

Wake County Public School System

# Post-Secondary Planning Guide

2010-2011

Office of Counseling and Student Services  
Wake County Public School System  
[www.wcpss.net/cass/counseling](http://www.wcpss.net/cass/counseling)

2010-11 School Year

Dear Students & Parents:

Whether your post-secondary plans include college, work, or the military—the information here will be beneficial to you. School counselors are available to assist you through this process, answer questions, and direct you to resources. This document provides specific information and procedures for use during these important school years. Websites for national tests and information for transcripts and scholarships are included. We look forward to working with you and hope that you have a very successful year!

Sincerely,

*Staff of Student Services*

Thank you to Karen Rowe of Wakefield High School, Janelle Sharp of Panther Creek High School, and Annette Trammel of Wake Forest-Rolesville High School for compiling and creating this document.

Office of Counseling and Student Services

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## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Graduation requirements are based on the year a student first enters the ninth grade. Graduation requirements are posted online at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/graduation>. Contact your counselor if you have any questions regarding your specific requirements

WCPSS High School Graduation Requirements can be found in the WCPSS High School Program Planning Guide on page 9.

[http://www.wcpss.net/curriculum-instruction/docs\\_downloads/planning-guides/index.html](http://www.wcpss.net/curriculum-instruction/docs_downloads/planning-guides/index.html)

# CALCULATING GRADE POINT AVERAGE

Wake County determines official GPA based on cumulative final grades. The GPA is figured and reported on the transcript both weighted and unweighted. To calculate an unweighted GPA, use the standard class scale only. Students are ranked from the highest to lowest GPA using cumulative weighted grades. Additionally, a seventh semester GPA is calculated for all seniors and a Senior Honors Rank is calculated through the third nine week in block schools.

**How to calculate your weighted GPA**

1. Use the scale to assign quality points to each grade.
2. Add up all of the quality points to get the total.
3. Divide total quality points by the total number of credits.
4. Compare this number to corresponding letter grade.

**Quality points scale**

Standard Class	Honors Class	AP/IB Class
A=4.0	A=5.0	A=6.0
B=3.0	B=4.0	B=5.0
C=2.0	C=3.0	C=4.0
D=1.0	D=2.0	D=3.0
F=0.0	F=0.0	F=0.0

**GPA**

A=4.0  
B=3.0  
C=2.0  
D=1.0  
F=0.0

**EXAMPLE**

Grades: English B, Math A, Science C, Social Studies C, Foreign Language B, Elective A

1. B=3.0, A =4.0, C=2.0, C=2.0, B=3.0, A=4.0
2.  $3+4+2+2+3+4=18$
3.  $18/6=3.0$
4. 3.0 is your GPA, which matches up with a B average.

# SENIOR PLANNING CHECKLIST

## STUDENTS

- Begin planning early.
- Use resources available in the high school's Student Services and on the Internet.
- Make copies of all applications as you submit them.
- Be aware of your own strengths, weaknesses, and grades.
- Ask teachers and other recommenders for letters and give them time to write a quality letter (at least 2 weeks).
- Talk with your parents about their expectations, your desires, and financial considerations.
- **MEET DEADLINES** set by colleges, Student Services, self, and parents.
- Develop a student resume and keep it updated.
- Schedule a time to meet with your counselor to explore options.
- Fill out your own applications (including SAT & ACT) and write your own essays.
- Take the initiative on your college/career search. Remember, this is YOUR life.
- Keep your counselor and your parents informed as to acceptances, scholarships, etc.
- Allow time for transcripts and recommendations to be mailed out (at least 2 weeks).
- Be patient with your friends, parents, and counselors—this is a busy time for everyone.
- Athletes (Division I and II), register with the NCAA Eligibility Center

## PARENTS

- Help your student clarify realistic goals.
- Discuss future plans, especially the financial picture and any restrictions with your student early in the selection process.
- Encourage your student to complete his/her own applications.
- Remember that this is your student's future; allow your student to make his/her own choices.
- Along with your student, meet with your student's counselor and attend any parent programs in order to stay informed.
- Be patient with your student and the school—it is a busy time for everyone.
- **MEET DEADLINES!**
- Keep records of **everything**: phone calls, names, meetings, etc.
- Plan college visits with your student; incorporate them into family vacations.

# PLANNING CHECKLIST, CONTINUED

## Student Services

- Meet with students (and parents) to help with post-high school plans.
- Provide information regarding admissions; clarify information that might be unclear.
- Provide opportunities to learn about various colleges.
- Publicize college visitations, special events, open houses, and scholarships.
- Provide access to applications and forms:
  - College Applications
  - SAT , SAT Subject Tests, & ACT registration forms
  - Financial aid (FAFSA) forms
  - Scholarship applications
- Write accurate and informative letters of recommendation as requested
- Mail out transcripts, midyear grades, test scores, and school recommendations as requested.

### College Application Checklist

Name of College \_\_\_\_\_

Application Due on \_\_\_\_\_

Application Started on \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation Letters Needed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Letter 1 from \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ requested

\_\_\_\_\_ received

\_\_\_\_\_ Letter 2 from \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ requested

\_\_\_\_\_ received

\_\_\_\_\_ Letter 3 from \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ requested

\_\_\_\_\_ received

\_\_\_\_\_ Counselor's Statement submitted for completion (if needed)

\_\_\_\_\_ Authorization for the Release of Records form completed

\_\_\_\_\_ Request to send transcript                      Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ SAT scores requested from CollegeBoard

\_\_\_\_\_ Application completed and submitted

                    Date \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT RESUME INFORMATION

The development of your student resume is an important step in planning for your future. You will use your student resume for many pursuits, including, but not limited to: after-school and summer employment, volunteer work, job shadowing and internships, college applications, and scholarship applications. Teachers and school counselors may use your resume (during the senior year) to write recommendations and to help you with the scholarship process. Each senior is encouraged to have a resume and share with the counselor.

