

ASCEND ACADEMY ORIENTATION



Poinciana High School
July 20, 2022





Agenda

- Get connected
- GPA Game
- Admission criteria
- Ascend highlights & support

Get Connected

Instagram

phs_ascendacademy

mrs.malfara

poincianahighschool

Get Connected

Remind

Join by texting the code to **81010** or by clicking ***Join Existing Class*** on the Remind application.

PHS Ascend Academy

- @phsascend

Freshmen ONLY

- @2026-eagle

Sophomores ONLY

- @2025-eagle

Juniors ONLY

- @2024-eagle

Seniors ONLY

- @2023-eagle

Get Connected

Email

Mrs. Donovan

Ascend School Counselor

taylor.donovan@osceolaschools.net

Mrs. Malfara

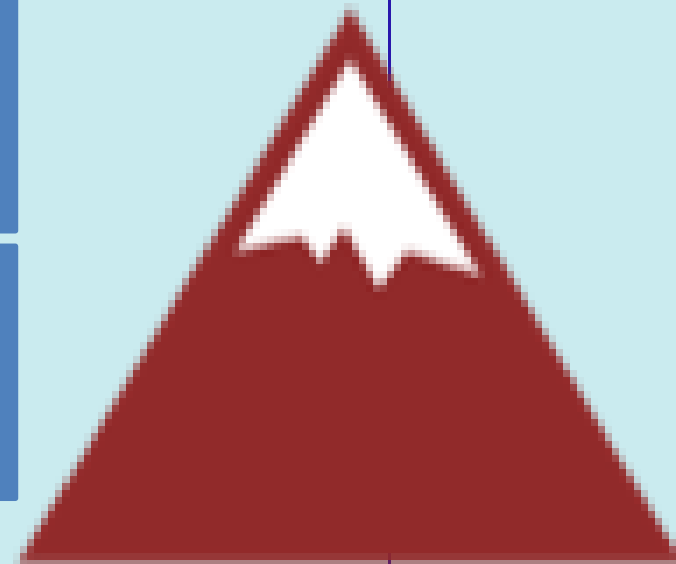
Ascend Coordinator

danielle.malfara@osceolaschools.net

Ice Breaker



Conga	Conga Line
Partner A	Partner A: share your name / grade level, something you're excited about for this year, and (if you're feeling brave) something you might be nervous about for this year
Part B	Partner B: share the same relevant to yourself



ASCEND ACADEMY AT POINCIANA HIGH SCHOOL ORIENTATION



What is Ascend?

One

Community of like-minded students working toward admission to a top 100 college/university

Two

Support specific to demands of a top 100 college application

Three

Rigorous academic preparation for success at a top 100 college/university

Class of 2021

Our 1st Ascend Graduating Class



100% GRADUATED WITH
CONFIRMED 4-YEAR COLLEGE
ACCEPTANCES

**47% of
graduates
earned
admission to
top 100
schools (*many
multiple*)**

4.16

AVERAGE
WEIGHTED GPA

4765

COMMUNITY
SERVICE
HOURS

15

RECIPIENTS OF
SCHOLAR/MERIT
DIPLOMAS

4

RECIPIENTS
OF SEAL OF
BILITERACY

6

COLLEGE BOARD
RECOGNITIONS

Class of 2022

Our 2nd Ascend Graduating Class

- **50%** of graduates earned admission to top 100 schools (*many multiple*)
- The 20 Ascend seniors earned **44%** of all scholarship money for 2022 senior class
 - **\$4,382,810**
- **100%** acceptance to 4-year schools
- ~1,000 service hours

Top 100 Acceptances



University of Florida

Florida State University

New York University

Auburn University

Davidson College

Washington University in St. Louis

Pennsylvania State University

Georgia Institute of Technology

Syracuse University

Northeastern University

Case Western Reserve University

Middlebury College

Babson College

Swarthmore College

Vassar College

Amherst College

Other Notable Admissions



Florida Institute of Technology
University of Central Florida
University of Miami
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Florida Polytechnic University
Oglethorpe University
Savannah College of Art and Design
Occidental College
Most of the 12 Florida SUS schools

Beyond the Acceptances

Where are our grads now?

- **Florida State University**
- **University of Florida**
- **Middlebury College**
- **Davidson College**
- **Washington University in St. Louis**
- **University of Central Florida**
- **Florida Polytechnic University**
- **Florida Institute of Technology**
- **Fashion Institute of Technology (NY)**
- **University of South Florida**
- **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**
- **Syracuse University**
- **New York University**
- **Stetson University ... and more!**

GPA Game



What does it take to be accepted to a top 100 school?

