

FAQs for Future Noles

Academic Questions:

What programs are offered at FSU?

There are 18 colleges each with multiple departments, start here:

<http://www.academic-guide.fsu.edu/>

The best way to navigate majors is to review the academic Program Guide

<https://admissions.fsu.edu/majors/>

Admission Requirements

Admission to FSU and most universities is based on graduating from a regionally accredited high school with specific high school academic units, a cumulative grade point average (GPA), and test scores. Due to the large number of applications Florida State receives every year, satisfying minimum requirements does not guarantee admission. The academic profile of the middle 50% of freshmen accepted in Fall 2021 was:

GPA: 4.2-4.6

ACT Composite:28-32 (previous year: 29-32)

SAT Total:1250-1400 (previous year: 1290-1410)

Students must have also earned a minimum of four sequential unites of credit in one world language (e.g. Spanish I and Spanish II)

<https://admissions.fsu.edu/freshman/WWLF/>

Transfer Admission Requirements

All transfer applicants must have demonstrated satisfactory academic progress to be eligible for admission. Applicants who have attempted 90+ semester hours of college credit (including repeated courses and withdrawals), must upload a personal statement to be considered by the Office of Admissions. Read more about Transfer Admissions here: <https://admissions.fsu.edu/transfer/WWLF/>

Requirements for Freshman/Sophomore-Level Applications (12-59 hours):

- Have a strong academic high school profile that is indicative of success at the college level.
 - Note: Very few students with less than a 3.0 calculated GPA will be admissible.
- Minimum GPA of 2.0 on all attempted college course
- Be in good academic standing and have at least a 2.0 calculated GPA on all work attempted at your last institutions
- *Other factors to take into consideration when transferring as a lower-division transfer student include the number of hours taken each semester (we prefer 15 each fall and spring semester).

Requirements for Junior/Senior-Level Applications (60+ hours / AA Degree):

- Minimum GPA of 2.0 on all attempted college course

- Note: Very few students with less than a 3.0 calculated GPA will be admitted.
- Be in good academic standing and have at least a 2.0 calculated GPA on all work attempted at your last institutions

Scholarships

There are several scholarships that FSU offers such as the National Merit Scholarship and University Freshman Scholarship, along with other scholarship opportunities like Bright Futures. To learn more about these Freshman scholarship opportunities, visit: <https://admissions.fsu.edu/freshman/scholarships/> More scholarship opportunities are available on the Financial Aid website as well: <https://financialaid.fsu.edu/types-aid/scholarships>

Your local community, high school or even your parents' company, might offer scholarships as well.

How to choose a major/program?

You may choose to base your decision on any of these factors:

Dream Job

Some students choose a major because it will prepare them for a specific career path or advanced study. Before you declare, take a class or two in the relevant discipline, check out the academic map, and talk to students in the department of your choice—make sure that you can and will do the coursework required for the career of your dreams.

Big Bucks

Future earning potential is worth considering—college is a big investment, and while college can pay you back in many ways beyond salary, this can be a major factor for students who are paying their own way or taking out loans. Keep your quality of life in mind, too—that six figure salary may not be worth it if you're not happy at the office.

Passion Project

Some students choose a major simply because they love the subject matter. If you love what you're studying, you're more likely to fully engage with your classes and college experience, and that can mean better grades and great relationships with others in your field.

Free Spirit

If you truly have no idea what you want to study, that's okay—many schools don't require students to declare a major until sophomore year. That gives you four semesters to play the field. Make the most of any required general education courses—choose ones that interest you. Talk to professors, advisors, department heads, and other students. Exploring your interests will help you find your best fit major—and maybe even your ideal career. FSU even has an Exploratory major where advisors will help guide you in the right direction and help you find what you are truly passionate about!

