

High School Planner

Your Guide to Planning for College



Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____

Course of Study:

College/University Prep

College Tech Prep

Career Prep

Occupational

Why College?

A college education is the best investment you can make for your future. Higher education greatly improves the quality of your life by exposing you to new people, ideas, interests, skills, activities, and career opportunities. Whether you attend a community college, a public university, or a private college or university, your life will be enriched in many ways.

There's Help Available

College Foundation of North Carolina was created to make going to college easier. We provide information and resources at no cost to guide you through every step of the process and help you make smart decisions as you plan for your education and your future.

Learn everything you need to know about planning, applying, and paying for college by visiting CFNC.org or by calling toll-free at **866-866-CFNC**.

Apply Yourself and Get to College!

When evaluating your admissions application, colleges consider a wide variety of information including your grade point average (GPA), class rank, standardized test scores, extracurricular activities, and advanced-level coursework.

To get to college, you should do the following while you're in high school:

- Plan early and work hard to keep your options for college open.

- Take responsibility for your grades and education.
- Challenge yourself academically. Grades are important, but colleges also pay attention to the difficulty of your coursework. If you want to apply to a selective college, take AP, honors, or college-level courses, if available.
- Know deadlines and meet them! This is extremely important, whether it's a deadline for testing or submitting an admissions application or filing financial aid information. This may seem obvious, but you must stay on top of submission dates because different schools have different deadlines. You may want to create a special calendar to keep track of test dates, due dates, and deadlines concerning college.

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College Entrance Requirements

North Carolina Community College System

There are 58 community colleges in North Carolina. These colleges maintain an “Open Door” admissions policy. This policy provides for the admission of any persons who are 18 or over or who have attained a high school diploma or its equivalent (GED). Admission to a college does not imply admission to all programs of study, as selected programs have limited enrollment. There are also programs that allow younger students to enroll.

Applicants 18 or older who do not have a high school diploma or GED may enroll in classes leading to a high school equivalency (GED) certificate or an Adult High School diploma.

For more information, contact the admissions office at the college where you wish to apply.

North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities

Entrance requirements for North Carolina’s 36 independent colleges and universities vary among institutions. Prospective students should contact the admissions offices at individual colleges and universities to determine specific entrance requirements. Additional information is available on each college’s website; all of them are accessible through CFNC.org.

University of North Carolina

UNC is a multi-campus university made up of 16 institutions. These are the minimum course requirements for undergraduate admission to UNC institutions. Individual campuses may have additional requirements, so be sure to check with institutions you would like to attend.

Effective in Fall 2005

- Six course units¹ in language, including
 - four units in English emphasizing grammar, composition, and literature, and
 - two units of a language other than English.
- Three course units of mathematics, in any of the following combinations:
 - algebra I and II, and geometry,
 - algebra I and II, and one unit beyond algebra II, or
 - integrated math I, II, and III.

It is recommended that prospective university students take a mathematics course unit in the 12th grade.

- Three course units in science, including
 - at least one unit in a life or biological science (for example, biology),
 - at least one unit in physical science (for example, physical science, chemistry, physics), and
 - at least one laboratory course.
- Two course units in social studies, including one unit in U.S. history. An applicant who does not have the unit in U.S. history may be admitted on the condition that at least three semester hours in that subject will be passed by the end of the college sophomore year.

Effective in Fall 2006

To be considered for admission, students will need to submit their scores for the SAT or ACT with the Writing Test. The ACT without the Writing Test will not be accepted.

- Six course units in language, including
 - four units in English emphasizing grammar, composition, and literature, and two units of a language other than English.
- Four course units of mathematics, in any of the following combinations:
 - algebra I and II, geometry, and one unit beyond algebra II,
 - algebra I and II, and two units beyond algebra II, or
 - integrated math I, II, and III, and one unit beyond integrated math III.

(The fourth unit of math affects applicants to all institutions except the North Carolina School of the Arts.) It is recommended that prospective students take a mathematics course unit in the 12th grade.

