

FLORIDA 2026

Abhimanyu Gupta

Abhimanyu has built an unusually wide record: a Coca-Cola Scholars Semifinalist and three-time state champion, he has competed and won recognition at the national level in writing, journalism, and policy while pursuing parallel work in health technology research and Hindu civic advocacy. He is a published and forthcoming author, investigative correspondent, clinical research co-author, health-informatics researcher with a prestigious university, founder of a clinical communication venture, national Hindu youth leader, city-appointed community advisor, classical dance instructor, 3rd-degree black belt, international tutor, and fundraiser who has raised over \$20,000 for charity. He is the National High School President of the Hindu Students Council, where he created a Hindu-Jewish interfaith dialogue program, demonstrating a sustained and intellectually serious engagement with Hindu-Jewish civilizational solidarity. He plans to major in War, Strategy, and Statesmanship at the Hamilton School, ultimately pursuing medicine, law, and public leadership in service of vulnerable communities.

Noam Hansel

Noam Hansel graduated with highest honors from Lycée Lucien de Hirsch in Paris, France. He co-founded the school newspaper and was selected to represent his school at the Concours Général des Lycées - France's most prestigious national academic competition - in philosophy, mathematics, and English. An alumnus of the Tikvah Scholars Program, Noam took a gap year to deepen his Jewish studies at Yad Yeshiva and joined PUMS, France's first health media channel affiliated with Université Paris Cité, where he worked with scientific experts to make complex health topics accessible to the public. Self-taught in English and currently studying Levantine Arabic, Noam is drawn to the ongoing conversation between Jewish tradition and Western civilization. He plans to major in PPEL with a second major in Finance.

AJ Horowitz

AJ is an Englewood, New Jersey native from Yeshivat Frisch who was admitted to UF in the 2025 application cycle but deferred to complete a gap year of learning and working in Israel with Torah Tech. His academic record is strong across a rigorous dual curriculum: 95.34 GPA, SAT 1530, with particular distinction in his four-year PPE sequence (100 in all three completed years) and consistent honors-level performance in Talmud, Bible, Prophets, and Hebrew. He is an alumnus of the Tikvah Scholars Program and the Tikvah Solomon Fellowship, as well as the Wharton Global Youth Program. His extracurricular record is exceptional: a three-time National Yeshiva Wrestling champion, the first junior in Frisch history to be named varsity captain, and a fundraiser of \$27,000 for his team's equipment and coaching. He is simultaneously captain of the debate team, president of the Frisch Choir, and interned at a fragrance R&D lab in Istanbul after teaching himself Turkish. He admires Rabbi Israel Meir Lau and writes movingly about his memoir *Out of the Depths*. At UF, he plans to major in War, Strategy, and Statesmanship with a second major in Business.

Asher Kaynan

Asher Kaynan is a sophomore at the University of Florida, originally from Queens, New York. His interests span aerospace technology, national defense, foreign policy, and Judaic philosophy. As a freshman, Asher served as an AFROTC cadet in Detachment 150, where he earned the October 2025 BC Cadet of the Month award, the You Can Fly scholarship for flight training, joined Arnold Air Society, and works to strengthen ties between the Hamilton School and UF's ROTC programs. He is an active member of UF's rocket team, the Alexander Hamilton Society, where he engages questions of foreign policy, grand strategy, and defense, and serves on the engineering team of the Ukraine Rebuilding Initiative. Asher also serves as the Outreach Director for the Society for Jewish Thought and founded the Everyday Ice Cream Club, where he hopes to build a fitness and healthy lifestyle centered community, continuing the spirit of the Men's Fitness Club he founded in High School to promote physical, mental, and spiritual strength among young Jewish Men. He hopes to pursue dual degrees in Aerospace Engineering and War, Statecraft, and Strategy, serve as an Air Force officer, and eventually work in national security or diplomacy.