You are able to Double-major or do a Dual-degree, although talk to your advisor about your options when going this route. For a four year degree, you take 120 credit hours and once you go over 132 credit hours, your tuition goes up so you want to be careful and make sure you understand what classes you need to complete two majors

Choosing Classes and Class Sizes

During Freshman or Transfer Orientation, is when you will first select your classes for the upcoming semester. During Orientation, you will be separated by your declared major at the time, meet with an advisor, and then register for the classes they suggest for your General Education credits and/or your major credits. After your first year/semester, you will register for classes on your own based on how many credit hours you have completed. For example, Seniors have first pick at classes because they have completed more credit hours. When selecting your classes, you are also able to see how many seats are in that class, giving you an idea of how many students will be in one class. On average over 61% of classes have less than 20 students, 27.7% of classes range from 20-49 students, and 11.3% of classes have 50+ students. Most general education classes are larger than major courses, since they are more specialized. Learn more about class sizes here:

<https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/florida-state-university-1489/academics>

High school classes that can help you in college?

Any AP classes, IB, AICE or Dual Enrollment that you can take in high school will help you get out of taking general education classes once you get to college. Taking more advanced classes in high school to help eliminate some general education requirements in college is a great idea, but make sure you have the correct time allocated to each class. These classes not only affect your high school GPA, but carry over to your college GPA as well. Keep in mind only up to 45 semester hours of credit can be awarded by taking AICE, AP, IB, or CLEP Tests. To see what credits you will receive for AP, AICE, or IB classes please visit: <https://admissions.fsu.edu/credit/>

What activities in high school look good on college applications?

Any sort of extracurricular activities that show you can balance school as well as be involved in other things. So for example: Yearbook, Key Club, NHS, Beta, Robotics Club, Math Club, Sports, etc. Not only do extracurricular activities look good on college applications, but holding leadership positions in these organizations or sports teams shows universities that you are engaged and can handle more than one thing at a time.

What is a FIG?

A FIG is a freshman interest group. A FIG is a pre-packaged cluster of high-demand freshman courses that have been linked by a theme or academic program.

- It makes the registration process very easy; you can register for most of your classes at once.
- Take classes with the same 15-20 students, so even a lecture class will seem small
- Take courses that fulfill general education requirements.
- Meet students with similar interests
- Form your own FSU community.

Check out the link for more information: <http://fig.undergrad.fsu.edu/about-figs>

What is the IT program & what kinds of jobs are there in IT?

IT is short for Information Technology.

IT (information technology) is the broad subject concerned with all aspects of managing and processing information, especially within a large organization or company. IT is generally not used in reference to personal or home computing and networking.

Jobs available with IT include Database Administrator, IT Manager, Information Security Analysis, Health IT Manager, Web Developer.

Campus Related Questions:

What are the dorms like?

Dorms are a great way to transition into college life. By living on campus you have a short walk to class, are exposed to all of the campus activities offered during the year, and are provided a gateway to getting to know others and making new friends. There are multiple different dorm set-ups including apartment style, suite style, and community style. Although there are several different styles and halls, housing is not guaranteed. After being admitted to FSU and signing up for housing, you will get a number and the number you get is the order you get to pick your housing. Now, if you are requesting a roommate and their preference number is higher than yours, you pick based off of the higher number. To get more information on each specific dorm style and set-up click on the link below. <https://housing.fsu.edu/future-residents/residence-halls#/home>

When it comes to on-campus housing, one option that Florida State offers that other universities do not are Living-Learning Communities. At Florida State, a Living-Learning Community (LLC) is a small group of students who live together, share an interest, and take one or two of their classes together — usually in a small classroom inside their residence hall. Designed primarily for first-year students, an LLC is a great place to plug into a supportive network of students and distinguished faculty as soon as you arrive at FSU. For more information on FSU's Living-Learning Communities click on the link below. <https://housing.fsu.edu/living-learning-communities>

Are Freshmen allowed to park on campus?

Freshman are allowed to park on campus, however only in Student Parking areas. There are different lots that are available for overnight parking, and others that are commuter lots. On campus there are Parking Garages and free-standing student lots. <https://transportation.fsu.edu/faqs#overnight>

How big is the campus? / Is it easy to navigate around campus?