All schools will evaluate your admission based on:

1. Unweighted & weighted GPA
2. Rigor of your course load (*3-6 AP classes minimum*)
3. SAT/ACT scores
4. Leadership & life experience – co-curriculars and paid experience
5. Project-oriented community service

Admission committees will also consider:

1. Strength of your letters of recommendation
2. Strength of your personal statement/essay

What does it take to be college-ready?

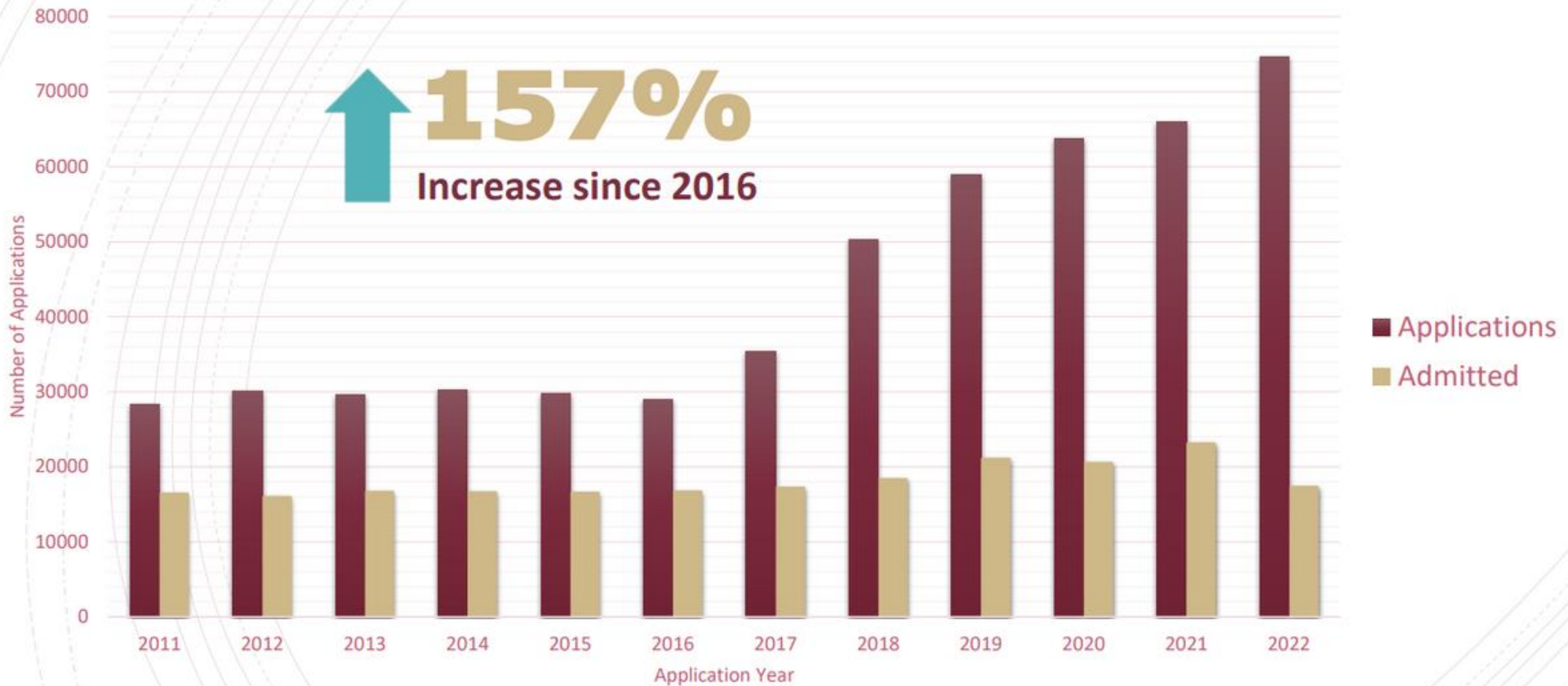
The "soft" skills...

- Enjoy the learning process
- Reflective and self-aware
- Knowing what motivates you
- Self-advocate
- Strong, professional communicator
- Enjoys engagement in community

A vibrant photograph of a Florida State University campus. In the background, a large, ornate brick building with a prominent tower and arched windows stands under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The foreground is filled with lush greenery, including several large palm trees and numerous bright pink flowers. A semi-transparent maroon banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text.