- Three course units in science, including
 - at least one unit in a life or biological science (for example, biology),
 - at least one unit in physical science (for example, physical science, chemistry, physics), and
 - at least one laboratory course.
- Two course units in social studies, including one unit in U.S. history. An applicant who does not have the unit in U.S. history may be admitted on the condition that at least three semester hours in that subject will be passed by the end of the college sophomore year.

¹“Course units” as defined in these requirements may include those high school-level courses taken and passed by an applicant after graduating from high school as well as those taken while enrolled as a high school student. For some transfer students and students who graduated from high school prior to 1990, special considerations have been made.

How to Use the Online High School Planner

You can keep track of your grades, achievements, extracurricular activities, deadlines, and other information pertinent to your college application in the **Student Planner** on **CFNC.org**. Storing this information online makes it easy to later complete online applications because your personal information is automatically transferred to your applications.

Once you've set up a CFNC account, you can maintain all of your school information, compare your academic record with college entrance requirements, explore and match careers to your interests, take sample college entrance exam test questions, and lots more. And you can update your information as often as you wish.



Setting Up Your FREE Online High School Planner is Easy:

1. Click on **Create My CFNC**.
2. Fill in your account information.
3. Click on **Student Planner** and log into **High School Planner**.
4. Fill in your personal information for each section.

English	Math	Science	History
English II	Math	Science	History
Block Schedule	Block Schedule	Block Schedule	Block Schedule
Fall Grade	Fall Grade	Fall Grade	Fall Grade
Spring Grade	Spring Grade	Spring Grade	Spring Grade
Summer Grade	Summer Grade	Summer Grade	Summer Grade
Year Average Grade	Year Average Grade	Year Average Grade	Year Average Grade
Action	Action	Action	Action

School Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Website
Wendell Community College	104 Available	28777	NC	27586	336-221-1000	www.wendellcc.edu
Blue Ridge Community College	104 Available	28843	NC	28769	336-221-1000	www.brc.edu
Rowan College	87%	604	NC	28786	336-221-1000	www.rowan.edu
Wake Forest University	104 Available	10217	NC	27158	336-221-1000	www.wfu.edu
University of North Carolina	104 Available	28701	NC	27599	336-221-1000	www.unc.edu
Central Piedmont Community College and Technical Institute	104 Available	28806	NC	27601	336-221-1000	www.cpc.edu
Guilford Community College	104 Available	4087	NC	27433	336-221-1000	www.guilfordcc.edu
York Technical College	104 Available	1792	NC	27358	336-221-1000	www.yorktech.edu

What You Need To Do: 9th Grade – Freshman Year

Welcome to high school! This year all your grades count toward the GPA colleges will see in your application material, so it's important to apply yourself to doing your best. Now is the time to explore career interests and plan with your family to meet college expenses. It's also time to plan your course work to prepare to meet college entrance requirements.

Things to Do in 9th Grade:

- Attend an orientation session at your new school.
- Meet with your high school counselor.
- Create your free **My CFNC** account at **CFNC.org**, if you haven't already. Develop a **CFNC High School Planner** and enter grades, awards, honors, etc.
- Invite your school counselor to review your online **High School Planner**.
- Make sure you are on schedule to satisfy College/University Prep or College Tech Prep and meet College Entrance Requirements as discussed on page 2.
- Challenge yourself academically. Slightly lower grades in challenging courses are better than higher grades in easy courses.
- Choose electives carefully, ensuring that they don't replace the college-preparatory courses you need.
- Explore career possibilities in the **CFNC.org Career Center**.
- Start thinking about which colleges suit your career interests.
- Use **CFNC.org** to "tour" lots of college campuses.
- Talk with your family about a college savings plan and explore savings options at **CFNC.org**.
- Create a file to keep
 - copies of report cards,
 - a record of honors and awards, and
 - a list of extracurricular activities, clubs or sports involvement at school, volunteer work, community service, and paid employment.
- Explore the **College Test Prep** section at **CFNC.org**.

What You Need To Do: 10th Grade – Sophomore Year

Grades are important, but colleges also look for well-rounded students with well-developed interests. Think quality – rather than quantity – when planning your extracurricular activities and expand your horizons through clubs, work, or volunteer activities.

