

THE HOMESCHOOLERS' GUIDE TO COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

1. Look Up Admission Requirements

USF doesn't require additional steps from homeschooled applicants, but some schools might. Be ready to provide extra academic info like course syllabi or a portfolio of your work.

2. Keep Track of Extracurriculars

Keep a running list of your activities, hobbies, and volunteer work. Reflect on how these experiences have helped you grow, pursue your passions, and develop leadership skills.

3. Use a Transcript Template

Compile all your academic information into one comprehensive transcript **using a template like this one**. Be sure to have your homeschool administrator submit your transcript to the admissions office.

4. Maintain Good Grades

Your junior-year grades need to be strong enough to impress an admissions office. After you've been accepted, schools will review your senior grades, so keep up the academic rigor.

5. Take College Entrance Exams Early

Experts recommend you take the exams three times: the first semester of your junior year, the second semester of your junior year, and the first semester of your senior year.

6. Don't Let a Relative Write Your Recommendation Letter

Even if your parent has been your primary teacher, ask a nonrelative to write your letter of recommendation. Reach out to tutors, extracurricular instructors, bosses, camp counselors, or other mentors in your life.

7. Express Yourself with Your Essay

Your application essay is a great way to express your interests and personality. If homeschooling has allowed you to pursue certain academic or career goals, your essay can also be a good place to explain this.