Florida State University Admissions Updates 2022

First-Year Application Numbers



*Note: 2022 data as of 2/14/2022. Application deadline is March 1st.

Holistic Review Process

First-Year admission is a holistic and selective process, and no single criterion guarantees admission. Rather, we consider a range of factors. Every application receives at least one read, with applicants in the middle 50th percent receiving additional holistic review(s). Subjective holistic scoring is combined with our objective analysis of the academic record to determine final decisions.



ACADEMICS

Academic performance, grade trend, rigor of curriculum, test scores.



ESSAY

Goals, experiences, personal stories of resilience that have significantly impacted the student's life.



RESUME

Extracurricular activities, community service, employment, special recognitions.

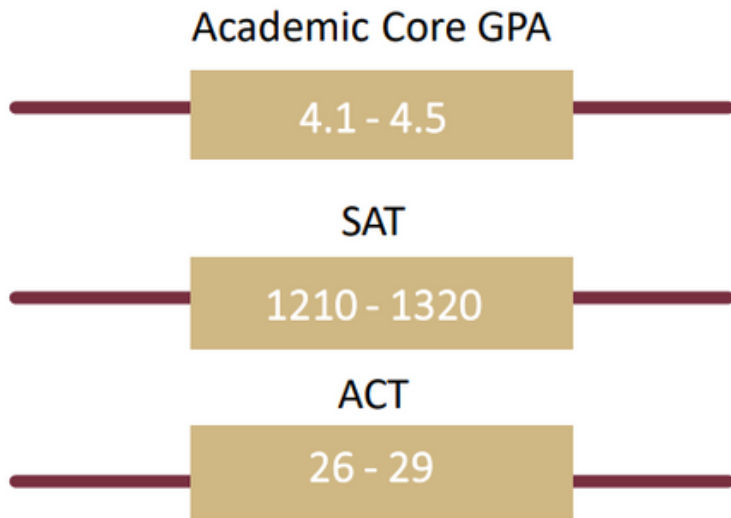


CONTEXTUAL DATA

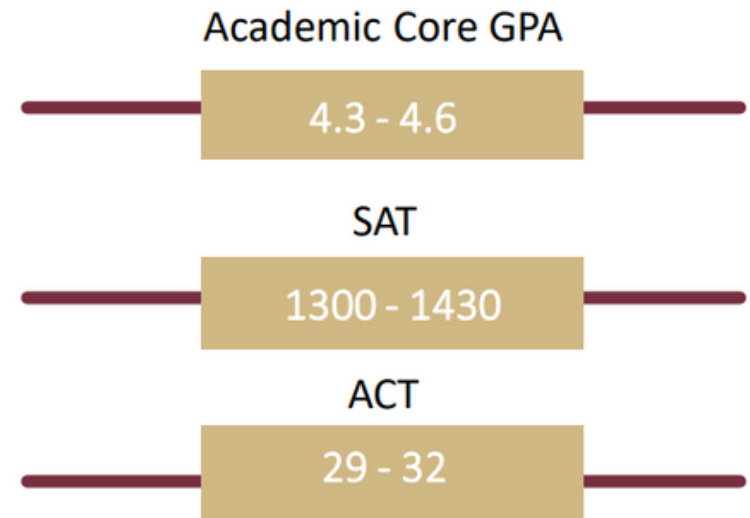
Consider the applicant in the context of their neighborhood and high school.

