just a high school diploma, will fall below the poverty level in years to come. While college costs are high, the value of a college degree has never been greater.

The College Application

- Transcript
 - GPA
 - Essays
- Test Scores
- “Intangibles”



Transcript



- Official record of high school work
 - Cumulative – 9th – 12th grade
 - Includes GPA
- Includes SAT and ACT test scores
 - Class rank
 - Includes student activities

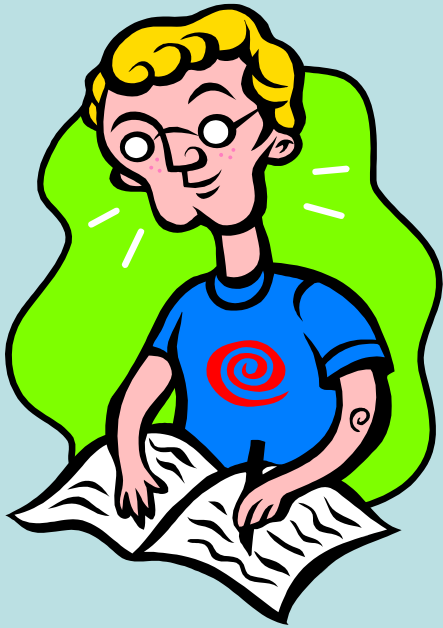
College Essay

What should I write about?



- Don't describe your science project in detail – describe your curiosity and interest in science
- Don't give a travelogue – give an interior monologue
- Don't try to write what you think someone wants to hear – address the prompt honestly
- Don't try on a new personality – be sincere and let your true self shine through
- Write about something personal that you can be passionate about!
- If it's the first time you've thought about it – don't write your college essay about it!

Test Scores



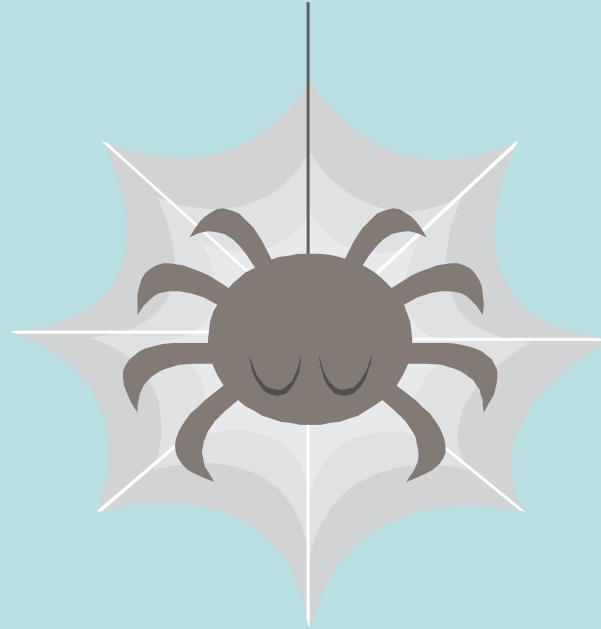
- SAT
- ACT
- AP

“Intangibles”

- Activities – participation in grades 9 -12 is most important (don't go back to third grade stuff!)
- Community service – hot, hot, hot!
- Quality over Quantity
- Finding a niche that expresses a passion
- Leadership roles



Encourage your child to be a “spider”



Not a “bee”



Where to Apply?

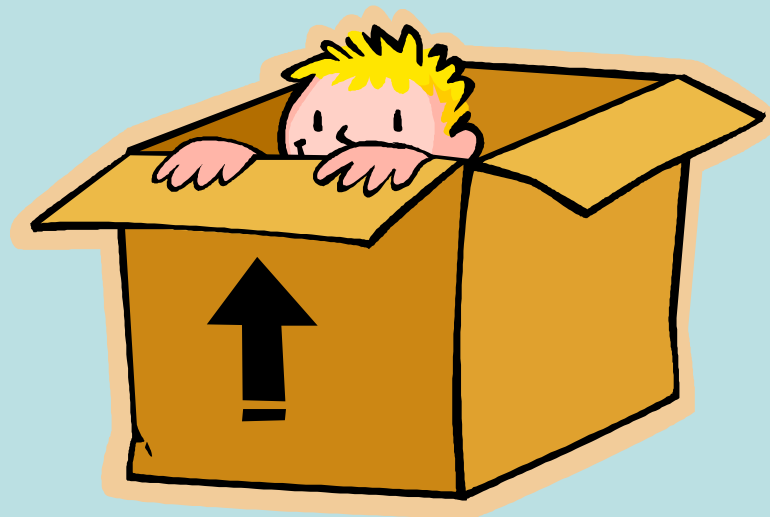
- REACH
- MATCH
- SAFETY

How do I know where I'll want to go?

- What do you want to be when you grow up? What field?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- Where do you want to live? In-state? Out-of-state? North, south, east, west?
- What can you afford or plan to pay for?
- What size school will work best for you?
- What kind of program do you need?

Think Outside the Box

- 4-year universities
 - Private colleges
 - Honors programs
 - Out-of-state
- Vocation-specific programs



A Reminder to Mom and Dad:

It's Not About YOU!



Set Limits:

Financial
Geographical
Academic
Social

Graduation Requirements

HCA General Diploma – 24 credits

- 4 credits of Bible (1 per year)
- 4 credits of English (1 per year)
- 3 credits of math
- 3 credits of science
- 4 credits of social studies (Geography, World History, US History, Government & Economics)
- 2 credits of one foreign language
- 1 credit of practical or performing arts (yearbook, art, music, puppetry, etc)
- ½ ½.5 credit of physical education
- ½ .5 credit of Life Management Skills (LMS)
- 2 elective credits
- 100 hours of community service (at least 75 hours must be performed outside HCA)

\$ Meeting College Costs \$

- Merit Scholarships
- Need-Based Financial Aid



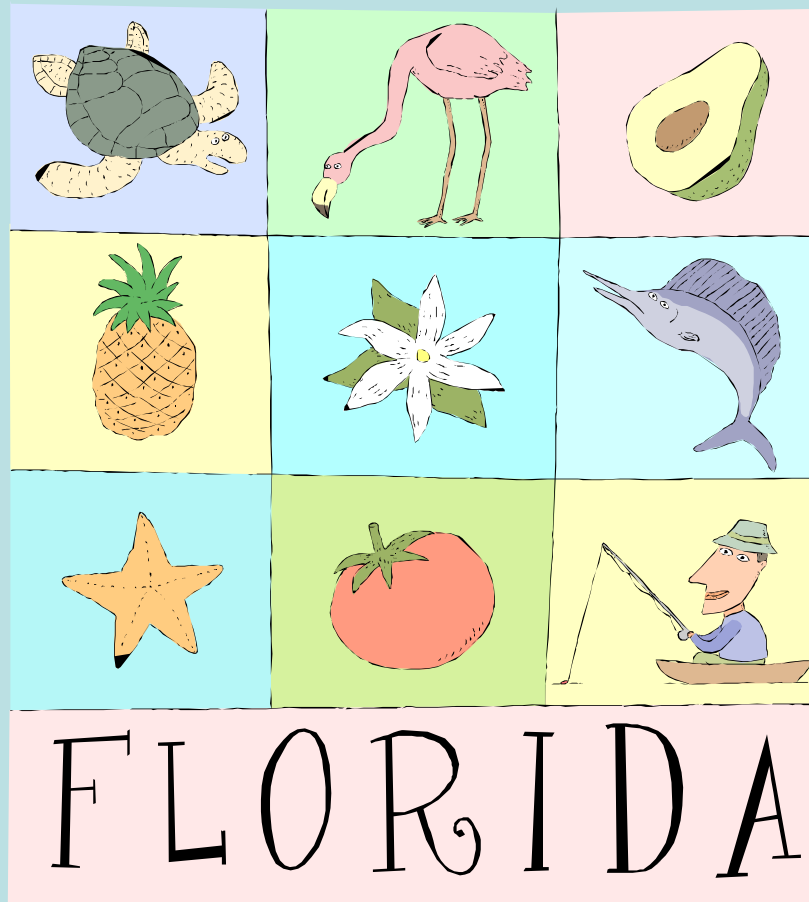
Meeting College Costs

Merit Scholarships

- Based on a talent or merit
- Very competitive
- High GPA and/or test scores
- Essay Competitions



Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program



Florida Academic Scholar Bright Futures

- 4 English
- 3 Mathematics (Algebra I and above)
- 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
- 3 Social Science
- 2 Foreign Language (in the same language)

- 1270 SAT or 28 ACT score
- 3.5 GPA

- Pays 100% of tuition

Florida Medallion Scholar Bright Futures

- 4 English
- 3 Mathematics (Algebra I and above)
- 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
- 3 Social Science
- 2 Foreign Language (in the same language)

- 3.0 GPA
- 970 SAT or 20 on ACT

- Pays 75% of tuition

Meeting College Costs

Need-Based Financial Aid

- Most students and families receive need-based aid
- Families must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- DO NOT SEND until after January 1st of senior year!!!!
- Results are Expected Family Contribution (EFC)



	College A	College B	College C	College C
	Small Private College	State College (UNF, UF, USF, etc.)	Out-of-State University (UVA, UGA, etc.)	Selective Private School (Emory)
Annual Tuition and Fees	\$17,940	\$2770	\$19,990	\$29,247
Room and Board	5,900	5,800	5,320	7,948
Books and Misc.	1,000	790	900	910
Personal Expenses/Travel	1500	1500	1672	1975
Total College Price	26,340	10,860	27,882	40,080
EFC (Result of FAFSA)	6000	6000	6000	6000
Need	20,340	4,860	21,882	34,080
Financial Aid Package:				
Grant (Gift \$)	13,090	1,094	14,632	26,830
Loan	5,250	2,566	5,250	5,250
Work Study	2,000	1,000	2,000	2,000

FSU Admission Statistics

- **Statistics for freshmen who applied to FSU for fall 2005**

Applied/Admitted/Enrolled

Number of Applicants	19,055
Number Admitted	11,355
Number Enrolled	4,381

- ***Standardized Testing***

- In order to apply for admission at Florida State, freshmen must submit either an SAT or ACT test score
- The range that the middle 50% of the 2005 freshmen class scored on the SAT was 1110-1260
- The middle 50% for the ACT was 24-28

- ***High School Statistics***

- High School GPA for the middle 50% of incoming freshmen was 3.4-4.0
- FSU received class rank data from 85% of those who enrolled
- Of these, 99% ranked in the top 50%, 86% ranked in the top 25%, and 47% ranked in the top 10% of their high school class

Early Decision – To E.D. or not to E.D.

An Early Decision to attend the University of Florida is a binding contract. Applicants who choose to apply for Early Decision must agree to enroll at the university if admitted and to withdraw applications to other colleges. **The University of Florida cannot consider an application for Early Decision without this contract. Please read the contract, sign it, secure the other signature and mail it to the Office of Admissions.**

Applicant: I am applying to the University of Florida as an early decision applicant. If I am offered admission under the Early Decision plan, I agree to withdraw all applications to other colleges and universities. I have read this contract and I understand my rights and obligations.

Parent: I have read this contract in its entirety and I agree to abide by the terms of an Early Decision application to the University of Florida.

Applicants who are deferred are no longer bound by the Early Decision contract.

- Early Decision applicants who meet the October 2nd deadline will receive admission notification in early December. Applicants may be offered admission or denied admission, and some admission decisions may be deferred until the regular admission notification in the spring.
- Admission under the Early Decision plan is contingent upon completing the senior year in good standing with continued high academic achievement.
- Applicants admitted under the Early Decision plan are required to submit a nonrefundable tuition deposit within 30 days of notice of admission. This information is included in an admission notice

Timeline for Senior Year -

- August-September:
 - Identify the schools to which you want to apply and know the admissions deadlines!
 - Write admissions essays
 - Request letters of recommendation (give at least two weeks advance notice)
 - Make final visits to colleges or college fairs
 - Register for SAT's or ACT's if needed



October – November:

- Finish admissions applications, including essays and obtaining recommendation letters
- Take SAT or ACT if needed



December - January

- Fill out FAFSA forms
- Remind Mom and Dad to get taxes done early so that they'll have their IRS returns to submit for financial aid
- Wait for responses from college admissions offices



February – March

- Review acceptance letters and compare school offers
- Choose your college, send in a deposit, fill out housing information and contact the financial aid office to see if any other funding is available to you
- Decline other colleges



April – May

- Request course catalogs and undergraduate information from your college
- Register for a preview or orientation weekend at your college
- Finalize housing plans
- Graduate from HCA!