The main campus of Florida State covers 475 acres. On the myFSU mobile app there is a map that can help you find different campus buildings easily, there is also the Rider app that allows you to see the bus routes and the location of all the bus stops. FSU provides you with tools to help you navigate around the campus and find different buildings. Check out the the myFSU mobile app: <http://its.fsu.edu/mobile>

What are the best places to eat in Tallahassee?

There is a wide variety of places to eat in Tallahassee. Whether you are looking to grab a bite to-go or a nice sit-down dinner, Tallahassee has an option for you. College students enjoy places like Gaines Street Pies, Black Dog (coffee), Madison Social, Four Rivers, Maple Street Biscuit Company and Gordos. https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g34675-Tallahassee_Florida.html

What kinds of clubs are there on campus?

At FSU there are over 750 Registered Student Organizations. Florida State strives to provide opportunities based on all of its students' interests, if you don't feel that you resonate with any of the pre-existing organizations, get a group together and create your own! <https://nolecentral.dsa.fsu.edu/organizations>

Interested in joining ROTC?

Army ROTC requirements: <https://armyrotc.fsu.edu/join-army-rotc/army-rotc-eligibility-criteria>

Air Force ROTC requirements: <https://airforcerotc.fsu.edu/entry-requirements>

Interested in Study Abroad?

FSU International Programs offer 16 different locations with different focuses to choose from. You also have the ability to choose a Broad Curriculum program with study centers in London, Florence, Valencia or Panama, which include a large range of courses, including many general education requirements and some major/minor requirements. The other curriculum you are able to choose is more focused on your specific area of study, with locations across the globe! If you're worried about spending an entire semester abroad, FSU International Programs also offered Spring Break Programs. To learn more about programs visit:

<https://international.fsu.edu/Students.aspx#BCInformation>

If you are worried about the money aspect of our International Programs, there are several different scholarships that are offered as well as different ways you can pay for your program, like Bright Futures or Florida Prepaid. To learn more about the financial aspect of Study Abroad, visit:

<https://international.fsu.edu/Students.aspx#MoneyMatters>

Keep in mind that your admission to an International Program is not guaranteed and that you still must go through an application process

Cost Related:

How much does bright futures cover?

Scholarship award amounts are set in the General Appropriations Act each year. Recipients will receive a fixed cost per credit hour based on award level, institution type, and credit type. The Bright Futures Scholarship you receive is based on your ACT/SAT scores and requires a certain amount of community service. Below you will find a chart that lays out the requirements for each different scholarship.

<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/PDF/BFEligibilityAwardChart.pdf>

Based on which scholarship you are eligible for, you can click on the link below to determine how much of your tuition is covered by that scholarship.

<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/PDF/BFHandbookChapter2.pdf>

How much does tuition cost?

Tuition at Florida State and most other public universities varies depending on if you live in state or out of state of the school. FSU estimates that costs for an in-state, undergraduate student for two semesters is \$23,486. While costs for an out-of-state, undergraduate student for two semesters is \$37,732.

<http://admissions.fsu.edu/freshman/finances/>

For a breakdown of costs and scholarship opportunities click on the link below:

http://financialaid.fsu.edu/aid/scholarships_ugrad.html

What is the cost of dorms?

The cost of living in dorms on campus depends on where you want to live and when you want to live there. Our dorms offer a variety of room and bathroom setups, as well as dorms that require a meal plan and others that do not. For a breakdown of dorm costs click on the link below.

<https://housing.fsu.edu/future-residents/finances/rental-rates>

General College Questions:

What is college like?

College is an amazing time to discover new interests and learn new things. One of the most important things to do as you enter college is to step outside your comfort zone. While it is a transformative experience not all students agree that college is one of the best times of your life. One student said “College is just like riding a bike... up hill... with flat tires... on fire.” While it is a time of freedom and opportunity it is also the beginning of a lot of responsibilities.