Your resume should be in a format that best highlights your experience, education and interests.

One possible resume format will include the following sections:

Heading: Name, Address, Telephone, Email, Social Security Number

Skills: Technical/Computer Skills, People Skills, Language Skills, Work Skills, Certifications

Education: Specialized classes or training, expected graduation

Experience: Volunteer and paid work, special projects you have completed

Activities: School and community activities in which you have participated (include dates, offices and awards)

Interests: Cover anything not in "Activities"

References: At least two non-family persons who can say great things about you, your character and your work

To create an online resume, visit [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org) and click on the Student Planner tab. You will need to create a USERNAME to use the High School Planner feature.

# SENIOR YEAR COLLEGE PLANNING CALENDAR

## SUMMER

- Prioritize college choices
- Determine deadlines for colleges and scholarships
- Visit colleges
- Create/update resume
- Register for SAT/ACT
- Be aware of timeline for competitive scholarships
- Make sure senior course selections meet college expectations
- Athletes, check NCAA requirements at [ncaa.org](http://ncaa.org)

## EARLY FALL

- Meet with your counselor to explore options
- Attend college fairs and meet with admissions officers
- Create CFNC.org account to apply to NC colleges and send transcripts
- Begin applying to college by completing applications and essays
- Request transcripts from high school
- Request and collect recommendations
- Start applying for scholarships
- Meet early decision deadlines, if applicable
- Make good grades

## MIDYEAR

- Verify that your application process is complete
- Complete financial aid process and FAFSA
- Continue applying for scholarships
- Request midyear transcripts, as needed

## SPRING

- Make final college decision or see counselor, as needed
- Keep working, grades count
- Continue applying for scholarships
- Communicate with your college to begin enrollment
- Take AP/SAT Subject Tests, as needed
- Request final transcript (automatically sent by CFNC)
- Complete NCAA requirements (athletes)

# Senior Semester Survey

The purpose of this survey is to let your counselor know what you are planning to do after high school. Thank you for completing this form.

1. What plans have you made for after high school? (Check the one most appropriate answer)

- Four year college or community college (go to question #2 below)
- Part-time college and part-time work (go to question #2 below)
- Full-time employment (go to question #3 below)
- Military service ( go to question #4 below)
- Undecided (go to question #5 below)
- Other (please list) \_\_\_\_\_

2. If you are going to college, list all the colleges you have applied to and place a check under the appropriate column that describes your outcome.

Name of College/University	Accepted	Deferred/Waitlist	Denied	Planning to Apply	No Answer Yet

If already accepted , you plan to attend \_\_\_\_\_.  
Name or college or university

3. If planning to work you,  already have a job. (where) \_\_\_\_\_  
 would like to meet with the Career Development Coordinator.  
 do not need assistance.

4. If planning to go into the military you,  
 have met with a recruiter.  
 need help talking to a recruiter.  
 do not need assistance.

5. I need assistance with or more information on:  
 college/university/community college options.  
 full time job information.  
 other (military etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

# MAKING CHOICES ABOUT COLLEGE

## **Step One: Know yourself and your reasons for wanting to attend college**

- ✓ Identify your strengths and weaknesses
- ✓ Analyze your interests and values
- ✓ Analyze your reasons for attending college
  - To achieve a personal goal
  - To increase your earning power
  - To prepare for a career and expand learning
  - For extracurricular activities and social life
  - Because of the influence of family and friends

## **Step Two: Consider college characteristics**

- ✓ Majors and educational programs
- ✓ Type of school and degrees offered
- ✓ Admission policy
- ✓ Location and size
- ✓ Costs and availability of financial aid
- ✓ College affiliation and accreditation
- ✓ Campus activities
- ✓ Academic reputation

## **Step Three: List, compare and visit colleges**

- ✓ Compile information from several sources
  - College catalogs, bulletins, and videos
  - College representatives and college fairs
  - Counselors and teachers
  - Parents, students and alumni
  - Directories and online information
- ✓ Prepare a college comparison checklist (included in this book)
- ✓ Weigh advantages and disadvantages
- ✓ Contact the admissions office for a visit to the campus

## **Step Four: Apply for admission and observe deadlines**

- ✓ Narrow your choices to a list of four colleges (in the following fashion)
  - One college- "sure thing"- you are overqualified and will definitely be admitted
  - Two colleges- "realistic choices" or "middle of the road" - you meet the qualifications for admission
  - One college - "long shot" or "stretch" - you would really like to attend this college, but you may have a lower GPA, SAT score or class rank than is required
- ✓ Review college admission test requirements (SAT, ACT, TOEFL)
- ✓ Know application fees and deadlines
- ✓ Submit application materials
  - Completed application for admission
  - Application fee
  - High school transcript
  - Recommendations
  - Admissions test results

# College Foundation of North Carolina Resources

[www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org)

College Foundation of North Carolina is a non-profit partnership between Pathways of North Carolina, College Foundation Inc., and the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority. These organizations have broad expertise in helping students to prepare successfully for college and to find the best financial aid alternatives. Together, they provide a complete and comprehensive source of information - and real solutions - for students and their families.