Bredon Kinnard

Bredon Kinnard is an incoming freshman from Aurora, Illinois. A homeschooled student from the beginning through twelfth grade, Bredon's educational journey has been marked by a developing fascination and appreciation of the ideals of Western society and American civic life. His curriculum emphasized history, literature, and theology, supplemented by the Veritas Scholars Academy; his senior-year coursework includes Calculus, Rhetoric, Medieval and Renaissance History, and German. Bredon was also co-captain of his regional homeschool varsity soccer club and is active in his local church and youth group. He is an accomplished pianist, having studied piano since second grade, and has used this skill in service to his church. Bredon is passionate about reviving historical literacy, modeling healthy political and cultural discourse, and restoring the principles of classical and civic education. He plans to major in PPEL at the Hamilton School at UF.

Grant Mandel

Grant Mandel graduated from Culver Military Academy, where he rose to Regimental Operations Sergeant Major (overseeing inspections for 550 cadets) and Bravo Black Horse Troop Unit Commander (commanding 43 cadets), served as class president, and chaired the Honor Council. A natural leader, Grant also led the American Lens Club to foster civil discourse, and headed his school's Jewish Culture Club and Jewish Shabbat service. He completed the Georgetown Summer Scholars Program and has worked as a junior analyst at his family office. Originally from Boca Raton, Florida, Grant will study PPEL at the Hamilton School, where he hopes to deepen his understanding of western civilization and pursue a career in conservative politics, dedicating his life to America.

David Morris

David Morris is an incoming first-year Rosenthal-Levy Scholar at the University of Florida, with plans to major in PPEL. David was homeschooled his whole life through a curriculum anchored in his church community, where his father, a college philosophy professor, taught him through primary sources: the Enūma Eliš, Josephus, Adam Smith, and courses on the Second Temple and Judaism that has shaped his understanding of both the Bible and the modern state of Israel. A summer program with the Witherspoon Institute at Princeton University redirected his ambitions entirely toward civic life and intellectual engagement. After captaining an FTC robotics team for two years, David's interests swayed toward the liberal arts. Teaching a middle school class on medieval warfare proved the turning point, conjoining his commitment to service with his love of history. David is deeply interested in the practice of Jewish and Christian religion in increasingly hostile environments. He hopes to pursue a career in international relations with a focus on how religious and cultural factors affect the ways that nations interact with the world.

Leo Nusbaum

Leo graduated from Midwood High School in Brooklyn, New York, where he was a multi-year varsity captain of both the soccer and lacrosse teams, leading his program to a championship appearance and setting a standard for discipline and accountability. He was a co-founder and manager of the Prospect Heights Friendly Fridge, expanding food access and helping scale the initiative to additional locations. Through VE, Leo founded Origins Odyssey, a heritage-based travel company, where he led design, marketing, and fundraising, helping his team place first in competitions across New York and earn a top-five national ranking in company design. As a sophomore, he is currently enrolled at UF's Warrington College of Business, has been a leader in the Beren Program on Jewish Civilization and is a Consumer Sector Analyst in the Caimanes Student-Managed Equity Hedge Fund. He will study War, Statecraft, and Strategy to examine how nations wield power, make decisions, and navigate complex geopolitical realities.

Valeria Proekt

Valeria Proekt is a rising sophomore at the University of Florida, originally from Brooklyn, New York, pursuing a dual degree in Chemistry and PPEL. A fluent Russian speaker and National Merit Finalist, she graduated from Staten Island Technical High School as a Public Forum Debate state champion, founder of the school's Pre-Law Society, and intern to the NYPD Chief of Special Operations. At UF, she serves as Secretary of the Society for Jewish Thought and is a Robert M. Beren Fellow at the Hamilton School, where this summer she will research the scope of religious liberty in the United States through the Beren Summer Fellowship. Valeria is interested in the intersection of science and public policy, with a particular focus on Jewish intellectual life.

