

Student Financial Aid

for North Carolinians
2023 - 2024

CFNC.org

Helping you plan, apply, and pay for college



About This Publication

Student Financial Aid for North Carolinians is a guide for North Carolina students and their families about how to pay for education beyond high school. Published by the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA), this guide takes the student through all steps necessary to find and apply for higher education funding.

Students and families start with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, and then are introduced to the many sources of funding, including federal and state grant and scholarship programs, private scholarships offered by North Carolina's businesses and organizations, and higher education loans.

The NCSEAA actively participates in College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) to provide a one-stop resource for college access. This collaborative effort also involves College Foundation Inc., the University of North Carolina, the North Carolina Community College System, North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, and the Department of Public Instruction.

PLEASE NOTE:

Unless otherwise stated, the NCSEAA does not distribute applications for the various scholarship programs listed in this booklet. Obtain grant, scholarship, and loan applications through the contact information listed in each entry's description. Find more information, and more scholarships, at www.CFNC.org.

This print publication is available in high school media centers, public libraries, and college and university financial aid offices.

The Grants, Training and Outreach Division of the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority prepares this publication annually. 2,000 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$4,391.80, or approximately \$2.19 per copy.

Please direct questions about Student Financial Aid for North Carolinians to Outreach@ncseaa.edu.

The federal financial aid form, (FAFSA) is available every year on October 1 for completion and submission. The FAFSA should be completed as soon after October 1 as possible with assistance available throughout the school year.

- Financial aid administrators at North Carolina college and university campuses work with students, families, and high schools to help with FAFSA completion. CFNC's financial aid map identifies every N.C. campus and provides financial aid contact information: <https://www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/fafsa-assistance/>.
- Each high school's school counseling program provides guidance and assistance with FAFSA completion and other financial aid resources. Your school counselor may have scholarship opportunities provided by local businesses and organizations.
- Federal Financial Aid, studentaid.gov, provides step-by-step instructions for completing the FAFSA and other information from start to finish on all financial aid topics and needs.

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An Overview of Financial Assistance for Students

What are you going to do after high school?

For many students, that question is difficult to answer when there is no money to pay for vocational or technical training, or for a two-year or four-year college. Fortunately, there is a lot of money available to help students reach their dreams of a college education or training beyond high school. The following information briefly describes the types of aid available and how to apply for financial aid.

Types of Financial Aid

There are three types of financial aid available to students:

1. **Scholarships or Grants:** Money that does not have to be repaid or earned; it is sometimes referred to as “free money”. Scholarships and grants are available based on the student’s financial need (need-based) or based on the student’s academic achievements or special talents (merit-based).
2. **Work:** Funds that a student earns through a job on or off the college campus. The student has the opportunity to work and earn money to assist with the expenses associated with college.
3. **Loans:** Funds that must be repaid either in cash, usually with interest, or through service. Loans made with a service option usually require that the student repay the loan after graduation by working a specified number of years in a particular field.

Applying for Financial Aid

To be considered for financial aid, students must apply using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The application is available at studentaid.gov or you may call 800-4-FEDAID (800- 433-3243). As the name says, there is no charge to complete this application and by doing so, you will be considered for all types of federal financial aid.

It is important to complete this form before the deadlines published by the college you wish to attend. The federal government has recently made several changes to make applying for aid easier. For students attending college in the 2023-24 school year, FAFSA applications will be available for completion on October 1. Additionally, families use tax information from 2021 to complete the 2023-24 FAFSA.

All students who want to be considered for financial aid should complete the FAFSA; however, some colleges and universities, as well as some separate scholarship programs, require additional forms.

Students should check with the college they wish to attend to see if there are additional forms to be completed. Local service clubs, civic organizations, employers, churches, and others have college scholarships available. Usually, your high school counselor will have information on how to apply for these scholarships.

- Students may want to explore other sources of financial aid by completing a scholarship search program on the internet. Check out CFNC's scholarship page at: <https://www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/scholarship-search/>
- It is generally not advisable for students to pay for a search, especially with so many free searches available on the internet. Your school counselor or the financial aid office at the college you wish to attend can recommend additional websites for your use.
- The best and most comprehensive online source for free financial aid information for North Carolina residents is College Foundation of North Carolina, CFNC.org. The website also provides comprehensive information to help students plan for and apply to college.

Paying For College

Financial aid is money to help you pay for education beyond high school. It can be given, borrowed, or earned to help pay for college. Without financial aid, some students would not be able to pursue an education beyond high school or achieve their career goals.

Financial aid falls into two categories: need-based or non-need-based.

- **Need-based** aid refers to student assistance offered because a student's financial circumstances would not permit him or her to afford the cost of a postsecondary education. The federal government and most states have need-based aid programs. Many colleges and universities also have need-based financial aid. Some examples of federal need-based aid include: the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Direct Subsidized Loans, and Federal Work-Study.
- **Non-need-based** aid is financial aid offered to students based on academic, artistic, athletic, or other notable achievement. Some examples of non-need-based aid include: some scholarships, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, Direct PLUS Loans, and private student loans.

