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Are you applying to the University of Florida? There are six essay prompts that you need to answer as part of your application: a long essay and five shorter prompts in the University of Florida supplement. Many people rush through the shorter UF essay prompts, but they are an important part of your application. Read this guide to learn what the University of Florida essay prompts are, what admissions officers are looking for in your response, what you should include and avoid in your answers, and what strong UF college essay examples look like. What Are The University of Florida Essays? The University of Florida accepts both the common application and the Coalition Application, and applicants must answer one of the common application or coalition application requests, depending on which application you use to apply. You also need to complete the University of Florida supplement, which includes five short indications. Your response to each prompt can be up to 250 words. Here are the directions: List and describe your community service activities. Please include your role in the activity and the level of responsibility. List and describe each task you've had, including employment dates, job titles, and hours worked per week. [FACULTY FACULTY FEATHERS, Do you have work or family obligations that limit your participation in extracurricular activities? Describe. List all programs or activities that have helped you prepare for higher education, such as University Outreach, Talent Search, Upward Bound, etc. Is there any other information for the Admissions Committee to consider when your application will be reviewed? We're going about how best to answer each of these supplement questions in the following section. The UF Essay Prompts, Analyzed In this section, for each of the five UF essay prompts, we explain what the prompt asks, why UF is interested in this information, what information you should include (and what information to avoid), and what a strong example answer might look like. Ask 1 list and describe your service to the community. Please include your role in the activity and the level of responsibility. What the prompt asks: A brief description of volunteering you've done. Why UF is interested: Students who participate in community service show that they are interested in helping others, giving back and promoting their own personal growth. These are all the characteristics colleges want their students to have, so being involved in community service can give your application a boost. Possible topics to discuss: Every volunteer you did, whether it's a one-off event constant commitment. It can be part of a volunteer organization and more informal work, such as shoveling snow for older neighbors. When you run out of space, focus on the activities you think are most important and show your strengths best to UF. For every topic, make it clear for a long time you were involved in the activity, what your main responsibilities were, and if you had a leadership role. Topics to avoid: Activities you've been paid for, as well as clubs or sports that are not related to community service. Example: Reading teacher at Sanderson Elementary School (2018/2019 school year, 2 hours a week); Organized fun and educational activities to help two first graders learn to read and write during an after-school education. Prompt 2 List and describe every task you've had, including employment dates, job titles, and hours worked each week. What prompt asks: A brief overview of every job you've had. Why UF is interested: Having a job in high school can often indicate that the applicant is mature, motivated and able to balance multiple responsibilities. Knowing that you have a time-intensive job can also help UF understand why you might be less extracurricular than the average student. Possible topics to discuss: Every job you were paid for. This can also include unofficial jobs such as babysitting or mowing lawns where you were simply paid in cash. Make sure you have every important duty you had for a job so that the admissions team gets a full sense of the work you did. Topics to avoid: Volunteering (that's true in Prompt 1), chores you did for your family (Prompt 3, but only if they were extensive enough to limit extracurricular activities). Example: Job title: Lifeguard and Swimming Instructor. Tasks: Children aged 3-15 learn to swim and be safe in the water, monitor the pool, enforce rules and safe pool behavior, and provide first aid. Place of employment: Belleville Park District. Employment dates: June 2018 to the present. Hours worked per week: 20-30 in the summer, 10-15 during the school year. Prompt 3 [FACULTY FACULTY] Do you have work or family obligations that limit your participation in extracurricular activities? Describe. What promptly asks: A job or family expectation that limits you from participating in extracurricular activities. (That second part is key. Most students have nothing to put up for this prompt.) Why UF is interested: Some students don't have the time ability to get involved in a sport or club because they have other obligations. That's much different from a student who simply chooses not to join extracurricular activities, and UF wants to know so that it can evaluate your application fairly. Note that this essay is optional, so if you have nothing to write about here, don't. Potential topics to discuss: Jobs whose hours made it difficult to be an extracurricular, regularly watch your brothers and chores you needed to close every day that made it difficult to stay after school, no access to transportation needed for extracurricular activities. Avoid topics: Anything that has nothing to do with a job or family obligation. For example, don't discuss that really engaged with classes as a reason. Reason. do not include things that would be considered ordinary chores or family obligations for a teenager. Washing the dishes every night probably doesn't stop you from playing a sport. For whatever you do, don't rant or whine about the work you did. That's not a good look for colleges. Just indicate what prevented you from participating in extracurricular activities, without adding additional comment. In addition, if you had a job or family commitment but were still able to participate in as many extracurricular activities as you wanted, leave it promptly empty (and congratulations on balancing everything!). This prompt is only for things that actually limits your extracurricular activities. Example: I am responsible