Joshua Reich

Joshua Reich graduated from Katz Yeshiva High School in Boca Raton, Florida, where he served as captain and coach of the debate team and editor-in-chief of the school newsletter. He recently completed his gap year at Yeshivat Netiv Aryeh in Jerusalem. A two-time National Competitor in Public Forum debate, he earned the NSDA Degree of Distinction. During his time in the NSDA, Joshua was instrumental in pioneering the first group of Orthodox Jewish students in history to compete at the National Tournament in 2023 and 2024. He then built a coaching pipeline, helping five younger students from his school qualify for the tournament. His extracurricular record also includes being head of a private research group studying chronic illness and neurotubules, working as a Registered Behavior Technician serving nineteen children with developmental disabilities, and shadowing a litigation attorney through mediations and hearings. He is active in medical research in collaboration with leading scientists, focusing on neurology to develop innovative approaches to chronic pain. He plans to major in PPEL with a second major in Electrical Engineering.

Daniel Reinstein

Daniel Reinstein graduated from David Posnack Jewish Day School in Davie, Florida, where he served as President of the National Honor Society and Founder and President of the Rho Kappa Honor Society, and Executive President of Rams for Israel (85+ members, working with StandWithUs, IAC, and ZOA), founder of the Digital Media Club, and a Mock Trial lawyer who has competed in the Broward County circuit. Daniel was Captain of the Baseball Team and played Flag Football throughout high school, helping lead his team to two league championships. Daniel served as Regional Vice President of BBYO's Gold Coast Region spanning across South Florida. He attended Alexander Muss High School in Israel in the summer of 2024 and served as a Florida Senate Page, interned for a Florida State Representative, and volunteered in local municipal campaigns, knocking on thousands of doors. Most recently, he was awarded the Broward County League of Cities Scholarship for Government Studies and the Aden Perry Good Samaritan Scholarship. He plans to major in PPEL at the Hamilton School.

Noah Roth

Raised in California, Hawaii, and Arizona, Noah Roth graduated summa cum laude from Saguaro High School in Scottsdale, where he served as president of the Math and Science Academy, Jewish Student Union, and CyberPatriot team, captain of Sabercat Robotics, president of Mu Alpha Theta, Junior Class President, and Board Member of the NCSY Arizona Chapter. As a summer intern at Arizona State University's Luminosity Lab, he developed lunar mapping and orbit planning software and worked on projects in psychological education technology. In 2024, he and his team won second place internationally in Indiana University's Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism Datathon and Machine Learning Competition, where he led a cross-disciplinary team in designing a machine-learning model to detect antisemitic content online. He also founded CollegeQ, a full-stack AI college planning app deployed to 330 Saguaro seniors.

Noah is passionate about robotics, national security, Jewish civic leadership, and surfing. He plans to major in War, Strategy, and Statesmanship with a second major in Computer Science.

Noa Vinokur

Noa Vinokur graduated from the Adelson School in Las Vegas, Nevada. She founded and served as editor-in-chief of *Kolebnu: The Adelson Literary Magazine*, a student-led publication dedicated to fostering open dialogue and creativity, and the Adelson Yearbook. For her work, Noa won the school's Brett Fonfa Writing Award for first-place poetry, and received the English Achievement Award. Noa has been active in NCSY throughout high school, and is also an alumna of the Solomon Fellowship and the Tikvah Scholars Program, which she describes as a transformative experience where she found her intellectual community. She is the owner of Baked by Noa, a cottage bakery, and worked at Zucker Jewish Academy Camp as a counselor for special needs youth. A passionate student of American and Jewish history, Noa is an advocate for studying and harnessing the wisdom of the great thinkers and writers who came before us in order to improve the civic health of America.

Avner Wilson-Spiro

Avner graduated from Wilton High School in Wilton, Connecticut. He plans to study Marine Sciences and PPEL. His National History Day paper on the use of Agent Orange during the Vietnam War won first place in Connecticut, placed eighth nationally, and was featured by the White House Historical Association. He interned with the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut, assisting with cases involving criminal and environmental law. He attended the Island School in Eleuthera, Bahamas, where he learned to scuba dive and studied sustainability and marine ecology. Avner captained the varsity wrestling and cross-country running teams and was drumline section leader in his school marching band. He works to combat antisemitism and celebrate Jewish heritage as the founder and co-president of the Jewish Alliance at his high school, and participates in the Hartman Institute Teen Fellowship. He is interested in Middle Eastern affairs and national security, names Eisenhower as his greatest leader of the 20th century, and hopes to pursue a second major in History.