Log onto this website and you will find:

**Career Center** provides assessment tools, fastest growing career fields, and wide range of job possibilities based on results of individualized assessment. **CFNC Bridges** is a career and college planning tool. Get help narrowing college majors, selecting universities, and choosing careers based on salary and job outlook.

**Student Planner** helps you organize high school courses and activities to match up with admissions applications.

**College Fair** links to the websites of most North Carolina colleges and provides specific information on average SAT scores, GPA, and admissions requirements.

**Online Applications** provides the opportunity to complete applications and financial aid documents for North Carolina colleges online and save time by completing information once.

**Paying for College** gives you information and links about scholarships, grants, and loans.

**College Savings Program** provides information about college savings plans.

**FREE SAT/ACT Test Prep** allows students to prepare and practice for college entrance exams.

**The Redirection Pool** is opened in April. Students who participate will have their name added to a "pool" from which NC colleges and universities with open admission slots can prospect.

**"CFNC: Helping you plan, apply, and pay for college."**

## WHAT DO ADMISSIONS OFFICES CONSIDER WHEN REVIEWING AN APPLICATION?

- Difficulty of course work selected relevant to what was offered (did you take the most challenging course load you could have at your school?)
- Grades (GPA both weighted & unweighted)
- Class rank
- SAT and/or ACT scores
- Extracurricular activities
- Community/ volunteer service
- Recommendations from counselor and/or teacher(s) or other(s)
- Interview (not required by all schools)
- Essay (not required by all schools)

### Tips On Completing Your Application

- Read all the instructions carefully before you put anything on your application.
- Know your deadlines—manage your time using a calendar or other system.
- Fill out your own applications—colleges know if your parents fill it out, so do it on your own (they won't be there to do your homework, will they?).
- Ask a teacher to proofread essays. Essays provide the opportunity to connect who you are with the admissions process.
- Online applications are preferred, but it's perfectly acceptable to handwrite your applications as long as they are neat—print legibly in blue or black ink (NEVER pencil or colored ink).
- If your list of extracurricular activities exceeds the allotted space, list your top activities or those where you've had a leadership or other significant role.
- If you're applying to a program in the arts, include a copy of your portfolio, slides of your work, a video, or some other way to make your application stand out.
- If you're an athlete, send a highlights clip to the athletics department.
- If you apply online, be sure to print out a copy of your submitted application. Don't forget to print out the signature page and mail that in.
- When you've finished your application, make a photocopy for your records. Although it's rare, applications can get lost either in the mail or in the Admissions Office itself.

## College Admissions Options

**EARLY ACTION** is an admissions procedure to notify student of early admissions to the college. Students are not obligated to accept the college's offer of admission and may file applications at other universities. Note: early action candidates can be denied or deferred and financial aid awards are made in April.

**EARLY DECISION** is a plan under which candidates may submit credentials early to one college, usually by October 15 of the senior year. Applicants are notified of their status by December. As part of an early decision plan, students are required to sign a statement agreeing to accept the college's offer of admission and must only apply to one school as Early Decision. Students must withdraw applications from other colleges if accepted under early decision.

**REGULAR ADMISSION** is the plan under which candidates submit credentials during November to February, depending on school deadlines. Check the deadlines for each individual school.

**ROLLING ADMISSION** is the plan under which candidates submit credentials at their convenience through a certain date, usually late in the year. They receive an offer of acceptance or denial within four to six weeks.

**ONSITE ADMISSION** is an admissions option in which colleges visit students at the high school and make an admissions determination during a scheduled appointment with the student.

## College Admissions Keywords

**OFFER OF CONDITIONAL ADMITTANCE** is acceptance to a college provided candidates maintain academic performance throughout the year. A college can withdraw its offer if grades fall significantly or if a student is involved in an activity that results in disciplinary action by the school or law enforcement.

**DENIAL** is a final decision by the college to not offer admission. Students who are denied can apply again after completing at least a semester of college coursework.

**DEFERMENT** is a delay of admissions decision until a later time. Many competitive schools will defer fall applications to the spring in order to receive additional grades and other information.

**WAITLISTING** occurs after the regular admissions process is complete. There is no guarantee a college will go to the waitlist, or where students rank on the waitlist. Students on a waitlist for one college should plan to attend another college and then reconsider if offered admission at a later time.

# How to Count Credit in College

## Counting Credit in High School

- Block Schedule School
  - Most classes receive 1 credit for semester classes
  - Classes from August to January (Fall) and January to June (Spring)
- Traditional Schedule Schools
  - Most classes receive either 1 credit (for year classes) or  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit (for semester classes)
  - Classes from August to June earn 1 credit
  - Classes for only one semester earn  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit

## Counting Credit in College

- All classes last for only one semester
- Credit is calculated in "**semester hours**"
- Each course is awarded a specific number of semester hour credits by the college - can be as few as 1 or as many as 4 or 5
- Semester hours for courses will vary due to the length of time spent in class/lab per week
- Although most colleges recognize 12 semester hours as "full time," most students take between 15 and 18 hours each semester
- Often tuition is calculated on the number of semester hours a student takes per semester
- The number of semester hours required to graduate varies, but is often about 120 - 130 for all four years
- "Majors" and "Minors" have specific semester hour requirements.