What was the biggest transition from high school to college?

The biggest transitions that students face from high school to college is time management, the increased school workload, a greater personal responsibility, and a different way of learning.

What is studying like in college?

Studying in college is very different than studying in high school because in high school you have teachers reminding you about upcoming tests and you are constantly doing work because you have school every day. However, in college there is no one reminding you to study and you may only have a class a couple days a week and have to set aside a certain amount of time for studying. Studying is not just going to class, you have to make time to sit down and study and not be distracted.

What is the hardest part about college?

The hardest part about college is setting aside time for studying and homework, when there is no one telling you to do so. In college you have to create a schedule for yourself or a plan to make sure that you get all of your work completed.

Is it hard to balance school and having a job?

It can be difficult at times, but it is manageable. To balance both a job and school it requires the student to be organized so they have time to finish their homework and study, and still get enough hours at work. If you are worried about working too many hours at a job off campus, try and find a job on campus. On-campus jobs understand that school is your first priority and limit your hours to 20 a week, making it easier for you to manage your time. <https://career.fsu.edu/students/gain-experience/landing-a-part-time-job>

What are colleges looking for other than grades and test scores for admittance?

Colleges are looking for students that are going to better their university and represent their institution well. They want students that demonstrated in high school their desire to learn and grow as an individual. This is shown by taking challenging classes, participating in extracurricular activities, having a job, doing volunteer work, earning excellent grades and showing a demonstrated ability to use free time effectively to advance goals or expand your learning.

What are a few key things every Freshman should know?

- Build bridges, don't burn them. Make connections that will benefit both your personal and professional life.
- Go to office hours! Spending time with teachers after class is no longer weird or embarrassing. In fact, it may be what makes or breaks your GPA.
- Just because you *can* skip most of your classes and get the PowerPoint presentations or notes online, it doesn't mean that you *should*.
- If you have the opportunity, study or work abroad. A semester or year experiencing a different country and culture, away from everything you know, is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

What is it like being away from your family?

The prospect of living away from your family is both exciting and a bit scary. The best thing about going off to college is that you are, in many ways, on your own, but you also have some restrictions and a lot of responsibilities to keep you busy (and on the right path). The challenge is to make good decisions about your time, studies, leisure activities, getting to class, your money, and the like. College is a great stepping stone to life as an independent adult. A few will crash and burn, but everything is in place for you to have a really good time, forge relationships, and begin shaping the rest of your life.

Does FSU offer Internship opportunities within our majors?

The InternFSU program provides 100 on-campus paid experiential learning opportunities for currently enrolled full-time, undergraduate, degree-seeking FSU students during the Fall and Spring semesters. Learn more about InternFSU here: <https://career.fsu.edu/students/gain-experience/landing-an-internship/InternFSU>
It is also a good idea to talk to your Professors to see if they know of/have any internships or research opportunities available.

Choosing the right school:

How do you know if the school is right for you?

Aspects to consider when you are looking at different schools:

1. The college matches you academically

You want to be challenged in college, but being in over your head is stressful. Likewise, if your academic ability is much higher than other students, you may feel bored or out of place.

It's important to look for colleges where your academic profile (i.e. test scores, GPA, class rigor) is similar to other students'.

2. The college is affordable for you and your family

Most students take on some debt in college, but there comes a point where excess borrowing doesn't make sense. Excessive loans can affect your financial health down the road. Try to cover as much of your college costs as possible with grants.

3. The college will help you get where you want to go

Presumably, you're going to college to help you reach your goals. A college that's a good fit will live up to this description. Research and make sure a college offers your major (if you already know what you want to study). If you don't know exactly what you want to study, then consider the general field or area you might be interested in and look for colleges that have strengths in those areas.

How long is a typical college career?

A typical college career is usually four years, but in some cases can be as short as two to three or as long as five. It really depends on the individual student and how many classes they are willing to take each semester.