

FALL

9th Grade

- Create your FREE CFNC.org account to help plan for career and college.
- Explore careers that interest you.
- Start learning about colleges and entrance requirements.

10th Grade

- Use the CFNC.org College Search tool to find colleges that interest you.
- Consider signing up for the October PSAT – good practice for the SAT. (Free SAT and ACT practice on CFNC.org.)
- Talk with friends and family about their career and education choices.

11th Grade

- Consider the college programs, activities, and locations that interest you most.
- Start narrowing your list of colleges.
- Research scholarships at your college; some may require the SAT or ACT to be completed for eligibility, even if not required for admissions.
- Attend free College Fairs and Financial Aid workshops held face-to-face or virtually.

12th Grade

- Attend free College Fairs and Financial Aid Workshops.
- Check all deadlines: applications, scholarships & aid.
- Request recommendations, if needed.
- Plan and proofread carefully any college application essays.
- Use CFNC.org Application Hub to complete applications & send free official high school transcripts to any NC college.
- Use NC Residency Determination Service (RDS) to see if you're eligible for state grants and in-state tuition.
- Get your FSA ID and complete the FAFSA early (it opens Oct 1 for the following academic year.) FAFSA determines eligibility for federal and state grants, as well as some need-based scholarships.

WINTER

9th Grade

- Review high school classes to stay on track with graduation and college requirements. Talk with parents & family about the cost of college and plans for paying.
- Talk with your school counselor about challenging courses, such as Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or dual enrollment courses.

10th Grade

- Register for challenging courses such as AP and IB to meet graduation requirements and discover new interests and possible careers.
- Look into the possibility of dual enrollment with Career and College Promise (CCP) to earn college credit while in high school.

11th Grade

- Stay involved in challenging courses to meet graduation and college admission requirements.
- Get familiar with financial aid terms, such as FAFSA, FSA ID, the College PROFILE, scholarships, grants, federal and private loans.

12th Grade

- Use CFNC.org to find multiple ways to help pay for college. Talk with your counselor about local area scholarships and grants.
- Check to ensure that the colleges to which you've applied have received all of your information.
- Watch for admission letters and financial aid offers.
- Keep studying. Your senior year grades are important for final acceptance!

SPRING

9th Grade

- Log into CFNC.org to find free SAT and ACT preparation help.
- Look into summer opportunities, such as camps, classes, or volunteering to help prepare for college.
- Update your CFNC.org Dashboard with your career and college plans.

10th Grade

- If you've taken AP classes, register for the AP exams. May give you extra credit for college.
- Check the fall SAT and ACT dates. Register well in advance to save money.
- Look for college prep, community service, or part-time work summer opportunities.
- Continue exploring career fields that interest you.
- Consider virtual campus tours as well, on CFNC.org and college websites.

11th Grade

- Look into scholarship and grant options.
- Take SAT and ACT as scheduled.
- Plan your senior year courses carefully.
- Schedule college visits and admission interviews with campuses in which you are interested.

12th Grade

- If you are in AP courses, do your best on final exams for possible college credit.
- Weigh financial aid offers & how cost fits the family budget.
- Make your decision! Let your first choice school know & notify rest you are not enrolling.
- If you didn't get into your preferred colleges, use the College Redirection Tool CFNC.org (opens April 1) to find other options.
- Community college? Check with campus about placement tests.
- Celebrate your high school graduation and look forward to a bright future!

Navigating FAFSA and RDS to Prepare for College



FAFSA and RDS are essential to ensure you save money on college! Both require similar information for completion. Below is a breakdown of what these two items are and the information needed to complete them.



FAFSA: Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to determine your eligibility for federal and state financial aid.



RDS: Use RDS (Residency Determination Service) to receive an RCN (Residency Certification Number) to determine your eligibility for in-state tuition and state grant awards.

		
Why?	Eligibility for federal and state financial aid for college	Eligibility for in-state tuition and state grants
Where?	FAFSA.gov	ncresidency.org (powered by CFNC.org)
First Step?	Get FSA ID (Federal Student Aid Identification) – student and parent/legal guardian	If you have a CFNC.org account, use your CFNC username and password to sign in to RDS.
When?	FSA ID before Oct. 1; FAFSA as soon as possible after Oct. 1	Ideally before student applies to NC colleges and universities

College Entrance Requirements

School Type	Entrance Requirement	Testing Scores and GPA	High School Courses
NC Community Colleges	“Open Door” admissions policy: Anyone 18 or older or who has attained a high school diploma or its equivalent (GED).	The NC Diagnostic and Placement Test (NC DAP) is used to place students in appropriate college courses that meet their skill level. If a student meets certain criteria, they may be exempt from the NC DAP. Placement Test Exemption Criteria	For more information, contact the admission office at the college where you wish to apply. Find contact information for your school with College Search .
NC Independent Colleges and Universities	Entrance requirements vary among institutions.	Check the website or call the admissions office for more details.	Detailed information available using College Search tool on CFNC.org.
Campuses of the University of North Carolina System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum requirements for admission established by the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina Individual campuses may have additional requirements beyond the minimums Meeting these requirements does not guarantee admission 	<p><u>For most students under 21:</u> High School GPA: 2.5 cumulative weighted Test Scores: SAT: 1010 ACT: 19</p> <p>Detailed information is available in UNC Minimum Admission Requirements publication Contact admissions office for current test requirements or waivers.</p>	<p><u>For most students under 21:</u> High School Courses: 4 units of English 4 units of math 3 units of science 2 units of social science 2 units of foreign language</p>

Note: These requirements are subject to change at any time.