Whether it is need-based or non-need-based, there are different types of financial aid, including:

- **Grants:** Grants are typically based on financial need and do not need to be repaid. There are a few exceptions that require the student to fulfill requirements or the grant may convert to a student loan, such as the Federal TEACH Grant.
- **Scholarships:** Many scholarships are offered based on merit such as academic achievement, athletic ability, artistic talent, background, or other attributes a student may possess.
- **Work-Study:** Federal Work-Study allows students to earn money through a campus-based employment program. The money earned is usually paid directly to the student by working an hourly wage and it is up to the student to manage this money wisely.
- **Loans:** Student loans are financial aid that must be repaid and should always be considered as a last resort in paying for college. Loans can be subsidized or unsubsidized but must be repaid after graduation or dropping below half-time enrollment status.

Students should always ask about any commitments they are making when they accept financial aid. Even grants or scholarships, which typically don't have to be repaid, may have requirements such as working in a specific career field in a designated location or maintaining a high grade point average. Not meeting the requirements may result in the scholarship or grant being terminated or turning into a loan which will have to be repaid.

Don't wait until your senior year to begin planning for college. In fact, the earlier you plan, the better prepared you will be for college. To be considered for student aid, a student must complete all forms required by the college, such as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the CSS Profile, and/or institutional scholarship applications.

You can start researching where you may want to pursue education beyond high school based on your career interests. You can gather information on the programs, the costs, and location to help you determine if the school, college, or university will be a good fit.

In addition, you can start researching and, in some cases, applying for scholarships. You should become familiar with scholarship opportunities that might be a good match for your interests and abilities. By doing so, you can make sure you are able to meet all the eligibility requirements -- even if you must wait until your senior year to apply.

Apply early! Some financial aid is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. In addition, many colleges have FAFSA completion deadlines, and students who complete their FAFSA after the deadline may not be eligible for as much, or any, financial aid as students who submitted their FAFSA before the deadline.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

The FAFSA must be completed to determine eligibility for federal and state financial aid programs. This includes the Federal Pell Grant, the Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant, as well as Federal Work-Study and even federal student loans. Private foundations and other organizations may also use the FAFSA information to determine eligibility for scholarships.

Eligibility for most federal, and for North Carolina aid programs, is based on financial need rather than academic achievement.

To receive aid funds, a student must be qualified to study at the postsecondary level. A student qualifies if the one of following applies:

- has a high school diploma or the recognized equivalent of a high school diploma, such as a general education development or GED certificate; or
- has completed a high school education in a homeschool setting approved by state law; or
- has enrolled in an eligible career pathway program and meets one of the U.S. Department of Education's "ability-to-benefit" alternatives.

State aid programs, private foundations, and other organizations have their own criteria for recipients. An example of a state requirement might be a minimum length of time the students has resided in the state. See the North Carolina State Grant and Scholarship Programs section of this book for more North Carolina information.

Federal Student Aid
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

UNDERSTAND AID ▾ APPLY FOR AID ▾ COMPLETE AID PROCESS ▾ MANAGE LOANS ▾

Complete the FAFSA® Form

Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college or graduate school.

New to the FAFSA® Process?

Completing the FAFSA form is free. Fill it out now.

Start Here

Returning User?

Correct info | Add a school

View your *Student Aid Report* (SAR)

Log In

Establishing an FSA ID

To complete the FAFSA, you and at least one parent will need an FSA ID.

The FSA ID is a user name and password that gives access to Federal Student Aid systems. A student or parent should never share the FSA ID with anyone. Both students and parents should keep their FSA ID in a safe place for using it in the future.

The student uses the FSA ID to log in to the FAFSA, access the IRS Data Retrieval Tool in the FAFSA, sign the FAFSA, apply for Direct Loans, and access the student's aid history on the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS).

The parent of a dependent student uses the FAFSA to access the IRS Data Retrieval Tool in the FAFSA, sign the FAFSA, and apply for a Direct PLUS Loan.

Here are the steps for establishing an FSA ID:

1. Go to fsaid.ed.gov to establish an FSA ID.
2. Enter an email address unique to the student or parent requesting the FSA ID.

NOTE: The student and parent cannot use the same email address for FSA ID purposes.

Completing the FAFSA

You should **complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1** in the year before you are requesting aid. For example, if you plan to attend college in the fall after you graduate from high school, you should complete the FAFSA in your senior year. Check school websites for school-specific deadlines.

1. Apply for an FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov. The FSA ID allows you to sign the FAFSA electronically.
2. **Complete the FAFSA at studentaid.gov as soon as possible after October 1** the year before you are requesting aid.
3. Check with the school you are attending for specific deadlines.
4. Have the following items for you and your parent(s), if applicable, on hand when you prepare to complete the FAFSA, such as Social Security cards, income tax information, and bank and investment account balances.
5. Answer all questions, including the schools to receive your FAFSA information.
6. Sign the FAFSA electronically with your FSA ID. If you cannot use an FSA ID, you can print, sign, and mail the signature page.
7. Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) when it is available. If you provide a student email address, the SAR availability information will be sent to your email.