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Nathan Bromberg – to begin in Fall 2027

Nathan (Donny) Bromberg graduated from MTA Yeshiva University High School for Boys in New York and will join the Rosenthal-Levy Scholars Program after a year of study at Yeshivat Har-Etzion in Israel. He served as captain of a nationally recognized First Tech Challenge robotics team for two years, earning awards including the Connection and Design Awards. Donny is Tutoring Manager for the National Honors Society Tehillah Chapter, facilitating tutoring both within his school and in local underserved public schools. He led Israel advocacy

delegations in Washington, DC, meeting with U.S. Senators and members of Congress, including Sen. John Fetterman. Donny has had his work published in both his school's award-winning *Lumière* journal and the National Library of Israel. His honors include being selected as the sole YUHSB recipient of the Alfred University Engineering Award for a junior excelling across math, science, and English, participating in the YU/MTA Leadership Program, and receiving the AP Scholar with Distinction Award.

Zack Goldstein – to begin in Fall 2027

Zack is a White Plains native with a 36 ACT and one of the longer track records with Tikvah of anyone in this applicant pool. He was invited to speak at JLC in 2024, a mark of the program's confidence in his intellectual seriousness and his capacity to represent its ideas publicly. He is Orthodox, socially confident, and explicitly oriented toward taking a leadership role in UF's Jewish community. This is a combination that makes him a natural community-builder at Florida. His political commitments are conservative and carefully considered: he engages with U.S. foreign and domestic policy as well as the full range of issues facing American Jewry, and his service as co-president of the White Plains Youth Council has given him meaningful experience bringing those perspectives into dialogue with non-Jewish peers on October 7th and U.S.-Israel relations. He is an experienced debater whose charisma and extroversion are matched by genuine substance.

Benjamin Mitrani – to begin in Fall 2027

Benjamin is a student at the Frisch School in New Jersey with a strong record across Tikvah programming and a 36 ACT. He comes to the program with enthusiastic recommendations from Chief Judge Matthew Solomson and White House Counsel Daniel Lipton, and his engagement with Jewish life at Frisch reflects both seriousness and initiative: he leads a Sephardic minyan at the school, a role that speaks to his investment in Jewish communal practice and his capacity to organize and sustain religious life among peers. His support for Israel is genuine and demonstrated, and his overall record combines academic achievement with consistent Jewish commitment. UF has been his first choice since he visited through the Solomon Fellowship last year, and that enthusiasm comes through clearly in his application. He is outgoing and socially capable in ways that matter for community-building, and he is well positioned to be a strong contributor to the Orthodox presence at Florida.

Benjamin Sztuden – to begin in Fall 2027

Benjamin is a serious and mature applicant from Shalhevet High School in Los Angeles, where he has maintained a 3.81 GPA and scored a 35 on the ACT. He is planning a gap year at Yeshivat Har Etzion before enrolling, likely in 2027. His background is deeply rooted in Orthodox Jewish life and Zionist commitment, but what sets him apart is the philosophical depth he brings to both. Benjamin describes how his parents — a daughter of a Holocaust survivor and an immigrant father devoted to Torah study — shaped his sense of Jewish purpose. He pursued an

independent study with Dr. David Shatz at Yeshiva University, founded Nitzotzei Torah (a student biblical publication), and served as president of his school's Philosophy Club. He is a Tikvah Solomon Fellow in good standing. His intellectual influences include Stoic philosophers Marcus Aurelius and Epictetus, and he cites Menachem Begin — specifically Begin's decision during the Altalena crisis to choose Jewish unity over personal political power — as his most admired figure. He hopes to pursue a second major in Business.