## **Example of Course as listed in Schedule**

NCSU Undergraduate Course Schedule:

[NE 201 001](#) INTRO TO NUCL ENGR status:open credit hour:2.0 total class size:48  
non-rstr seats avail:10 days:M W time:1120-1210 instr:ABDEL/BOURHA  
bldg:[BURLINGTON](#)01202 rstr seats avail:0 wait list avail:N/A

## **TRANSCRIPT REQUEST POLICY**

**It is the policy of WCPSS that transcripts sent to North Carolina colleges and universities, must be requested through the student CFNC.org account. The policy of WCPSS is that all official transcripts going to out of state colleges and universities and private scholarships must be mailed directly from the high school. An unofficial, personal copy is available by request. Transcripts should be requested 5-7 days before they are to be mailed through US Mail. Official transcripts will be available to send to colleges in late September.**

### **Instructions for requesting transcripts for out of state colleges and private scholarships:**

1. Obtain a transcript release form from the Student Services Office.
2. The release form must be signed and dated by the parent/guardian unless the student is 18 years old.
3. List the names and addresses for the schools and organizations where the official transcript needs to be sent. Wake County allows students to receive three free transcripts. After your third transcript, a \$3 fee will be charged for additional transcripts requested.
4. Forms must be returned to the Student Services Office. Transcripts will be mailed out within 5-7 days.

### **Instructions for requesting transcripts for North Carolina colleges and universities:**

1. Create and/or login to student CFNC.org account
2. Click on High School Planner tab and complete the student planner.
3. Click on Online Applications and click on Transcript Manager
4. Select colleges from drop down menu and click submit.

**In addition to the three free transcripts, there is no charge for the following:**

- A midyear senior year transcript
- A final transcript after graduation
- Transcript for any scholarship or award requested by the high school scholarship committee



## STANDARDIZED TEST INFORMATION

It's important to check the college catalogs or websites of the schools to which you are applying to determine which standardized test(s) you need to take. The **SAT**, the *Scholastic Aptitude Test*, measures critical reading, writing, and mathematics ability and is a test that predicts college performance. The **ACT**, the *American College Test*, measures educational development in verbal, math, reading, science (and writing, for an additional fee) and is a test that predicts freshman year college performance. Most colleges and universities will accept either test for admission, but check to be sure.

Students should take SAT and/or ACT tests at the end of the junior year and early in the fall of senior year. Some highly competitive colleges require SAT Subject Tests for placement; again, check each school to be certain. The SAT Subject Tests measures performance in specific subjects.

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) an admissions test administered through the computer that focuses on listening, structure, reading, and writing. It is for students whose native language is not English. This includes ESL students and non-English speaking students who have been living in the United States for less than five years.

For test dates and to register for SAT, go to: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

For test dates and to register for ACT, go to: [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

For test dates and to register for TOEFL, go to: [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org)

### Fee Waivers

SAT and ACT fee waivers are available for economically disadvantaged students. See your counselor or the College Board website for details and guidelines.

Students using a fee waiver for the SAT or ACT may qualify for College Application Fee Waivers.

## COLLEGE VISIT INFORMATION

Perhaps the most influential factor in college selection is the campus visit. A visit allows you to get a feel for the campus and to see how you might feel living there for the next four years. It is tremendously important to visit the campus and see the students, meet professors, see the residence halls, etc. The best time to visit schools is when classes are in session. If you can't visit during this time, keep in mind that a campus is not the same in the summer or on breaks as they are when students are around. Don't let weather or other such factors impact how your visit goes—remember that it will more than likely rain when you're a student, so that is just a fact of life! To plan a campus visit, you should call the Admissions Office well in advance for an appointment.

The campus tour is a very important part of every campus visit. Be sure to ask questions about the academic rigor, social environment, extracurricular activities, class sizes, housing situation, etc.

A quick note about dress: be neat and comfortable, yet don't create an issue with your appearance. Admissions officers do not expect you to wear a dress or a coat and tie—especially if it is 90 degrees outside! One hopes that the interviewer will remember your interview for reasons other than your dress.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR VISIT

1. Spend the night in the residence hall, if possible—and sit in on some classes that interest you.
2. Pick up a copy of the school newspaper.
3. Read the course catalog and check out the list of faculty, their degrees, and the courses they teach. Investigate your academic program by meeting with professors.
4. If you are interested in playing a sport, request a meeting with a coach. The same goes for any activity of interest.
5. Find out about the quality of the Career Services Office.
6. Talk with students.
7. Verify admission requirements and discuss your chances for successful admission.
8. Ask about scholarships and financial aid.

### QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CAMPUS TOUR GUIDE

1. Who teaches your classes? Professors or Teaching Assistants?
2. How adequate is the library? Are you able to get the books you need when you need them?
3. Tell me about housing. Are some residence halls better than others? Do many students live off campus?
4. What technology is required and how do I access technology support services?
5. How accessible are professors?
6. What is the biggest issue on campus?
7. Are certain courses harder to get into? If so, which ones in particular?
8. What is the greatest shortcoming of this college? What do students complain about?
9. Why did you choose this particular college? Do you still feel the same way about it?
10. What kinds of students are most happy here? Least happy?

## College Comparison Worksheet

College Name →			
Location -distance from home			
Expenses -tuition, room, board -est. total budget -application fee, deposit			
Size -enrollment			
Environment -type of school -setting (rural/urban) -size of nearest city -coed/single-sex -religious affiliation			
Admission Requirements -deadlines -tests needed -avg. GPA, rank, SAT -notification date			
Academics -my major offered? -accreditation -student-faculty ratio -avg. class size			
Financial Aid -deadlines -school-specific form? -% receiving aid -scholarships?			
Housing -guaranteed freshman housing? -meal plan			
Facilities -academic -recreational -other			
Activities -clubs, organizations -Greek life			

-athletics/intramurals -study abroad			
<b>College Name →</b>			
<b>Location</b> -distance from home			
<b>Expenses</b> -tuition, room, board -est. total budget -application fee, deposit			
<b>Size</b> -enrollment			
<b>Environment</b> -type of school -setting (rural/urban) -size of nearest city -coed/single-sex -religious affiliation			
<b>Admission Requirements</b> -deadlines -tests needed -avg. GPA, rank, SAT -notification date			
<b>Academics</b> -my major offered? -accreditation -student-faculty ratio -avg. class size			
<b>Financial Aid</b> -deadlines -school-specific form? -% receiving aid -scholarships?			
<b>Housing</b> -guaranteed freshman housing? -meal plan			
<b>Facilities</b> -academic -recreational -other			

# Overview of the Financial Aid Process

Paying for college is an enormous expense. Tuition, books, meals, housing, fees... It adds up quickly. Most students rely on scholarships, grants, and loans to fund a portion (if not all) of their college expenses. There are several steps to you can use to take full advantage of monies available. It will require hard work and diligence on your part!

When you are completing your applications, you may want to activate a scholarship search engine (Fastweb, brokescholar, etc). These search engines will find scholarships based on the demographics and information you provide. Some colleges will automatically enter you into their scholarship pool. Check with the financial aid office at the colleges of your choice to see if you need to complete a separate application for consideration. Be sure to find out who your Financial Aid Advisor is and when they are available. They are here to help you! Complete the FAFSA!! You should complete the FAFSA every year you are in college. The FAFSA is used to determine eligibility for government programs. Many schools also use it as a guideline for their own financial aid programs.

Check your high schools' listing of scholarships! These will range from large corporation funded scholarships to smaller local civic and organizational scholarships. Read the criteria for all scholarships. Basis for selection will range from academic merit, leadership, volunteerism, need, seeking a major in a particular field, cultural background and/or the submission on an essay. If you meet the criteria, APPLY!! Seeking scholarships is a yearlong prospect. New scholarships are announced weekly. Make a point to check your school's website and the WCPSS website regularly and APPLY!

## Need Based and Merit Based Scholarships

Merit based scholarships include both scholarships awarded by the individual college or university and those awarded by outside organizations. Merit based are typically awarded for outstanding academic achievements, although some merit scholarships can be awarded for special talents, leadership potential, community involvement, or other personal characteristics. Scholarships may also be given because of group affiliation (such as YMCA, Boys Club, etc.). Merit scholarships are usually awarded without regard for the financial need of the applicant. At many colleges, every admitted student is automatically considered for merit scholarships. At other schools, however, a separate application process is required. Check with the Financial Aid Office at your college or university of choice. Need based scholarships are awarded on the basis of the financial need of the student. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is generally used for determining federal, state, and institutional need-based aid eligibility. At private institutions, a supplemental

## Community Based Scholarships

You need scholarship money for college, but where do you even begin to look? Your community is a great place to look for scholarship money. Each year local community and civic organizations offer thousands of dollars to students in Wake County. Often these monies are awarded in the spring semester so make sure you continue your scholarship search throughout your entire senior year. Keep in mind that these scholarships may not be large quantities, but every little bit counts and the money adds up! Be resourceful and look into the groups and organizations listed below. Apply for all scholarships for which you meet the requirements, While you may not get a particular scholarship you do apply for, you'll never get a scholarship that you don't apply for. Pay careful attention to deadlines. Applying late will usually eliminate you from consideration. Be aggressive in your scholarship search. Spend time on the internet and keep your eyes and ears open for scholarships! Visit your high school Student Services Office regularly to check on new scholarship opportunities



### **Helpful Hint!**

**Keep a copy of all the essays you write for admissions or scholarships. With a little tweaking, one good essay can be submitted for multiple scholarship**



## WEBSITES AND SEARCH ENGINES

**American College Test**  
www.act.org

**American Indian College Fund**  
www.collegefund.com

**Asian and Pacific Islander American**  
w.apiasf.org

**Black Excel**  
www.blackexcel.org

**Broke Scholar**  
www.brokescholar.com

**College and University Search**  
www.studentrewards.com

**College Foundation of North Carolina**  
www.cfnc.org

**CollegeBoard**  
www.collegeboard.com

**CollegeNet**  
www.collegenet.com

**College Parents**  
www.collegeparents.com

**CollegeView**  
www.collegeview.com

**Common Application**  
www.commonapp.org

**Fast Web**  
www.fastweb.com

**FinAid**  
www.finaid.org

**Free Application for Financial Student Aid**  
www.fafsa.ed.gov

**Go College**  
www.gocollege.com

**Hispanic Fund**  
www.hispanicfund.org

**Hispanic Scholarship Fund**  
www.hsf.net

**Kaplan**  
www.kaplan.com

**National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities**  
www.naicu.edu

**NC State Education Assistance Authority**  
www.ncseaa.edu

**National Collegiate Athletic Association**  
www.ncaa.org

**National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators**  
www.nasfaa.org

**National Center for Educational Statistics**  
www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cool

**Petersons**  
www.petersons.com

**Princeton Review**  
www.review.com

**Sallie Mae**  
www.salliemae.com

**Scholarships 101**  
www.scholarships101.com

**United Negro College Fund**  
www.uncf.org

**US Department of Education**  
www.ed.gov

**Wake County Schools**  
www.scholarshipplus.com/wake

## Understanding Grants and Loans

Understanding the different types of financial aid available can be confusing. Keep these simple guidelines in mind when reviewing your financial aid package.