Tips for Completing the FAFSA

Completing the FAFSA is not difficult, but some questions may not be as clear-cut as others:

- **FSA ID:** Students and parents cannot share an email address for FSA ID purposes. When establishing the student's FSA ID and password, students should not use a high school email address.
- **Social Security Number:** It is critical that students enter their social security number correctly. A common FAFSA error is entering this number incorrectly. Unfortunately, this error can delay a student's financial aid. To avoid this problem, it's recommended that students verify that their social security number is correct before submitting the FAFSA.
- **Parent information:** Students need to provide information on both parents if the parents are married OR unmarried and living together. Students who don't live with both of their parents need to look at which parent they lived with most during the last 12 months and report that parent's information (and the household information) on the FAFSA. If they didn't live with one parent more than the other, then they need to look at who provided more financial support.
- **Household size:** The household size on the FAFSA includes the parent(s) and children in the home, as well as others in the home if the parents provide at least half of the financial support.



- **Number in college:** The number in college on the FAFSA include the student and others (receiving at least half of their support from the parents) in the home attending college at least half time. Parents are NOT included in the number in college on the student's FAFSA.
- **IRS Data Retrieval Tool:** It is recommended to use the IRS DRT to fill part of the financial information on the FAFSA, if possible. Circumstances that might prevent the use of the IRS DRT are if an amended tax return is filed, or if there has been a change in marital status.

Student Aid Report

The Student Aid Report (SAR) is the output document from the FAFSA. The SAR provides a summary of the FAFSA data provided, the Expected Family Contribution (EFC), and the Data Release Number (DRN).

The SAR is ready in 3-5 business days after the FAFSA is submitted online, if the student provided an email address on the FAFSA. The SAR availability timeframe is extended to as long as two weeks if the student does not provide an email address or if signature pages need to be mailed.

The SAR can be accessed by logging in at studentaid.gov, using the student's FSA ID.

After receiving the SAR, whether online or by mail, the student and parents should review the information on the SAR for any items that need to be corrected. Corrections can be made by logging back in to the FAFSA. Any questions about whether corrections need to be made can be addressed to the financial aid office. Contact the financial aid office of the school where you hope to attend, or the financial aid office at any school near you. You do not have to be accepted or enrolled at a school in order to request help with FAFSA.

The FAFSA confirmation page and the SAR contain a Data Release Number (DRN) that can be provided to schools not listed on the FAFSA, to allow them to retrieve your FAFSA information.

Expected Family Contribution

A need analysis formula established by Congress determines a student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC); using information reported on the FAFSA.

The need analysis formula uses information from the FAFSA to determine the amount that the student and their family is expected to contribute towards the student's college education, which is called the EFC. Because it is based on family information, a student's EFC will remain the same regardless of the college they attend. Note that the EFC is not a set dollar amount that students will be expected to write a check for, instead, the EFC is a comparative measure of a family's ability to pay for education. The actual out-of-pocket cost may be more, less than, or equivalent to the EFC.

Federal Student Aid <small>OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</small>		<small>PROUD SPONSOR of THE AMERICAN DREAM</small>		STUDENT AID REPORT 2021-2022	
HTTPS://FAFSA.GOV		OMB No. 1845-0001			
APRIL 22, 2020		F 211 2021		DATA RELEASE NUMBER (DRN): 9755 EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC): 000000*C	
000001C001					
JOHN SMITH 742 EVERGREEN TERRACE SPRINGFIELD OH 55555					
Dear JOHN SMITH,					
Your Student Aid Report (SAR) summarizes the information you submitted on your 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).					
Application Status (review the checked boxes)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Your FAFSA appears to be complete. Review the data on pages 3-10 of your SAR and make corrections or updates if necessary. The school(s) listed on your FAFSA will receive your information.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Your FAFSA has been selected for verification. Verification is a process where your school confirms the data you reported on your FAFSA. Your school has the authority to contact you for documentation that supports income and other information that you reported on your FAFSA.					
Federal Student Aid Eligibility (review the checked boxes)					
The data submitted on your FAFSA is used to calculate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is 000000.					
The EFC is not the amount of money that your family must provide. Rather, you should think of the EFC as an index that colleges use to determine how much financial aid you would receive if you were to attend their school. Financial aid					

Financial Aid Offers

Once a student has been accepted at the college, the FAFSA has been completed, as well as other applications in the school's financial aid application process, the financial aid administrator will "package" all available aid options and send a financial aid offer (or award letter) for consideration. Because each college has its own packaging policy, the types of financial aid offered will probably vary from college to college, as well as the timeframe when the letter will be sent to the student. The financial aid offer may include a combination of financial aid programs from various sources, such as grants, scholarships, work-study, and student loans.

When reviewing financial aid offers, students should consider the amount of aid provided, the amount of loans in the package, and the remaining gap which, along with the EFC, constitutes the costs that the student and family will need to come up with to finance a college education.

The student may receive a College Financing Plan from the institution in addition to or as a part of the financial aid offer. The College Financing Plan is a consumer tool that is designed to simplify information that prospective students receive about costs and financial aid so that they can make informed decisions about which postsecondary institution to attend. The form can be viewed at https://collegecost.ed.gov/shopping_sheet.pdf. The College Financing Plan ensures that families will have an easy-to-read form that enables them to compare institutions in terms of grant and scholarship amounts, net costs, graduation rates, loan repayment rates, media borrowing, and estimated monthly loan payments after graduation.

Financial Need

At each college, the financial aid office will calculate financial need by subtracting the EFC from the cost of attendance (COA). The EFC will be the same at each college, but the COA will differ from college to college.

The COA includes tuition and fees, room and board (whether or not the student lives on campus there are always costs for room and board), transportation, books and supplies, and personal expenses. Some of these costs may be billed directly by the university, such as tuition and fees, as well as room and board if the

student lives on campus. Other costs are simply expenses that are related to being a college student, such as books and supplies, and transportation to and from the college.

The cost of attendance is used at each college to determine a student's financial need.



Keep this in mind:

- COA (varies by school)
- EFC (remains constant)
- Financial Need (varies by school)

Remember that there is no guarantee that a student's financial need will be entirely covered. In many cases, the college may not be able to meet 100% of a student's financial need. The difference between the cost of attendance and the amount of financial aid offered by the college is referred to as the gap, which the student and family will be responsible for paying.

North Carolina State Grant and Scholarship Programs

Note: These scholarships and grants do *not* need to be repaid. Annual award amounts are subject to change.

State Grants – University of North Carolina Institutions

▶ **North Carolina Guaranteed Scholarship**

Annual Award: Varies. Provides a guaranteed amount of financial assistance from combined federal and state aid with additional funding provided to students with exceptional financial need.

Eligibility: Undergraduate students; North Carolina residents for tuition purposes; enrolled in at least 6 credit hours at a UNC System School; demonstrate eligibility based on Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). Visit the Scholarship Search page at <https://www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/scholarship-search/> for award amounts and detailed information.

Application: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at FAFSA.gov. Submit beginning Oct. 1; the earlier the better – late applicants denied if funds are not available.

▶ **North Carolina School of Science and Math (NCSSM) and UNC School of the Arts (UNCSA) Tuition Grant**

Annual Award: Covers tuition to attend one of the 16 campuses of the University of North Carolina.

Eligibility: Graduates of NCSSM or UNCSA; North Carolina residents for tuition purposes; enrolled full-time as an undergraduate at a UNC System School in the academic year immediately following high school graduation from NCSSM or UNCSA. Visit the Scholarship Search Page at <https://www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/scholarship-search/> for more information.

Application: Eligible students are provided with instructions on how to apply.

▶ **University of North Carolina Campus Scholarship**

Annual Award: Varies. Determined by the campus.

Eligibility: Enrolled at a UNC System School. Each campus determines eligibility and recipients based on criteria established by the institution. Scholarship is designed to promote diversity. A portion of the program is reserved for American Indian/Native American students who can provide evidence-of membership in an Indian tribe recognized by the State of North Carolina or by the United States.

Application: Contact the Financial Aid Office at the UNC school the student plans to attend.

State Grants – NC Community Colleges

► North Carolina Guaranteed Scholarship

Annual Award: Varies. Provides a guaranteed amount of financial assistance from combined federal and state aid with additional funding provided to students with exceptional financial need.

Eligibility: Undergraduate students; North Carolina residents for tuition purposes; enrolled in at least 6 credit hours at North Carolina Community college; demonstrate eligibility based on Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). Visit the Scholarship Search page at <https://www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/scholarship-search/> for award amounts and detailed information.

Application: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at FAFSA.gov. Submit beginning Oct. 1; the earlier the better – late applicants denied if funds are not available.

State Grants – Private Colleges & Universities

► North Carolina Need-Based Scholarship

Annual Award: Varies.

Eligibility: Undergraduate students; North Carolina residents for tuition purposes; enrolled in at least 9 credit hours at private institutions; demonstrate eligibility based on a calculation of financial need; same criteria as Federal Pell Grant; estimated family contribution (EFC) of \$16,000 or less. Visit the Scholarship Search page at <https://www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/scholarship-search/> for award amounts and detailed information.

Application: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at FAFSA.gov. Submit beginning Oct. 1; the earlier the better – late applicants denied if funds are not available.

State Programs for Foster and Former Foster Youth

► North Carolina Education and Training Voucher Program (NC ETV Program)

Annual Award: Up to \$5,000 per school year

Eligibility: Foster and former foster students in an accredited program at a college, university, technical or vocational school. Eligible students must:

- Be a current or former foster care student who was in U.S. foster care on or after your 17th birthday or adopted from U.S. foster care with the adoption finalized **after** your 16th birthday or entered a kinship guardianship placement from foster care on or after your 16th birthday
- Be a U.S. citizen or qualified non-citizen
- Have personal assets (bank account, car, home, etc.) that are worth less than \$10,000
- Be at least 18 but younger than 21 to apply for the first time. If you have a current grant, you may reapply for ETV funds up to the age of 23
- Have accessed ETV funding less than the 5-year limit (consecutive or intermittent)
- Have been accepted into or be enrolled in a degree, certificate or other accredited program at a college, university, technical, vocational school

To remain eligible for ETV funding, you must show progress toward a degree or certificate.

For more information, visit <https://www.fc2sprograms.org/north-carolina/>, call 919-287-4970, or email nc@statevoucher.org.

Application: <https://www.fc2sprograms.org/north-carolina/>

► NC Reach (Child Welfare Postsecondary Support Program)

Annual Award: Varies based on individual circumstances. Awarded after all other financial aid, public funds, and scholarships have been processed and applied. Available up to 4 years of undergraduate study.

Eligibility: Undergraduate students who aged out of North Carolina public foster care; attending North Carolina public universities and community colleges at least half time. Eligible students must:

- Have either been adopted from NC Division of Social Services (DSS) foster care after the age of 12 or aged out of NC DSS foster care at age 18 (must have been in care on their 18th birthday)
- Comply with registration requirements for military service, unless they are exempt from registration
- Not be in default or owe a refund under any federal or state loan or grant program
- Be a resident of North Carolina, eligible for in-state tuition rates
- Be under the age of 26 (participants remain eligible until their 26th birthday)

For more information, visit www.ncreach.org, call 919-287-4970, or email ncreach@ncreach.org.

Application: <https://www.ncreach.org/apply/>

State Loans

State loans consist of Forgivable Loans and NC Assist Loans. Annual loan amounts are subject to change.

Forgivable Loans

Note: Forgivable loans must be repaid with service or cash. Those that are not forgiven through employment in a qualified position must be repaid in cash at a fixed seven percent (7%) interest rate.

► **Forgivable Education Loan for Service (FELS)**

Annual Loan Amount: Annual loan amounts are as follows:

- Certificate or associate degree: \$3,000
- Bachelor's degree, freshmen and sophomores: \$3,000
- Bachelor's degree, junior and senior: \$7,000
- Master's degree: \$10,000
- Doctoral degree: \$14,000

Maximum Aggregate Loan Limits are as follows:

- Certificate and/or associate degree: \$6,000
- Bachelor's degree: \$20,000
- Master's degree: \$20,000
- Doctoral degree: \$56,000

Eligibility: Undergraduate and graduate students committed to working in North Carolina in fields designated as critical employment shortage areas. Students must be:

- North Carolina residents for tuition purposes
- Present a cumulative minimum weighted grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 for graduating high school students, 2.80 for undergraduate students pursuing an associate or bachelor's degree, and 3.20 for students pursuing a graduate or professional degree
- Register with the Selective Service, if required
- Not be in default or not owe a refund under any federal or state loan or grant program
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress
- Be willing to work in North Carolina in a designated critical employment area
- Complete the approved education program and pass any applicable certification or licensure examination

Application: Submitted online starting the first Monday after January 1 each year. Visit the Scholarship Search page at <https://www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/scholarship-search/> for more information.

► **North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program**

Annual Loan Amount: Up to \$4,125 per semester (\$8,250 per year) for up to four years to cover the cost of tuition, fees, and books.

Eligibility: Highly qualified students committed to teaching special education or a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics) field in a North Carolina public school. Students must be selected by the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission and be accepted to enroll in an approved educator preparation program leading to initial licensure in an eligible area at one of the Teaching Fellows partner institutions, and be one of the following:

- A North Carolina high school senior
- A student applying to transfer to an educator preparation program at one of the Teaching Fellows partner institutions
- A student already enrolled at one of the Teaching Fellows partner institutions who transitions into an educator preparation program
- An individual with a bachelor's degree pursuing preparation for teacher licensure at one of the Teaching Fellows partner institutions
- Complete the approved educator preparation program and pass any applicable and required certification or licensure examination
- Attended and completed all required program activities
- Remain in good standing with the program

Application: Opens in October; visit www.ncteachingfellows.com.

► **North Carolina Transforming Principal Preparation Program**

Annual Loan Amount: Up to \$20,000 per year for up to two years. Maximum aggregate cannot exceed \$40,000.

Eligibility: Must be committed to working in North Carolina as a principal or assistant principal. Students must also be:

- Certified as eligible by the Transforming Principal Preparation Commission
- Enrolled full-time in a school leader preparation program at a grant recipient institution
- Not in default or owe a refund under any federal or state loan or grant program
- Agree to work in a qualified position in North Carolina
- Complete a school leader preparation program and pass any applicable certification or licensure examination
- Attended and completed all required program activities
- Remain in good standing with the program

Application: <https://ncfpf.northcarolina.edu>

NC Assist Loans

Notes:

- NC Assist Loans must be repaid with interest. Interest rates are fixed. For the current interest rates, visit <https://ncassist.org>.
- There is an interest rate reduction of 0.25% for auto-draft payments.
- There are no loan origination fees for NC Assist Loans.
- Annual loan amounts are subject to change.

► NC Student Assist Loan

Annual Loan Amount: Varies based on individual circumstances.

Eligibility: Undergraduate and graduate students who are North Carolina residents or who reside outside of North Carolina but are attending an eligible non-profit Title IV institution in North Carolina.

Application: <https://ncassist.org/>

Deferred payments while in school and for 6 months after enrollment. For more information, visit <https://ncassist.org>.

► NC Parent Assist Loan

Annual Loan Amount: Varies based on individual circumstances.

Eligibility: For parents who are North Carolina residents with undergraduate students who are attending an eligible non-profit Title IV institution in the U.S. or parents who reside outside of North Carolina but whose benefitting students are attending an eligible non-profit Title IV institution in North Carolina.

Application: <https://ncassist.org/>

For more information, visit <https://ncassist.org>.

Federal Grant Programs

Note: These scholarships and grants do *not* need to be repaid (with the possible exception of the TEACH Grant). Annual award amounts are subject to change.

► Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship

Annual Award: Up to the yearly maximum Pell Grant award.

Eligibility: Pell-eligible students whose parent or guardian died in the line of duty while performing as a public safety officer.

Application: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov), and contact your school's Financial Aid Office. Submit beginning Oct. 1.

► **Federal Pell Grant**

Annual Award: Amounts can change annually. For 2022–23 (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023), the award amount is up to \$6,895.

Eligibility: Undergraduate students with financial need who have not earned bachelor's or professional degrees. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/pell-grant.

Application: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at FAFSA.gov. Submit beginning Oct. 1; the earlier the better, since there may be limited funds for certain grants.

► **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)**

Annual Award: Up to \$4,000

Eligibility: Undergraduate students with exceptional financial need; Federal Pell Grant recipients take priority; funds depend on availability at school. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/fseog.

Note: Not all schools participate in the FSEOG. Students should ask their school's financial aid office if it is offered.

Application: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at FAFSA.gov. Submit beginning Oct. 1; the earlier the better, since there may be limited funds for certain grants.

► **Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant**

Annual Award: The grant award can be equal to the maximum Federal Pell Grant amount but cannot exceed the cost of attending school.

Eligibility: Undergraduate students who are not Pell-eligible based on Expected Family Contribution but who meet the remaining Pell Grant eligibility requirements, whose parent or guardian died as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11, and who were under 24 years old or enrolled in college at least part-time when the parent or guardian died. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/iraq-afghanistan.

Application: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at FAFSA.gov. Submit beginning Oct. 1; the earlier the better, since there may be limited funds for certain grants.

► **Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant**

Annual Award: Up to \$4,000

Eligibility: Undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, and graduate students who are completing or plan to complete course work needed to begin a career in teaching. Must be enrolled in a TEACH-Grant-eligible program, meet certain academic achievement requirements, and agree to teach for four years in a high-need field at an elementary school, secondary school, or educational service agency that serves low-income families. Must also complete TEACH Grant counseling that explains the terms and conditions of the service obligation. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/teach.

Note: If the student does not complete the teaching service requirement, all TEACH Grants the student received will be converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan that must be repaid with interest.

Application: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at FAFSA.gov. Submit beginning Oct. 1; the earlier the better, since there may be limited funds for certain grants.

Federal Loans

The following are Direct Loan options for undergraduate students and parents. These loans must be repaid with interest. Annual loan amounts are subject to change, and interest rates can change every year.

► Direct Subsidized Loan

Annual Loan Amount: Depends on grade level and dependency status. For more information, see the *Annual Loan Limits* table that follows. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub.

Eligibility: Undergraduate students who have financial need; U.S. Department of Education generally pays interest while the student is in school and during certain other periods; a student must be enrolled at least half time.

Application: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at FAFSA.gov. Submit beginning Oct. 1; the earlier the better.

► Direct Unsubsidized Loan

Annual Loan Amount: Depends on grade level and dependency status. For more information, see the *Annual Loan Limits* table that follows. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub.

Eligibility: Undergraduate and graduate students; the borrower is responsible for interest during all periods; a student must be enrolled at least half time; financial need is not required.

Application: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at FAFSA.gov. Submit beginning Oct. 1; the earlier the better.

► Direct PLUS Loan

Annual Loan Amount: Maximum amount is the cost of attendance minus any other financial aid received. For details and updates, visit StudentAid.gov/plus and studentloans.gov.

Eligibility: Parents of dependent undergraduate students or graduate or professional students; the borrower is responsible for interest during all periods; a student must be enrolled at least half time; financial need is not required; the borrower must not have an adverse credit history.

Application: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at FAFSA.gov. Submit beginning Oct. 1; the earlier the better.

For additional details, see *Direct PLUS Loans for Parents*, *Direct PLUS Loan Features*, and *Direct PLUS Loans for Graduate or Professional Students* in this section.

Annual Loan Limits

Think about not just this academic year, but planning for your education as a whole. You don't have to borrow the full amount each year. Check online on StudentAid.gov or with your school's financial aid office to determine the most up-to-date loan limits.

Grade Level	Dependent Students	Independent Students
Undergraduate – 1 st year	\$5,500 (including up to \$3,500 subsidized)	\$9,500 (including up to \$3,500 subsidized)
Undergraduate – 2 nd year	\$6,500 (including up to \$4,500 subsidized)	\$10,500 (including up to \$4,500 subsidized)
Undergraduate – 3 rd year and beyond	\$7,500 (including up to \$5,500 subsidized)	\$12,500 (including up to \$5,500 subsidized)
Undergraduate Aggregate Limit	\$31,000 (no more than \$23,000 subsidized)	\$57,500 (no more than \$23,000 subsidized)
Graduate/professional Annual Limit	Not applicable.	\$20,500 (unsubsidized only)
Graduate/professional Aggregate Limit	Not applicable.	\$138,500 (no more than \$65,000 subsidized)

Interest Rates

The interest on Direct Loans is a fixed rate, set on July 1 each year. For example, the rate for Direct Subsidized Loans disbursed between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 is 4.99 percent, and the rate for Direct Unsubsidized Loans is a rate of 4.99 percent for undergraduates and 6.54 percent for graduate or professional students.

