**SUS Directors Tour 24-25 Notes**

Every year the Directors of admission for the 12 public universities tour the state letting counselors know what is new and different for the upcoming year. One of my colleagues very generously has shared her notes with me. Below is a combination of her notes and mine. The notes are very extensive, but they are well worth reading through.

If there were four things that I would like to emphasize they are:

1. **DATES, dates, dates**
2. **Details, details, details**
3. **Read student portal and emails**
4. **Apply once**

**DATES & Details -** This year more than ever before, the schools have multiple deadlines, different application processes, etc. You need to know what these processes are for the schools that you are applying to. Many schools are using a combination of an application deadline date (early action) and rolling admission. Students need to know how and when to apply for specific programs, such as Honors college, Pathway programs, and the FSU CARE program.

**Read student portal and emails** - Schools will communicate with you through your student portal and through emails. The schools can see if you opened these emails and how much time you spent reading them. You don’t want to miss out on an opportunity or offer of admission because you did not read your emails.

**Apply once –** All of the 12 SUS universities are on Common App. Many schools also have their own institutional application. Students should **choose one** and only one way to apply to a school. Completing multiple applications for the same schools will only confuse the process.

**The new SUS matrix** (with all stats and deadlines) can be found online here:

[https://issuu.com/fiupublications/docs/adm\_sus\_matrix\_updates\_2024\_6429008373\_issuu\_08272](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fissuu.com%2Ffiupublications%2Fdocs%2Fadm_sus_matrix_updates_2024_6429008373_issuu_08272&data=05%7C02%7Cbrigitte.lynn%40browardschools.com%7Ca9f19bb741aa499515d608dcd2841660%7Ceeacb5cb53704358a96aa3783c95d422%7C0%7C0%7C638616711989619575%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=E5hvgAmGro8PErBe6s%2FhRgvyFzcBNy7eMlpD5115yv0%3D&reserved=0)

I STRONGLY encourage you to print this out as it will be an amazing guide for you as you navigate the college application and planning process.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions & remember to please register for upcoming college visits!

**College Board Updates**

* PSAT in-school day: October (free for all Sophomores & juniors need to take this test to be eligible for National Merit)
* SAT in-school day: March (free for all Juniors)
* Students can request their own fee waivers directly from College Board
* Fee waivers benefits: 2 free tests, no late registration fees, unlimited score reports, free CSS profile applications, waived application fees at participating colleges
* Big Future Scholarships: two $40,000 winners monthly and hundreds of $500 scholarships/ All students in grades 10-12 are eligible! (Cypress Bay has many winners annually, this is a GREAT opportunity)
* AP testing is going fully digital this year.

**ACT Updates**

* National Testing Dates: 9/14, 10/26, 12/14, 2/8, 4/5, 6/14, 7/12
* The ACT will be shorter (fewer questions per section to increase time allotted per question) 2 hour test time
* The Science and Writing sections will be optional
* Students can choose to take test digitally or in person

**AICE/Cambridge Updates**

* 22% growth in number of AICE exams taken last year world-wide
* 7,979 Florida students earned an AICE diploma last year
* 66% of students receiving bright futures qualified ONLY because of AICE
* An AICE diploma is worth more than $31,000 to a student who stays in Florida for college
* Students must take and pass 7 Cambridge AS courses (at least 1 from each group) in 3 consecutive years to qualify for an AICE diploma
* Over 1,000 colleges nationwide recognize AICE courses (you can find this list on the Cambridge college recognition page)
* Some out of state schools that recognize AICE: University of Alabama, Virginia Tech, Clemson, UNC, USC, Tennessee, Arizona State University and University of Washington

**CLT Updates**

* CLT can be used for Bright Futures, Florida public university admissions, and dual enrollment eligibility
* 3 sections (reading, grammar and math)
* 100% bright futures you need a 96 (class of 25) and a 95 (class of 26)
* 75% bright futures you need an 84 (class of 25) and an 82 (class of 26)
* 2 hours long/ predominantly online (there are 4 paper testing dates available), free unlimited score sharing, frequent test dates
* Students need to share their scores to the Florida score depository for Bright Futures purposes
* Upcoming testing dates: 9/18, 9/21, 10/16, 11/7, 12/7, 1/25
* Students get access to 3 full length practice tests once they register for a student account on the CLT website