A **grant** is money that is given away for free, usually on the basis of who needs it. There are four types of grants: Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG), Academic Competitiveness Grants (ACG), and National Science and Math Access To Retain Talent (SMART) Grants.

**PELL Grants** are the foundation on which all other grants are awarded. PELL Grants are typically awarded only to undergraduate students.

**FSEOG's** are awarded to students with exceptional financial need—those with the lowest expected family contribution. An **ACG** is awarded to students in their first or second year of full-time undergraduate study. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA. Full details are available at [www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/about/ac-smart/state-programs](http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/about/ac-smart/state-programs).

A **National SMART Grant** is awarded to students maintaining a 3.0 and enrolled full-time in the 3rd or 4th year who are pursuing specific majors.

Unlike grants, **loans** are monies that are borrowed and must be paid back with interest. You can not cancel a loan because you did not like your education or the field of study you chose. Loans are **LEGAL** obligations and repayment will typically begin 6 months after you obtain your degree.

**Federal Perkins Loans** are awarded to students demonstrating the greatest financial need. Pell Grant recipients are given first priority. Students may be enrolled full or part time basis.

**Direct Stafford Loans** and **Federal Family Education Stafford Loans** are available to students enrolled in both undergraduate and graduate programs. These loans can be subsidized or unsubsidized. Subsidized loans are need based and you are not responsible for the interest. Unsubsidized loans are not based on need and you are responsible for the interest accrued.

**PLUS Loans** are loans parents can obtain for dependent undergraduate children. Typically, a parent must pass a credit check and other general requirements. Consolidation loans allow parents and students to combine multiple loan repayment schedules into one monthly payment.

### Where to start your search

Scholarship bulletins in your school's Student Services Department

Your parents' place of work

Your place of work

The State Employee's Credit Union

Your School's Business Alliance

Local businesses

Fraternal organizations

Religious organizations

School clubs

Civic organizations

### Your Financial Aid Advisor

Each high school within the Wake County Public School System has a Financial Aid Advisor.

The Financial Aid Advisor assists students and their parents in their search for financial aid.

Financial Aid Advisors can answer specific questions about the FAFSA, many

scholarships, grants and work study programs. He and his advisors work one day per week in the Student Services Department of your high school.

## THE FAFSA

The Federal Government mandated the creation and use of one form (the FAFSA) to apply for federal financial aid. However, individual colleges and states may also require the completion of supplemental forms. Every college will specify which forms it requires.

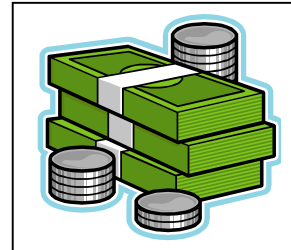
### Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

All students applying for any federal financial aid must file this form. The FAFSA is the only application students must complete to be considered for all federal financial aid including: Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Stafford Loans, Perkins Loans, Work-Study, and other federal financial aid programs. **Students will not be charged a fee** when filing this form, and the data can be sent to 10 colleges. If you wish to have the data

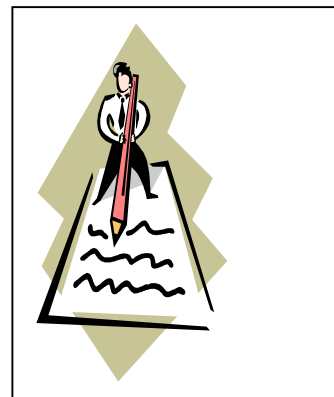
sent to additional institutions, the instructions are on the Student Aid Report (SAR). Aid applicants should expect to receive the SAR within 2 to 6 weeks following application.

You can access this form online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> or through cfnc.org. To complete the FAFSA online, you will need to acquire a Personal Identification Number (PIN) at this site: <http://www.pin.ed.gov/>. Online FAFSA forms are processed 7-14 days faster than paper forms.

Completion of the FAFSA does require your tax information. Worksheets are available to help you gather the needed information



The FAFSA must be completed and filed each year a student is in college



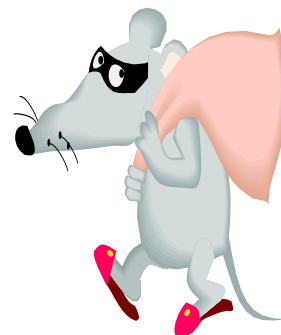
*Each spring, local colleges, community college and universities sponsor FAFSA DAY. Parents and students receive FREE help!*

## SCAMS

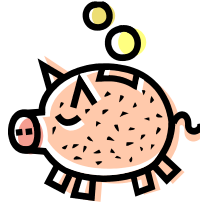
Six Sign that you are being scammed  
(adapted from the CollegeBoard CounselingSourcebook Sampler 2010)

- \*Scholarship guaranteed or your money back
- \*You can't get this information anywhere else
- \*May I have your credit card number to hold this scholarship?
- \*We'll do all the work!
- \*This scholarship will cost some money.
- \*You've been selected by a "National Foundation" or a you're a finalist in a contest you never entered

**If you smell a rat.... Report suspected fraud to your counselor or Financial Aid Advisor and follow up! You were smart but don't let them take advantage of others who may not recognize the signs!**



## College Cost Calculator



When thinking about paying and budgeting for college, it is important to consider direct and indirect costs:

<b>Direct</b>	<b>Indirect</b>
Tuition	Books and supplies
Fees	Computer
On-campus room and board	Off-campus room and board
	Transportation
	Personal Expenses
	Special Circumstances
	Other costs

### Average Annual Cost for College 2007-2008\*

<b>In-state 2-year Public Colleges</b>	tuition \$2,361 + fees \$95 (increase of 4.2% from 2006-2007)
<b>In-state 4-year Public University</b>	tuition \$6,185.00 + fees \$381 (increase of 6.6% from 2006-2007) <b>Average total cost = \$13,589</b>
<b>Out-of-State 4-year Public</b>	tuition \$16,640 + fees \$862 (increase of 5.5% from 2006-2007) <b>Average total cost = \$24,044</b>
<b>Private 4-year University</b>	tuition \$23,712 + fees \$1,404 (increase of 6.3% from 2006-2007) <b>Average total cost = \$32,307</b>

Go to <http://www.collegeanswer.com/paying> to calculate costs using Sallie Mae's budget and savings calculators.