Admitted Student Profile

Summer 2022 Admitted Student Profile



Fall 2022 Admitted Student Profile



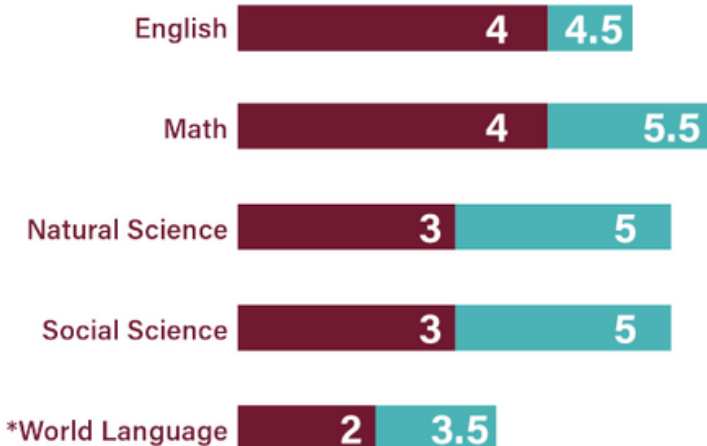
Admitted Student Attributes

Top Areas of Study



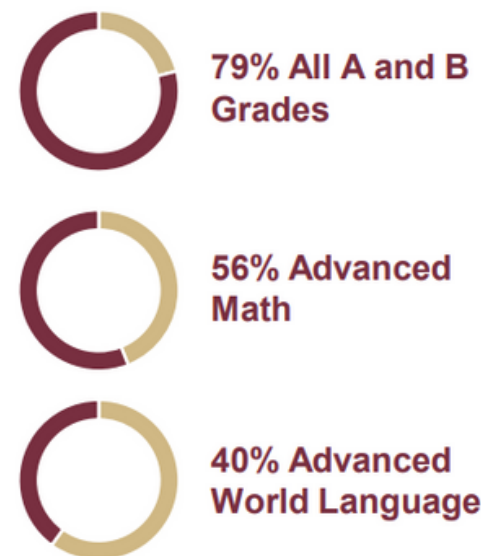
Average Course Units

■ Minimum Academic Course Units
■ Average Course Units for Accepted Students



**Two sequential units of one World Language are required.*

Course Attributes



The Ascend Way

A system of multi-level support.



Build Community

Ascend t-shirts, Instagram page and Remind account dedicated to Ascend Program with direct contact line to Ascend Coordinator, family nights with grade-appropriate information on where students should be on college preparation timeline and how to support your students, access to mental health counseling to address common concerns like academic burnout.

Rigorous Academic Preparation

Personalized path to CollegeBoard Capstone diploma eligibility, SAT/ACT preparation targeted toward high-achieving students, collaborative study opportunities for AP tests.

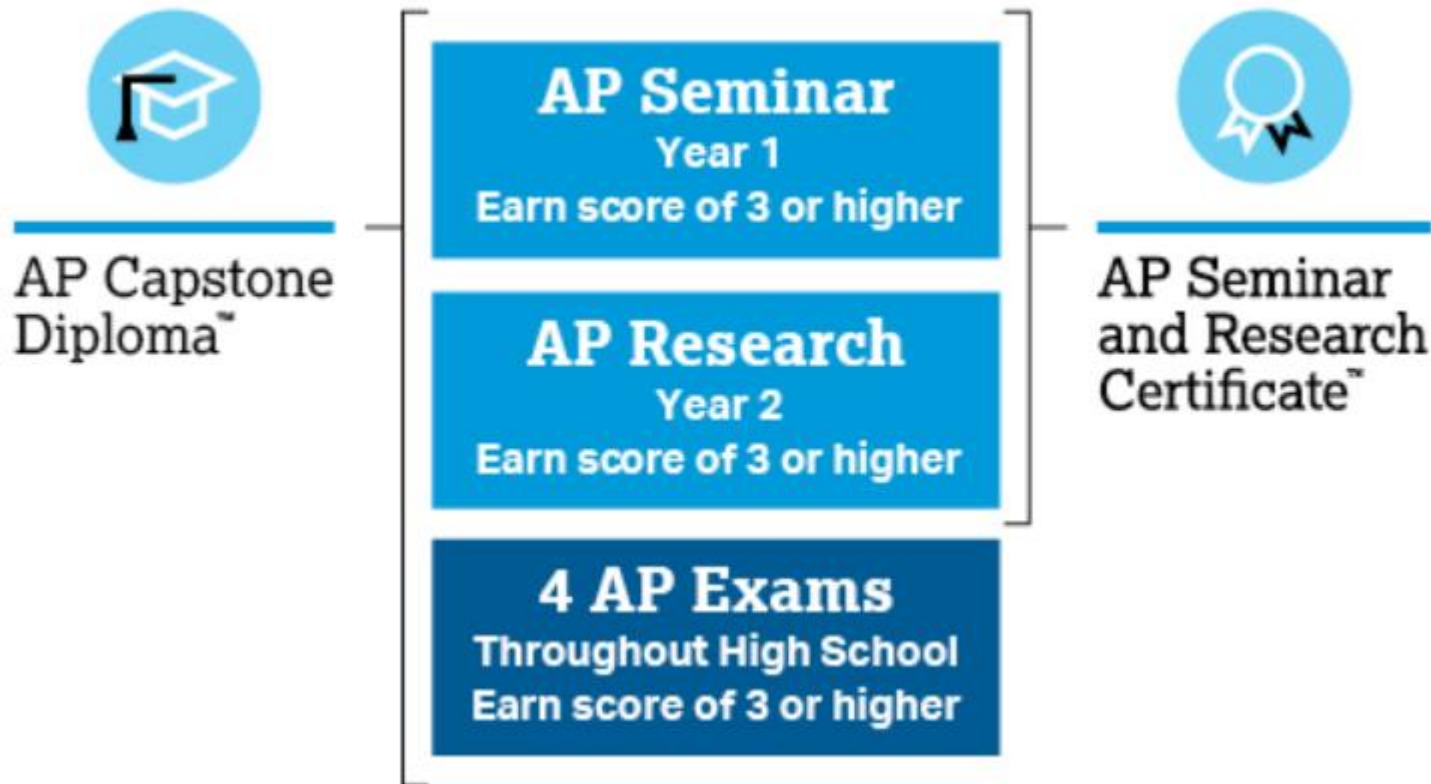
Personalized Approach to College Application Timeline