for watching my two younger siblings from 3:30 pm until my parents get home at 7pm. As a result, I was unable to participate in sports and extracurricular activities that meet after school. Prompt 4 List all programs or activities that helped you prepare for higher education, such as University Outreach, Talent Search, Upward Bound, etc. What promptly asks: The programs mentioned are all primarily aimed at helping students from disadvantaged backgrounds prepare for university and higher education. UF wants to know if you have participated in any of them. Why UF is interested: Participating in one of these programs can show that you are committed to attending college and are developing the skills you need to succeed there. Discuss potential topics: If you have participated in any of these programs, list along with when you attend. Since the prompt says only to mention them, there is no need to describe what you did with the programs. Subjects to avoid: Anything unrelated to any of the programs mentioned or a similar one intended to help disadvantaged students prepare for college. This is a pretty narrow range of programs that they're interested in, and if it's not one of the federal TRIO programs or something like that, it's not what they're looking for in this prompt. This includes private counseling, working with your academic advisor, a paid college-prep summer camp, etc. Example: Participated in Upward Bound during the 2017/2018 school year. Prompt 5 Is there any other information for the Admissions Committee to consider when your application will be reviewed? What promptly asks: All the information you find important for UF to know to have the most accurate idea of your application. Why UF is interested: To make the admission process as fair as possible, UF wants to give you a chance to explain something else that you think is your chance to could affect but were unable to mention in another part of the application. Possible topics to discuss: Any extenuating circumstances that you believe have had a negative impact on your application. For example, you may have had mono your sophomore year and your grades dropped, your school may not have offered AP AP so you had to take it at a community college, etc. You also use this space to list test scores or prizes that you have won and that do not fit elsewhere in the application, but remember to include them only if you think they are important enough to actually have an impact on your chances of being accepted. Topics to avoid: Don't include anything you've mentioned elsewhere in the application. Also avoid something that sounds too much like an excuse, i.e. I didn't like my geometry teacher, so I didn't do well in class. Sticking only to situations completely out of your control that you really feel can negatively affect your application. Example: Although I made the football team as a junior, I broke my arm before the season started, which is why I didn't participate that year. Tips for the UF Essay Prompts Follow these three tips when completing University of Florida supplement essays to make sure your answers are as strong as possible. #1: Keep your answers concise You only have 950 characters per prompt. That's about 150-200 words (or just over three tweets, if you prefer). This means that your answers should be short and to the point if you are trying to fit a lot of information in. Prompt 1 is the most common prompt students to run out of space on, because if you've done multiple volunteer projects, it can be difficult to fit in information about each of them. Instead of trying to squeeze in a dozen different projects, we recommend focusing on community service work that you spent the most time on/felt most connected to. Highlighting a few experiences you're really committed to paints a much better picture for the admissions teams than a series of one-time volunteer projects. The same advice applies to Prompt 2 if you have had many short term jobs. #2: Don't think you need to answer all the clues Almost no student will answer every prompt. You should try to have examples for Prompt 1, but it's not unusual for that to be the only prompt you answer. Few students will have answers to Prompts 3 and 4. If a prompt doesn't apply, just put 'N/A'. Do not try to invent information just to have an answer; that will hurt your application rather than help. #3: Show your strengths Even those indications are short, they are still a chance for you to impress the admissions committee. Prompts 1 and 3 are usually the best places for this, if you discuss jobs and volunteers that is important to you and give you a high level of responsibility. Try to include themes you've mentioned in other parts of your application, such as your longer attempt. If you mentioned that your dream is to become a doctor, try to emphasize experiences that reflect that, such as volunteering in a hospital. Summary: UF College Essay Examples There is an important University of Florida essay, and it will be the coalition or common application (depending on which application you use) prompt of your choice. But there are also additional UF essay prompts to answer. These five short directions are a way for the UF admissions committee to learn more about you and have the most accurate look at your application. Here's where you discuss volunteering, jobs, anything that prevented you from participating in extracurricular activities, certain programs you've participated in, and anything you think is important for the people reviewing your application to know. If you answer these UF essay prompts, remember to keep your comments short, don't feel pressured to answer any prompt, and highlight your strengths. What's next? Given the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship? Our guide to Bright Futures Scholarship programs answers all the questions you're wondering about. Want to bring up your GPA? Read about four ways to get your high school grades up quickly. Interested in community service ideas? Check out our guide to 129 great community service projects. Want to write the perfect college application essay? Get professional help from PrepScholar. Your dedicated PrepScholar Admissions counselor will craft your perfect college essay, from the ground up. We'll learn your background and interests, brainstorm essay topics and take your essay design process step by step. At the end, you have a unique essay that will proudly submit you to your top choice colleges. Don't leave your college application to chance. Read more about PrepScholar Admissions now: