

Your Checklist for College



9th Grade Set Your Sights on College

- Take courses that challenge you.
- Concentrate on making good grades.
- Meet with your school counselor.
- Create a free CFNC account to record your courses, activities, and more.
- Explore career interests at CFNC.org.
- Research ways to save and pay for college.

10th Grade Keep Your Focus

- Pursue extracurricular interests, such as dance, sports, clubs, or community service.
- Review your goals for the future with your counselor.
- Update your CFNC planner.
- Start using the free SAT and ACT test prep at CFNC.org.
- Take the PSAT for practice.
- Talk with family and friends about their educational choices.
- "Tour" colleges online at CFNC.org.
- Register for AP, honors, and advanced courses, if available.

11th Grade The Critical Year for Success

- Review your academic plan with your counselor.
- Get schedules for college entrance and placement tests.
- Use the free SAT and ACT test prep at CFNC.org.
- Take PSAT in October (you may qualify for National Merit Scholarships).
- Check entrance requirements for colleges that interest you.
- Keep your CFNC planner updated.
- Attend college fairs and financial aid workshops.
- Visit colleges.
- Research scholarships, grants, and loans at CFNC.org.
- Talk with coaches about college sports and scholarship eligibility.
- Register and take SAT, ACT, and/or AP tests.
- Narrow down your list of colleges.
- Find a summer job or internship in your field of interest.

CFNC.org

Helping you plan, apply, and pay for college

College
Foundation
of North Carolina

12th Grade Fall Don't Let Up

- Review courses, graduation requirements, and scholarship opportunities with your counselor.
- Update your CFNC planner.
- Select three to five colleges—a dream school, a safety school, and others in between.
- Track application and financial aid deadlines for colleges.
- Take the first SAT or ACT offered this fall.
- Write, edit, proofread, and rewrite your admissions essays **early**.
- Ask teachers, counselors, or references to write letters of recommendation.
- Attend college day and participate in College Application Week, if available.
- Complete online college applications at CFNC.org before the deadlines.
- If your high school participates, use CFNC.org to send your official high school transcript to colleges.
- Send in any other college applications.
- Check with college financial aid offices for school-specific scholarship information and forms.
- Student athletes send transcripts to NCAA Clearinghouse for eligibility certification.
- Remind parents to plan to prepare tax information soon after January 1 for your financial aid applications.

12th Grade Spring Finish Strong

- Apply at www.pin.ed.gov to get an ID number to sign your FAFSA.
- Complete and submit FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov as soon as possible after January 1.
- For help with your FAFSA, sign up at CFNC.org for a February FAFSA Day near you.
- If not accepted by your college of choice, find new options through the College Redirection Module at CFNC.org.
- Compare admission acceptance letters and financial aid packages.
- Submit your enrollment deposit to hold your spot at the college you choose.
- Apply for education loans, if needed.
- Make sure your final high school transcript is sent to your college (goes automatically if CFNC.org sent earlier).
- Send in any early college credit course transcripts (community college, middle college).
- Take exams for any AP or college-level courses completed.
- For community college admission, take the ASSET, COMPASS, or ACCUPLACER test.

If you're a senior and haven't completed every item on this card, don't panic!
Contact your high school counselor or call 866-866-CFNC
to find out how you can get on track for college.



CFNC.org

866.866.CFNC