Things to Do in 10th Grade:

- Meet with your school counselor to review your course load and make sure you are satisfying high school graduation and college entrance requirements.
- Update your **High School Planner** at **CFNC.org**.
- Explore the **College Test Prep** section at **CFNC.org** to study for standardized tests.
- Take the PSAT in the fall. The PSAT is excellent practice for taking the SAT, and this year your scores will not count for National Merit Scholarship consideration.
- Continue to explore career interests and information.
- Visit college campuses and "tour" colleges in the **College Fair** section at **CFNC.org**. Talk with family and friends about their educational choices.
- Continue saving for college.
- Participate in academic enrichment programs.
- Choose programs, summer workshops, and camps with a specialty focus such as computers, dance, drama, design, art, sports, media, science, music, etc.
- If you are interested in attending a selective college, register for AP, honors, and advanced courses for 11th grade, if available.



What You Need To Do: 11th Grade – Junior Year

It is extremely important to maintain good grades in your junior year. You should also challenge yourself academically because colleges pay attention to the difficulty and diversity of your coursework. The more rigorous your high school curriculum is, the better prepared and more qualified you are for college. Continue to research careers that interest you and find colleges that suit your future goals.

General Things You Should Do This Year

- Meet with your school counselor to
 - review your academic record and strengthen any weaknesses or problem areas, and
 - ensure that you are on track for high school graduation and college entrance requirements. Remember that different colleges have different requirements, so you will need to check with specific schools as you become interested in them.
- Enroll in honors, AP, and advanced courses, if possible.
- Take SAT preparation courses, or study for the SAT and/or ACT at **College Test Prep** on **CFNC.org**.
- **Update your High School Planner's grades, test scores, honors, awards, etc.**
- Attend college fairs and college planning sessions with your parent or guardian.
- Attend financial aid information sessions at your high school or local college.
- Research specific schools. Check admissions requirements against your credentials and begin to determine realistic choices.
- Visit college campuses and meet with admissions officers. Remember to call ahead for an appointment.
- Watch for open house events at colleges you would like to visit.
- Review the online application process at **CFNC.org**.
- Continue saving for college and researching financial aid opportunities. Visit **Paying For College** and **College Savings Program** at **CFNC.org** for specifics.

Fall Semester

- Find out schedules and get registration forms for standardized tests, such as the PSAT, SAT, SAT: Subject Test(s), and ACT.
- Take the PSAT in October (it's required for several national scholarships and is especially important for National Merit Scholarships).
- Student athletes should talk with their coaches about procedures to indicate interest in college-level athletics.

Spring Semester

- Register for the SAT. Find out if any SAT: Subject Tests are required by colleges you are considering.
- Register for and take the ACT and the ACT optional Writing Test, if desired. If you will be applying to one of the 16 UNC schools, the ACT Writing Test is NOT optional.
- Take the SAT. Colleges generally like to have at least two SAT test scores. If appropriate, take SAT: Subject Test(s).
- If you have a clear first-choice college, decide if you are going to apply for early decision or early action. Be aware that if you are accepted for early decision, you are likely committing yourself to attend that school.
- Select courses for your senior year that strengthen your academic record and ensure that you meet College Entrance Requirements as discussed on page 2.
- Identify and ask teachers to write a letter of recommendation for your college applications and scholarships.
- Take the Advanced Placement exam for any AP course you have completed. Your score may qualify you to receive college credits.
- Check your transcript at the end of the year to make sure it is correct.
- Use spring break or summer vacation to tour college campuses. Have questions prepared in advance and take notes on your visits.
- Explore careers by taking a summer job or job shadowing in your field of interest.

What You Need To Do: 12th Grade – Senior Year

It's very important to stay organized and on top of things this year, especially application requirements and deadlines. Review your efforts so far, make any necessary adjustments, and continue to make the best grades you can.