\*Information collected from <http://www.collegeanswer.com/paying>

## Glossary of Common Terms

Campus-based programs	3 federally funded program that are directly administered by colleges: Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Work-Study Program
Expected Family Contribution	The total amount students and their families are expected to pay toward college costs from their income and assets. The amount is derived from a needs analysis of the family's overall financial circumstances.
FAFSA	Free Application for Federal Student Aid
Federal Pell Grant	Federally sponsored and administered program that provides grants based on need to undergraduate students.
Federal Perkins Loan	Need based program that provides low interest loans. Repayment does not begin until completion of education
Federal Stafford Loan	Federal loan program based on need that allows students to borrow money directly from banks or other lending institution
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program (FSEOG)	Federal program administered by colleges that provides grants for undergraduate students on the basis of exceptional financial needs
Federal Work-Study Program	Arrangement by which a student combines employment and college study. Employment may be integral part of academic program (as in cooperative education or internship) or simply a means of paying for college
Free Application For Federal Study Aid (FAFSA)	A form completed by all applicants for federal student aid. There is no charge for completing the FAFSA. Forms are available on line and at high schools (limited number of paper copies), and may be filed after January 1 <sup>st</sup> for the following academic year.
Independent Student	For Financial Aid purposes, a student who is not dependent on financial support from his/her parents. Also called a self supporting student
Need Based Financial Aid	Financial aid given to a student who have demonstrated financial need , calculated by

	subtracting a student's expected family contribution from the college's total cost
Reserved Officers' Training Corps (ROTC)	Programs conducted by certain colleges in cooperation with the Armed Services. Local recruiting offices of the services themselves can supply detailed information about these programs and participating colleges.
Scholarship and Grants	A type of financial aid that doesn't have to be repaid, Grants are often based on financial need. Scholarships may be based on need, on need combined with other criteria, or solely on other criteria, or solely on other criteria such as academic achievement, artistic ability, talent in the performing arts, and the like



## HELPFUL WEBSITES FOR COLLEGE PLANNING

### Comprehensive Guides

**The College Board**

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

Contains information on College Board testing, admissions, financial aid, and scholarships.

**US News College Center**

<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/eduhome.htm>

College rankings and admissions and financial aid information.

**Peterson's**

[www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)

Search colleges by GPA, tuition, sports and more.

### College Search Sites

**College View**

[www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com)

Information on colleges, scholarships, and careers.

**FAFSA on the Web**

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Application for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

**FastWEB**

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

A free, searchable scholarship database.

**College Foundation of North Carolina**

[www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org)

General information on the financial aid process. Apply directly to UNC-system schools; keep track of extracurricular activities; and much more

**NCAA**

[www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)

Information for student athletes who plan to play in college.

## **WAKE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

<http://www.waketech.edu>

### **ADMISSION INFORMATION**

All North Carolina community colleges have an Open Door Policy. This policy provides for the admission of any person who has reached the age of 18 or has graduated from high school. They offer programs at all educational levels. There are Certificate Programs, Diploma Programs, and the Associate Degree Programs. For information about other North Carolina community colleges, check out: <http://www.ncccs.cc.nc.us/>

### **COLLEGE TRANSFER PROGRAM**

Through this specific program, students can earn credits toward a four-year degree by transferring to a four-year college. Two degrees are offered, Associate in Arts and Associate in Science.

### **Concurrent Enrollment at Wake Tech**

<http://www.h3o4u.net>

High school students are eligible to earn credit at Wake Tech and the high school through this program. See your school counselor or Career Development Coordinator for more information.

## SELECTIVE SERVICE

<http://www.sss.gov>

Registering with Selective Service is now possible via the Internet. All young men in the U.S., with very few exceptions, are required to register with Selective Service within 30 days of turning 18. Registration is federal law. It is also required to **stay** eligible for many federal and state benefits, including student financial aid, job training, and jobs in the Executive Branch of the federal government, such as jobs with the U.S. Postal Service. Failure to register is a felony.

### Registration

To register, click on the "Register On-line Now" Icon at the Selective Service web site ([www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov)). Enter in some basic information and then a Selective Service number will be generated. Registration forms are also available at any U.S. Post Office.

## MILITARY SERVICES

The different branches of the military visit schools many times during the year. These visits are scheduled through Student Services.

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (**ASVAB**) is an aptitude test to assess an individual's natural abilities and skills. The military branches require the ASVAB for entrance into the military. The Military Entrance Processing Service Center offers the ASVAB on a weekly basis. Contact your military recruiter to schedule an appointment or check to see if your school offers the ASVAB. The ASVAB is an excellent tool to help determine your own natural abilities, which will assist you in making an informed career choice.