**Florida International University (FIU) Updates**

* #16 Washington Monthly Ranking/ #3 among public universities in same rankings
* 5,300 freshman began this year at FIU (largest freshman class in school history)
* 56% of undergraduates engaged in research
* 91% freshmen retention rate
* Exclusive Sports Management partnership with Real Madrid and Argentine Soccer
* BS/MD program (7 year accelerated med school)- 1350 SAT/ 31 ACT minimum to apply
* All students in the top 10% of their class are guaranteed summer admission to FIU
* Big changes this year: APPLICATIONS CAN ONLY BE SUBMITTED THROUGH COMMON APP, no more Rolling Admissions
* November 1st: Florida priority Early Action deadline/ Decisions and scholarships released on December 11th
* December 3rd:  Regular admissions deadline for Summer and Fall

**Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Updates**

* Fall admissions: 45,126 applications/ 4,200 students admitted for the Fall
* Averages (Fall): SAT- 1190, ACT- 25, GPA-4.05
* 190 freshman admitted to Honors college with 4.3 GPA, 1330 SAT
* January 15th: Deadline for merit based scholarships
* Nationally ranked BS/MD Program
* No requirement to live on campus!
* March 17th at 5pm: Priority housing deadline
* Last year housing was full almost immediately
* #2 best value college in Florida
* New dorms coming this year for Freshmen and Sophomores
* Admissions deadline: October 15th (early action)/ Decisions released December 6th and after this date it will be rolling admissions
* January 15th: Merit scholarship deadline (if you apply after this date you will not be considered for ANY merit scholarships)
* 1st gen & low income? Apply for the Kelly program it is a full ride scholarship you may be eligible for

**New College of Florida Updates**

* Average class size: 12
* 7:1 student to faculty ratio
* 710 undergrads
* Liberal arts college
* 50 areas of concentration
* Averages for last years admits: GPA- 3.82 SAT 1040-1240, ACT 20-26.5 & 33% were in the top 10% of their class
* Students can self design their own program of study/major if it is not offered at the school through their academic contract and customized curriculum.
* Students have their performance evaluated through narrative evaluations.
* Hands on learning emphasis (93% of students have 3 or more hands on learning experiences before they graduate)
* 83% of grads are employed or enrolled in grad school within 4 months of graduation
* November 1st: Early action deadline
* February 1st: Regular deadline
* May 1st: Final deadline
* Almost all students who enroll at New College get some sort of scholarship, those with a 1400 on SAT, ACT 31 or CLT 100 and exceptional grades will qualify for a 4 year full-ride

**Florida Gulf Coast University Updates**

* 16,522 students on campus
* No tuition increase in 10 years
* Service learning and environmental sustainability is woven throughout the curriculum into all majors
* Niche 2024 rates FGCU among the safest college campuses in the nation
* 65 majors/ 54 minors (B.S. in computer science was just added this year)
* 5 schools: music and the arts, nursing, hospitality management, water and entrepreneurship
* Princeton review ranks FGCU 15th in the nation for entrepreneurship
* Special academy for adults with intellectual disabilities (R.I.S.E Academy)
* Pay for housing early because it fills up quickly (all students have their own rooms in apartment style dorms)
* November 1st: early action deadline
* March 1st: regular decision deadline
* If you apply early and have 3.9 GPA and a 1320 SAT you automatically get $5,000/year as part of the president’s scholarship
* If you apply early and have 3.5-3.89 GPA and a 1220 SAT you automatically get $2,000
* Estimated cost of attendance before ANY aid: $18,589 (this includes tuition, on campus housing and meal plans)
* Open house: October 19th & February 15th
* There is an additional FGCU Foundation scholarship application

**University of South Florida Updates**

* #45 public university in the nation and #89 public or private in the nation
* A leading research university in the state
* 6,900 new freshman
* 68,000 applications received last year
* Admitted students profile: 4.23 GPA, 1306 SAT, 28 ACT
* 200 majors on the Tampa campus
* New honors college on Tampa campus
* E-Sports living lab just opened
* Separate application for the honors college
* National merit finalists are automatically admitted to the honors college
* Nov 15th: deadline to apply for honors college
* 7 year BS/MD and 7 year BS/PharmD and accelerated BS/JD program for law
* 3+3 bachelors to JD program for law
* America’s “fastest rising university” according to US World & News report
* Majors opened last year: supply chain management, environmental engineering, hospitality management
* Graphic arts, sustainability studies and journalism are rapidly growing majors
* Apply for housing as soon as possible
* November 1st: Priority application deadline (test scores and SSAR must be submitted by November 15th)/ Decisions released on December 10th
* After the decision release on December 10th, they switch to rolling admissions
* Criteria for scholarship eligibility will be released in late Fall
* Interested in USF? Attend an open house on 9/28 or 10/19

**Florida Polytechnic University Updates**

* Student profile: 4.3 GPA, 1260 SAT, 28 ACT (Fall) 4.1 GPA, 1190 SAT (Summer)
* 42% of newly admitted students were in the top 10% of their graduating class
* Ranked #1 in starting salaries of all graduates from Florida public universities
* Higher level math required
* TONS of incentives for females pursuing degrees in STEM
* Pre Calculus is overwhelmingly preferred over Stats for STEM majors
* New engineering building and housing options being built
* Emphasis on project based learning
* All students are required to complete an internship prior to admission.
* Early action deadline: Nov 15th, decisions will be sent mid-October
* Full financial aid updates will be sent by mid-February
* Tons of scholarships available (apply by November 15th to secure funding)

**Florida State University Updates**

* 79,400+ applications received
* 18,900 admitted
* 6,000 enrolled
* 25% overall admit rate/ 31% in-state admit rate
* Fall Ranges: 4.2-4.6 GPA/ 1360-1470 SAT/ 30-33 ACT
* Summer Ranges: 4.1-4.5 GPA/ 1280-1360 SAT/ 28-30 ACT
* Honors college application deadline: December 1st with acceptance notifications on February 15th
* Honors Program Averages 1390-1510 SAT, 31-34 ACT, and 4.4-4.7 GPA
* CARE Summer Bridge: 1st Gen, demonstrated financial need
* Quest Scholars: Invitation only, first gen, specific schools/communities ($6000 scholarship distributed over 4 years)
* Illuminate Scholars: Invitation only, must be Pell eligible ($6000 scholarship distributed over 4 years)
* Legacy Hall (new school of business) will open in Summer of 2025
* FSU Health is an 80,000sq ft medical facility and college being built on campus
* Women’s Division 1 Lacrosse will start in Spring of 2026
* Housing application is opening at the end of February
* Starting this year, you can check off that you want to be considered for Summer AND Fall, which has never been done before!
* Also starting this year, you can check off if you are interested in ANY Seminole Pathway program (this increases your chances of getting accepted to the university)
* FSU Next Program (a pathway program): Students are enrolled at TCC, but they have access to FSU clubs and orgs, they get an FSU student card and they take a “Gateway to Garnet and Gold” course at FSU. Students in the FSU Next Program CANNOT rush a sorority or fraternity in the Fall, but they can in the Spring.
* Early Action Deadline: October 15th/ Decisions released December 12th (last SAT accepted is the November one)
* Regular decision deadline: December 1st/ Decisions sent February 13th

**University of North Florida Updates**

* 17,000 students on campus
* 1,900 freshman admitted/ 90% from Florida
* Admitted student averages: 4.05 GPA/1142 SAT/ 23 ACT
* UNF priority deadline for scholarships is January 15th
* Top 3 Majors: Pre-health, biomedical science, psychology
* Demand for housing is high, January 15th housing deposits are due
* Honors college applications are accepted after a student is admitted
* What’s new? New residence hall opening in 2025
* October 21st: Explore UNF open house
* Priority deadline for admissions: November 1st/ decisions will be released November 15th and then after that decisions will be released on a rolling basis
* Final admissions deadline is April 1st

**University of Central Florida Updates**

* 8,300 incoming freshman
* Admitted Student Profile: 4.2 GPA/ 1342 SAT/ 28 ACT
* 71 National Merit Scholars
* 69,000 students enrolled
* Lead scholars academy program for student leaders
* New nursing school will open in 2025
* EXCEL program: This is a great option for students interested in STEM majors with weaker math scores in high school and on standardized tests
* COMPASS: Students undecided exploring STEM careers
* New programs: BS and BA in Leadership (different tracks can be chosen under this program), Urban Design, Data Science minor now offered
* Students are strongly encouraged to apply between September and December
* #1 College if hospitality #6 video game design program
* Students will be considered for all terms when they apply to UCF
* Housing portal will open before the end of November. If you are even considering UCF and want to live on campus you are strongly encouraged to pay the deposit for housing early.
* October 15th: Early Action deadline (decisions released November 15th)
* After the November 15th release, decisions will be released on a rolling admissions basis
* November 1st: Priority scholarship deadline/ If you want to secure merit scholarships from UCF you need to apply by this date for consideration
* Scholarship funding typically runs out by January, this means you NEED TO apply early!

**Florida A&M University Updates**

* 25,000 applications received last year (largest in school history)
* Freshman student profile: 3.97 GPA/ 1120 SAT/ 23 ACT
* 50% of admitted students had at least one 1 dual enrollment class
* Minimum 3.3 Core GPA
* #1 public HBCU (historically black colleges & universities) for 6 consecutive years
* #3 HBCU amongst public and privates
* #2 among Florida engineering programs (they have a joint program with FSU and are only behind UF in this area)
* 6 year BS/PharmD program
* 3+3 legal scholars program: no LSAT, complete your bachelors and JD in 6 years
* November 1st: Early Action deadline, April 1st: Fall regular deadline, March 1st: Summer regular deadline

**University of Florida Updates**

* 60,000 students enrolled/ 38,347 undergrads
* 2024 admitted student profile: 4.5-4.7 GPA, 1360-1500 SAT, 30-34 ACT
* 75,000 applications (record high)/ freshman class of 7,400 (600 PACE and 300 in Innovation Academy)
* Machen Florida Opportunity Scholarship Program (1st gen and income of less than $55k)
* Pathways to UF: PACE, IA, Gator Engineering and Building & Construction
* Holistic review process
* New honors village just opened this past year
* 3,200 students in UF Honors
* To be considered for honors you do one supplemental essay on the admissions application
* 200+ study abroad opportunities
* UF is infusing Artificial Intelligence across the curriculum
* November 1st: Early Action deadline to apply to UF (Nov 15th is the deadline for test scores and SSAR)
* January 24th: Early action decisions released
* January 15th: Regular decision deadline to apply to UF (January 31st is the deadline for test scores and SSAR)
* March 14th: Regular decisions released
* To be eligible for PACE you must apply to one of the PACE major

**University of West Florida Updates**

* Average stats for admitted students: 3.68-4.23 GPA, 20-27 ACT, and 1040-1240 SAT
* Select full ride scholarship opportunities available (National Merit Finalists)
* 87% of freshman receive financial aid
* December 1st: scholarship priority consideration deadline for admissions
* May 1st: Housing deadline (last year it was full by February)
* Open house dates: 11/16 & 412
* 14,000 students enrolled
* UWF is a Top 10 military friendly school

**Q&A Responses from all 12 Public Universities**

* Do not worry about AI detection for essays, they are seeing patterns of how things are written (specially for honors prompts), and they are able to identify key words and patterns in essays.
* The students voice NEEDS to come through in the essays
* UCF: SPARK
* FIU and FGCU: Transcripts requested through Xello
* All other Florida public universities: SSAR
* All schools request that students who are deferred send required updates ( grades, test scores, etc.) as soon as received
* UNF intends to have a waitlist
* Students with learning exceptionalities need to self-identify in order to receive accommodations.
* Very often it does not affect a student to apply as an undeclared major. However, there are certain program where the student cannot be undeclared (i.e.- FAU direct admit Nursing, or STEM Bridge program or majors such as Architecture (FIU) that require portfolios.) Undecided may be bad for UF Pathways (PaCE, IA, etc.)
* If a student earns their high school diploma and an AA degree concurrently, they may be viewed as a transfer student. Student should apply as an incoming Freshman. There can be unintended consequences: student cannot be undecided, college GPA matters, may not have all of the prerequisites for specific majors.