College counseling with Mrs. Malfara geared toward top 100 college guidelines - co-curriculars, community service, financial aid/scholarships, college essays, and application timelines.

Virtual and in-person college visits.



What is AP Capstone?



Why Capstone?



"AP Capstone helps students develop key skills that they will use over and over in college: conducting research and communicating their results."

— *Stu Schmill, Dean of Admissions and Student Financial Services, Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

High School at a Glance:

Freshmen Year



- Academics:

- AP World History or AP Human Geography
- Honors math, science, ELA
- Foreign language (you must have a minimum of 2 years of the **same** language, preferable 3-4 before you graduate for admission to 4-year colleges)
- Start your CTE pathway, ROTC, PE, AVID, and/or electives in the arts

- Co-Curriculars:

- Explore clubs and sports that interest you. *Don't be afraid to put yourself out there! Now is the time to try new things and learn more about what you like and don't like.*

- College Prep:

- Use Xello to start researching colleges, careers, and majors of interest

High School at a Glance:

Sophomore Year



- Academics:
 - AP science, math, ELA, history, and/or elective classes – **tailor this to YOU!**
 - Foreign language if completing 3-4 years
 - AP Seminar *(class of 2025 and 2026 only)*
 - Continue with your CTE pathway, ROTC, AVID, and/or electives in the arts
- Co-Curriculars:
 - Community service - 100 hours minimum for high school career
 - Start narrowing down and consistently engaging in activities you enjoy
 - Take on leadership tasks when possible
- College Prep:
 - ACT/SAT prep
 - Tour colleges you are most interested in
 - Continue to use Xello to research colleges, careers, and majors of interest

High School at a Glance: *Junior Year*

- Academics:
 - AP science, math, ELA, history, and/or elective classes – **tailor this to YOU!**
 - Foreign language if completing 3-4 years
 - AP Seminar (*class of 2023 only*)
 - Continue with your CTE pathway, ROTC, AVID, and/or electives in the arts
- Co-Curriculars: *This is the last full school year to show colleges what you're made of!* **Think about the differences you want to make in your community and work toward making it happen!**
 - Wrap up community service hours and experiences you want on your college application
 - Step up into leadership roles in your clubs and sports
 - Part-time work
- College Prep:
 - ACT/SAT prep
 - Tour colleges you are most interested in
 - Continue to use Xello to research colleges, careers, and majors of interest – **you should have a good idea of about 5 schools you're interested in and what their admission requirements are**

High School at a Glance:

Senior Year



- Academics: **YOU STILL NEED A FULL, RIGOROUS COURSE LOAD YOUR SENIOR YEAR.**
 - AP science, math, ELA, history, and/or elective classes – **tailor this to YOU!**
 - AP Research
 - Foreign language if completing 3-4 years
- Co-Curriculars:
 - Continue what you started. *Enjoy your last year of high school student involvement 😊.*
- College Prep:
 - Take ACT/SAT one last time in the fall
 - Submit all college applications by October
 - Complete FAFSA in October
 - Tour colleges you are most interested in to help you narrow down your list
 - Apply for scholarships (2/month minimum)

Tips for Success

- All -
 - STAY. CONNECTED.
 - Ask questions & keep lines of communication open
 - Activities = QUALITY > QUANTITY
- Students -
 - Don't go at it alone
 - Get to know teachers and staff you connect with/enjoy
 - Focus on your interests/strengths - you cannot do it all. *Your journey will look different than your peers.*
- Family members -
 - Stay connected
 - Learn what to expect from your student and how to support them
 - Focus on the learning, not the "As"

**Thank you for
being here
today!**

#PHSAscendAcademy

#RepTheP

