

HOW TO PREPARE FOR COLLEGE



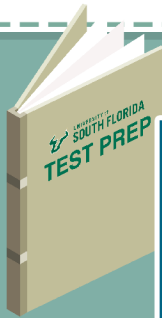
No matter where students are in the college planning process, we are available to support them.

This guide shares the important college prep milestones students should hit by the end of each year of high school.

1

FRESHMAN YEAR

- Embrace the challenge of college-prep courses.
- Strengthen academic skills through tutoring or online resources.
- Meet with a high school guidance counselor.
- Create a plan for how to prepare for college.
- Keep social media college-ready: Don't post inappropriate content.



2

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Take the PSAT/NMSQT and the PreACT.
- Join extracurricular activities and complete volunteer hours.
- Start exploring potential schools. (Psst! Take USF's [virtual tour](#).)
- Study for the SAT and ACT the summer after sophomore year.
- Consider a [test prep](#) course for extra help.



3

JUNIOR YEAR

- [Visit](#) schools of interest.
- Can't make an on-campus tour? Look for a virtual tour option, like the ones available for [USF](#).
- Take the ACT or SAT in the spring.
- Retake the ACT or SAT in the summer, if needed.
- Start applying for scholarships.



4

SENIOR YEAR

- Retake the ACT or SAT in the fall, if needed.
- Continue applying for scholarships.
- Submit the FAFSA application. The FAFSA priority deadline is Jan. 1.
- Write admissions essays. Leave time to revise.
- Compile application documents, such as letters of recommendation.
- Apply to approximately 5-8 schools.
If considering USF, apply by Nov. 1 (or as early as possible) for priority consideration.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

A Preeminent research university, The University of South Florida offers undergraduate students the chance to work with top-tier faculty on real-world projects. Our 200+ undergraduate majors and concentrations span three diverse campuses and draw students from more than 141 different countries. As America's fastest-rising university, USF is ranked #44 among public universities by *U.S. News and World Report* for 2020.

Contact our [admissions office](#) for help with college prep, or complete our [online application](#) and get ready to join the Bulls.