Repayment

Repayment of a federal loan begins six months after the student ceases enrollment as at least a half-time student and usually extends up to 10 years. In certain situations, students may delay repayment by requesting a deferment, which is granted under a variety of conditions set forth in federal regulations. You may also ask your financial aid officer for additional information.

In addition, the federal government offers several repayment options based on your income and/or your financial situation. Contact your loan servicer to find out about these repayment options and to learn what best fits your situation.

Direct PLUS Loans for Parents

These loans are for parents of dependent students enrolled in undergraduate programs of study. Federal Direct PLUS Loans now require completion of the FAFSA and the determination of eligibility for the Federal Pell Grant or Federal Direct Stafford Loan. Also, parent borrowers must not have an “adverse credit history” as defined in federal regulations.

Repayment normally starts once funds are disbursed. However, parents may defer payments on a PLUS loan until six months after the date the student ceases to be enrolled at least half time. Interest must be paid monthly or quarterly, or capitalized quarterly.

Value: A parent may borrow up to the difference in the estimated cost of attendance and other received financial aid for each dependent student meeting the eligibility requirements.

Direct PLUS Loan Features

Parent and dependent student must be U.S. citizens or eligible noncitizens, not in default on any federal education loans nor owe an overpayment on a federal education grant, and must meet other general eligibility requirements for the Federal Student Aid programs.

- Available to parents of dependent undergraduate students
- Parent may borrow up to the cost of attendance minus any other aid received by the student.
- Interest rate – 7.54 percent for loans made July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023
- Long-term repayment options
- Credit-worthiness evaluation required
- Subject to an origination fee

Application procedure: Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov) and the Federal PLUS Loan application, which may be obtained at [Studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov). For more information about the PLUS loan program, contact the financial aid office at your son/daughter’s school.

Direct PLUS Loans for Graduate or Professional Students

Graduate or professional students are eligible to borrow under the Direct PLUS Loan Program up to their cost of attendance minus other estimated financial assistance.

Eligibility: Applicant must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen with a valid Social Security number
- Be a graduate or professional student enrolled at least half time

- Complete the FAFSA, although applicant does not have to demonstrate need
- Have either a good credit history or no credit history
- Have applied for annual loan maximum eligibility under Federal Direct Loan Program

Value: The student may borrow up to the estimated cost of attendance for the period of enrollment, minus other estimated financial assistance.

Interest Rate and Repayment Terms: Interest is a fixed rate of 7.54 percent for loans made between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023. Repayment begins on the date of the final disbursement of the loan, and the first payment is due within 60 days after the date the loan is fully disbursed. A graduate or professional Federal PLUS Loan borrower may receive a deferment while he or she is enrolled on at least a half-time basis at an eligible school. Upon dropping to less than half-time enrollment status, the borrower is not entitled to a grace period.

Work-Study Programs

Payment to students in work-study programs does *not* need to be repaid. Rates of pay are subject to change.

► Federal Work-Study Program (FWS)

This program provides part-time jobs for eligible undergraduate and graduate students. The program encourages community service work and work related to the student's course of study.

Payment Amount: Work-study students are paid at either the state or federal minimum wage, whichever is greater. However, students may earn more depending on the type of work and the rate of pay set by the school.

Eligibility: Undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay education expenses.

Application: Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at FAFSA.gov. When asked about interest in being considered for work-study, answer "yes." Contact the school's financial aid office for more information and to find out how to apply for open jobs.

► Veterans Work-Study Program

Payment Amount: Work-study students are paid at either the state or federal minimum wage, whichever is greater.

Eligibility: Students receiving VA education benefits who are attending school three quarter time or more. Individuals working under this program may work at the school Veteran's Office, VA Regional Office, VA Medical Facilities, or at approved state employment offices. For details and updates, visit <https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/how-to-use-benefits/work-study/>.

Application: Contact a local Veteran's Affairs Office or the Veteran's Affairs/ Financial Aid Office at a college/ university.

Scholarships

Private Scholarships Provided by NC Businesses and Organizations

For full details and quick links, visit the Scholarship Search page at <https://www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/scholarship-search/>. In addition to the scholarships that appear in this book, CFNC posts additional scholarships there. To help you track your scholarship applications and awards, a scholarship tracking sheet is included at the end of the booklet, or you can download it at http://mappingyourfuture.org/Downloads/MappingYourFuture_CFNC_Scholarship_Tracking.xlsx.

Privately-Funded Scholarships

► Assistance League of the Triangle Scholarship for Graduating High School Seniors

Award Amount: \$1,000 to \$7,500

Eligibility: High school seniors from Wake, Durham and Orange counties only; plan to enroll as freshman at any of North Carolina's non-profit post-secondary educational or technical institutions; be a U.S. citizen or have permanent resident status.

Deadline: March 1

► Assistance League of the Triangle Scholarship for Students Pursuing Post- Secondary Education

Award Amount: \$1,000 to \$7,500

Eligibility: Students pursuing undergraduate degree from Wake, Durham and Orange counties only; currently attend or plan to enroll at any non-profit post- secondary educational or technical institution in North Carolina to pursue a certificate, diploma, associate degree or bachelor's degree; be a U.S. citizen or have permanent resident status.

