

The UnidosNow Future Leaders Academy is a comprehensive college prep program that targets low-income, first-generation Latino* students seeking admission into highly competitive colleges. Over the past few years our students have been accepted into colleges such as Johns Hopkins, Amherst College, Haverford College, Vassar College, Boston University, Colgate University, Bucknell University, George Washington University, University of Virginia, Georgia Tech, Syracuse University, New York University, University of Miami, University of Florida, and Florida State University, among others. These students all received generous financial aid packages, including several whose full financial need was met.

The year-long program, including one-on-one mentorship, will start with an orientation meeting on March 8, 2018 and will conclude in the spring of 2019. Students applying to the Future Leaders Academy should be willing and able to participate in a rigorous program which includes several evening and weekend workshops during the academic year, workshops throughout the summer, and ongoing assignments that must be completed in a timely fashion.

Please note that a key element of the program is to take both the ACT and SAT exams during the spring of 2018. Students are encouraged to apply for fee waivers through their guidance office and register for these tests as soon as possible in order to meet application deadlines.

See below for a more detailed description of program elements and planned workshops/activities.

Target Meetings/Activities	Target Dates (subject to change)
Application deadline	02/15 (no later than 5:00 pm)
Notification of finalists	02/23 (by 5:00 pm)
Interviews of finalists	02/26 - 03/01 (15 min interview after school)
College fair (Robarts Arena, Sarasota)	02/28 (06:00-08:00)
Notification of program acceptance	03/02 (by 5:00 pm)
Kick-off meeting (students/parents/mentors)	03/08 (06:30-08:00)
ACT prep classes	03/10, 03/17, 03/24, 03/31 (Saturdays, 09:00-12:00)
College tour (2-3 colleges)	03/29 (full day, Tampa/St. Petersburg area)
ACT exam (mandatory); Mar 9 application deadline	04/14 (Saturday)
SAT exam (mandatory); Apr 6 application deadline	05/05 (Saturday)
Career exploration – company/institution visits	06/04 – 06/08 (09:00-Noon)
College selection workshops	06/11 – 06/13 (09:00-Noon)
College essay writing workshops	06/25 – 06/27 (09:00-Noon)
College résumé writing workshops	06/18 – 06/19 (09:00-Noon)
College tour (University of Florida)	July (date TBD)
Review of college selections/essays/résumé/SSAR	07/23 – 07/24 (09:00-Noon)
Interviewing workshop	07/25 (09:00-Noon)
Development of school-year action plan	07/26 (09:00-Noon)
Completion of college portfolio	07/27 (09:00-Noon)
Financial literacy (Money Management) - OPTIONAL	07/30 – 08/03 (09:00-Noon)
Application workshop #1 (Florida Publics/Common/Coalition apps)	08/25 (Saturday, 09:00-Noon)
Application workshop #2 (Florida Publics/Common/Coalition apps)	09/15 (Saturday, 09:00-Noon)
Financial aid workshop (FAFSA/CSS Profile/FFAA)	10/06 (Saturday, 09:00-Noon)
College application workshops #3/#4 (Private schools/application follow-up)	10/20, 11/10 (Saturdays, 09:00-Noon)
Scholarship workshop	12/01 (Saturday, 09:00-Noon)
Application and scholarship follow-up	Spring 2019

*While our program emphasizes participation by Latinos, we do not exclude other low-income, first-generation students who could benefit from our program, and encourage them to apply.