Air Force	<a href="http://www.airforce.com/">http://www.airforce.com/</a>
Army	<a href="http://www.army.com/">http://www.army.com/</a>
Coast Guard	<a href="http://www.uscg.mil/">http://www.uscg.mil/</a>
Marines	<a href="http://www.marines.com/">http://www.marines.com/</a>
Navy	<a href="http://www.navy.com/">http://www.navy.com/</a>

## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

### **STARTING A PART TIME JOB? HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:**

You must complete a youth employment certificate online with the North Carolina Department of Labor

[www.nclabor.com/wh/youth\\_instructions.htm](http://www.nclabor.com/wh/youth_instructions.htm) (Acrobat Reader Required)

If you have questions about this form or youth employment requirements, please contact the Wage and Hour Bureau at (919) 807-2796 or 1-800-LABOR-NC.

### **Tips for Resumes & Interviews**

- [How to Write a Masterpiece of a Resume](http://www.rockportinstitute.com/resumes.html): <http://www.rockportinstitute.com/resumes.html>
- [Job Interviews](http://www.collegegrad.com/intv): <http://www.collegegrad.com/intv>
- [Resumes & Interviews](http://www.jobweb.com/Resumes_Interviews/): [http://www.jobweb.com/Resumes\\_Interviews/](http://www.jobweb.com/Resumes_Interviews/)

### **Career Opportunities**

- [America's Job Bank](http://www.jobbankinfo.org): <http://www.jobbankinfo.org>
- [Employment Security Exchange Commission of NC](http://www.ncesc.com): <http://www.ncesc.com>
- [JobLink from the NC Department of Commerce](http://www.joblink.state.nc.us): <http://www.joblink.state.nc.us>
- [Monster](http://www.monster.com): <http://www.monster.com>
- [News & Observer Classified Ads](http://www.trianglejobs.com): <http://www.trianglejobs.com>

## INFORMATION FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

1. Meet with an immigration attorney to discuss a pathway to citizenship.
2. Acquire an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (IRS Form W-7) to begin paying taxes.
3. Admission to the UNC system public universities is available to undocumented students with limitations. Undocumented students must pay out-of-state tuition and are considered out-of-state for admissions purposes ([http://www.northcarolina.edu/content.php/legal/policymanual/uncpolicymanual\\_700\\_1\\_4g.htm](http://www.northcarolina.edu/content.php/legal/policymanual/uncpolicymanual_700_1_4g.htm) ).
4. Private colleges are independent of the UNC system. Admissions and tuition is the same for every student.
5. Only documented students are eligible to receive federal financial aid through the FAFSA form.
6. Private scholarships and other sources of money may be available to undocumented students. However, read the residency requirements carefully.

## NCAA QUICK TIP SHEET

The NCAA has established a central eligibility center to certify athletic eligibility to Division I and II institutions (Division III institutes do not require NCAA eligibility). Students, who intend to participate with or without a scholarship as a freshman in college, must register with and be certified as eligible by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Center.

### Student Action Plan Year by Year

#### **Grade 9/10**

- When choosing courses, make sure to include some courses that are NCAA Approved Core courses.

#### **Grade 11**

- When choosing courses, make sure to include some courses that are NCAA Approved Core courses.
- Register with the NCAA, <https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/>
- At the end of your junior year, give the NCAA student release form to the Student Services office so that your transcript can be mailed to the NCAA.
- Take the SAT or ACT and have your scores sent to the NCAA eligibility center (Code is 9999)

#### **Grade 12**

- When choosing courses, make sure to include some courses that are NCAA Approved Core courses.
- Take the SAT or ACT and have your scores sent to the NCAA eligibility center (Code is 9999)
- Have your final transcript sent to the NCAA in June.

## **DIVISION I REQUIREMENTS**

For students entering any Division I college or university on or after August 1, 2008, and want to participate in athletics or receive an athletics scholarship, you must meet the following academic standards: **(1)** graduate from high school; **(2)** complete the 16 core courses listed below; **(3)** present a minimum required grade-point average in your core courses; and **(4)** achieve a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches your core-course grade-point average in the Core GPA/Test Score Sliding Scale Index.

### **16 Core Courses:**

- 4 credits of English
- 3 credits of mathematics (Algebra I or higher level),
- 2 credits of social sciences
- 2 credits of natural/physical science (including 1 year of lab science)
- 1 additional credit of English, mathematics or natural/physical science
- 4 credits of additional courses (from any area above and/or foreign language)

Information on the Division I Sliding Scale Core GPA Testing Chart is located at:

[https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/general/index\\_general.html](https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/general/index_general.html)

## **DIVISION II REQUIREMENTS**

To be a qualifier at a Division II institution, student-athletes must: **(1)** graduate from high school, **(2)** present a minimum grade-point average of 2.000; **(3)** present a minimum 820 combined score on the SAT verbal and math sections or a sum score of 68 on the ACT. **(Division II has no SAT/ACT Sliding scale, you must score at least a 820 on the SAT or a 68 on the ACT.)****(4)** complete the 14 core courses listed below.

### **14 Core Courses:**

- 3 Credits of English
- 2 Credits of of Math (Algebra I or higher)
- 2 credits of social sciences
- 2 Credits of natural/physical science (including 1 year of lab science)
- 2 additional credits of English/Math/Science
- 3 credits of additional courses (from any area above and/or foreign language)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER**

If you have questions about NCAA eligibility, please contact the NCAA initial-eligibility clearinghouse toll free at 877-262-1492, or website at <https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/> This website contains a "Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete," that can be copied or ordered.