Minimum Requirements for Admission

Freshman Applicants

To be considered for admission, freshman applicants must submit a USF Application for Admission, a non-refundable application fee, an official high school transcript, official GED scores if applicable, SAT or ACT score, with writing, and a TOEFL or IELTS score if applicable.

Although USF has minimum freshman admission requirements, meeting these minimum standards does not guarantee admission. Applicants selected for admission usually exceed the eligibility requirements; however, USF also considers applicants who do not fully meet minimum requirements but who have important attributes, special talents or unique circumstances that may contribute to a representative and diverse student body. These freshman applicants are considered for admission by a faculty committee on the basis of other appropriate evidence of ability to do successful academic work at USF.

For purposes of admission, USF recalculates a high school grade point average (GPA) based on grades earned in all college preparatory academic courses. In recalculating a GPA, USF assigns additional weights to grades earned in honors, Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, and Advanced International Certificate of Education courses (provided the grade earned is C or above).

The University normally requires a diploma from a Florida public or a regionally accredited high school or the state-approved General Education Development (GED) diploma Students admitted under the Early Admission Program are exempted from this requirement. Students who are participating in an approved home schooling program are expected to provide acceptable copies of annual evaluations for the equivalent of grades 9 through 12. A portfolio or additional documentation may be requested if deemed necessary to complete an appropriate evaluation for admission. Other minimum requirements are outlined below.

1. Freshman applicants must submit an official test score from the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) or the American College Test (ACT). Applicants graduating from high school after January 1, 2006 will be required to submit an SAT or ACT score that includes the Writing component. Students with test scores form older versions of the admissions test(s) may be required to retest for admission purposes. Receipt of an SAT without Writing or ACT without Essay will not fulfill the test score requirement.

2. Freshman applicants earning a high school diploma, the following college preparatory academic units (year-long courses or equivalents) normally offered in grades nine through twelve are required: four units of English (three of the four must incorporate substantial writing requirements); four units of mathematics (algebra I and above); three units of natural sciences (two of the three must incorporate substantial laboratory requirements); three units of social sciences (history, civics, political science, economics, sociology, psychology and geography); two units of the same foreign language; and three additional units of academic electives.

3. Freshman applicants who have a 3.5 (B+A-) grade point average as recalculated by USF using all attempted academic courses are considered generally competitive as long as the course selection is rigorous. The University sets admission requirements that may be found on the Undergraduate Admissions web homepage. Please refer to http://usfweb2.usf.edu/admissions/requirements.htm for the current admission requirements. Admission to the University is selective; therefore, meeting requirements does not guarantee admission.

3. Applicants submitting a GED diploma must have an overall score of at least 300 for all five tests and at least 50 on each of the five tests. GED holders must also submit an SAT or ACT score, as well as SAT subject tests that will be considered in assessing the applicant's probability of success (also required of students in an approved home schooling program).

4. In the absence of the above, the University will also consider appropriate alternative evidence of academic achievement, ability, motivation and responsibility that indicates potential for successful academic work at USF.

5. A first-time-in-college applicant whose native language is not English may be required to present a minimum score of 550 (paper-based test) or 79 (Internet-based test) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), or a score of 6.5 on the International English Language Testing service exam (IELTS). The TOEFL or IELTS requirement may be waived on an individual basis when appropriate alternative evidence of English language proficiency is presented in writing (including SAT Critical Reading score of 460 or above, or an ACT English/Writing score of 18 or above and Reading Score of 19 or above).

6. First-time-in-college applicants seeking admission at the freshman level to a limited access degree program in Engineering must meet additional requirements specified by the program.

7. If a student has not earned the following minimum scores on the SAT or the ACT, remedial college preparatory work generally will be required prior to the first term of enrollment at USF:

   SAT - Mathematics 460, Critical Reading 460, Writing 440
ACT – English/Writing 18, Reading 19, Mathematics 19

8. A limited number of students requiring this remedial coursework may be offered admission only for Summer or Spring terms.