Fall Semester

- Review courses with your school counselor to make sure you are meeting high school graduation and entrance requirements for the colleges that interest you.
 - **Update your High School Planner with new grades, test scores, honors, awards, etc. Doublecheck that everything is complete and accurate since this information will be included in your online applications.**
 - In early September, register for the SAT or ACT, if needed. Colleges like to see senior year SAT scores.
 - Prepare your online applications at **CFNC.org**. Compose any essays that need to be included in your applications.
 - Continue saving for college.
 - Search and apply for scholarship money at **Paying for College** on **CFNC.org**.
 - Be sure to consult with your school counselor about scholarship opportunities.
 - Contact teachers, counselors, or references to write letters of recommendation for you, if needed.
 - Attend college fairs, college planning sessions, and financial aid information sessions.
 - Visit college campuses that are a good match with your credentials and career interests.
 - Narrow your choice of colleges. Many students select three to five schools to apply to – their “dream” school, their “safety” school, and two to three other choices.
 - Check with the financial aid office of schools you are applying to for
 - specific information on scholarships and costs for tuition, fees, room and board; and
 - any institutional or additional financial aid forms (such as CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE) that may be required.
- Doublecheck your transcript to make sure all the information is correct.
 - Have your official high school transcript sent to schools where you are applying.
 - Apply for early decision/early action programs if you have a clear first-choice college.
 - Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as close to January 1 as possible; most colleges recommend submitting it between January 1 (the first day it is accepted) and February 15th. You can do this online at **CFNC.org** in **Online Applications**. Note that in order to submit the FAFSA, your family's tax information should be completed for the previous year (estimation is allowed).

The FAFSA will generate a “Student Aid Report” (SAR), which will determine your eligibility for federal aid as well as for most other forms of financial assistance. Carefully check your SAR when it arrives to make sure that it is complete and accurate.
 - Student athletes should send their transcript to the NCAA Clearinghouse for eligibility certification.



Spring Semester

- If you have taken college-level courses during high school (Fast Forward, community college classes, etc.), have those transcripts sent to schools where you are applying.
- If you are planning to attend a community college, take the ASSET, COMPASS, or Accuplacer test.
- Compare acceptance letters for financial aid and scholarship offers.
- Apply for loans, if needed.
- If you are not accepted into your school of choice, submit your name to the **College Redirection Pool** at **CFNC.org** so that other colleges can recruit you (see website for more details).
- Decide which school you will attend by May and accept their invitation to become a student!
- Pay a nonrefundable deposit for freshman tuition, if required, to hold your spot.
- Ask your school counselor to send your final high school transcript to the college you will attend.
- After deciding on a school, let the other schools that offered you admission know that you will not be enrolling.
- Take exams for any AP or college-level courses you've completed. Make sure to have your official scores sent to the schools where you are applying.

Summer

- Continue to explore careers by taking a summer job or internship in your field of interest.
- Attend a summer orientation program at your new college, if available.
- Meet with your college's academic advisor, if possible.
- Enjoy academic enrichment activities.
- Secure student health insurance, if needed.
- Apply for a loan for a computer, if needed.



Fall

Success! All your hard work has paid off, and you are now a college student. Congratulations!

*ACCUPLACER, CSS, AP, PSAT, SAT are registered trademarks of The College Board.

*ACT Assessment, ASSET, COMPASS are registered trademarks of ACT.

Course Planning Worksheet

After completing this worksheet, enter your courses in your **Student Planner** on **CFNC.org**, and you'll be able to compare your plan with admission requirements at colleges that interest you. For a complete list of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Standard Course of Study Graduation Requirements, see www.ncpublicschools.org/student_promotion/gradreq.html.

Ninth Grade	Term I	Ninth Grade	Term II
Tenth Grade	Term I	Tenth Grade	Term II
Eleventh Grade	Term I	Eleventh Grade	Term II
Twelfth Grade	Term I	Twelfth Grade	Term II

Don't miss out on these essential college planning publications:

- "Finding the Right College for You"
- "Writing the Admissions Essay"
- "College Entrance Tests"
- "How Do I Pay for College?"
- "North Carolina's National College Savings Program"

Publications are available for downloading from **CFNC.org** or by calling the toll-free number.

www.CFNC.org • 866-866-CFNC (2362)

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