Deadline: March 1

► Aubrey Lee Brooks Scholarships

Award Amount: Maximum award amount of \$12,000 per year. One-time computer stipend of \$2,500.

Eligibility: Graduating NC high school seniors from Alamance, Bertie, Caswell, Durham, Forsyth, Granville, Guilford, Orange, Person, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, Swain, or Warren counties planning to enroll full time at N.C. State University, UNC- Chapel Hill, or UNC-Greensboro. Of the 17 scholarships, one is awarded to a student from the areas of Greensboro and High Point, and one to a NC School of Science & Math student from an eligible county.

Deadline: February 14

► **Crumley Roberts Next Step Scholarship**

Award Amount: Three (3) \$2,500 scholarships

Eligibility: Have a minimum weighted GPA of 3.2 or higher; be a community college student who will be transferring to an accredited 4-year college or university in the fall.

Deadline: January 31

► **Crumley Roberts Chairman's Scholarship**

Award Amount: \$2,500

Eligibility: Be a high school student who attended a high school in North Carolina and who will attend an accredited four-year college or university in the coming fall.

Deadline: January 31

► **Little Red Jumpsuit Tour Scholarship**

Award Amount: Four (4) \$2,000 scholarships

Eligibility: Be a girl over the age of 16 or a woman of any age who is interested in continuing her education at any level.

Deadline: January 31

► **Dottie Martin Teachers Scholarship**

Award Amount: \$500; sometimes more

Eligibility: Presently be in a teacher education program; plan to teach in North Carolina once education is completed.

Deadline: June 1

► **Golden Leaf Scholarship Program for Four Year Degree**

Award Amount: \$3,500 per year over 4 years for high school seniors; community college transfer students eligible for \$3,500 per year for up to 3 years.

Eligibility: Graduating NC high school seniors or current NC community college transfer students planning to enroll for the first time as a full-time degree seeking student at an eligible NC college or university. Resident of a rural county as identified by the Golden LEAF Foundation; see list of counties at CFNC.org. See list of participating NC colleges/universities at CFNC.org.

Deadline: March 1

► **Golden Leaf Scholarship Program for Two Year Degree**

Award Amount: Up to \$2,250 per year for curriculum students; up to \$1,850 per year for occupational program students.

Eligibility: Be enrolled at a North Carolina community college in the upcoming fall; resident of a rural county as identified by the Golden LEAF Foundation; see list of counties on CFNC.org. See list of participating NC Community Colleges at CFNC.org.

Deadline: Determined by community college financial aid office.

► **NC Assist \$1,000 No Essay Scholarship**

Eligibility: Must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- 18 years or older
- Be one of the following:
 - A resident of North Carolina who is a student or a parent of a student, who is currently attending or will attend a college or university in any state within 12 months of entering the Giveaway as a new or continuing student
 - or
 - A resident of another U. S. state who is a student, or parent of student, who is currently attending or will attend a college or university in North Carolina within 12 months of entering the Giveaway as a new or continuing student
- Have a valid SSN or TIN

Deadline: Monthly

To Apply: Visit <https://www.cfnc.org/nc-assist-no-essay-scholarship-giveaway/#financial-aid>.

► **NC Sheriffs Association**

Award Amount: \$2,000

Eligibility: Be an undergraduate majoring in criminal justice at a UNC constituent institution or an eligible private college or university; be a North Carolina resident for tuition purposes; establish financial need; be enrolled full time.

Deadline: Determined by campus financial aid office.

► **North Carolina AmeriCorps**

Award Amount: Variable

Eligibility: Be U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or lawful permanent resident aliens of the United States who are age 17 or older; have a high school diploma or a GED or obtain one while serving; earned by successfully completing a year of service; people with disabilities strongly encouraged to apply.

Deadline: Rolling

▶ **North Carolina Criminal Justice Fellows Program (forgivable loan)**

Award Amount: Up to \$3,152

Eligibility: Be a legal resident of North Carolina and a high school graduate or current high school senior; live in an *eligible county* at the time of application and demonstrate the intent to be employed as a criminal justice professional in an eligible county.

Deadline: April 30

▶ **North Carolina Hispanic College Fund Scholarship**

Award Amount: \$500 - \$2,500

Eligibility: Recent graduates of North Carolina high schools who are of Hispanic/Latino background; plan to enroll in a degree program at a community college or a 2 or 4-year college/university; be committed to public service and community development.

Deadline: Visit <https://www.thencshp.org/nc-hispanic-college-fund>.

▶ **State Employees Association of North Carolina (SEANC) Merit-Based Scholarship**

Award Amount: Varies

Eligibility: SEANC members, their spouses and dependents; based on academic performance; financial need not a factor.

Deadline: April 15

▶ **State Employees Association of North Carolina (SEANC) Need and Merit-Based Scholarship**

Award Amount: Varies

Eligibility: SEANC member, spouse of a SEANC member, or child of a SEANC member; demonstrate both academic merit and financial need.

Deadline: April 15

▶ **State Employees' Credit Union Foundation "People Helping People" Community College Scholarship Program**

Award Amount: Valued at \$5,000 (\$1,250 per semester for up to 4 consecutive semesters)

Eligibility: Must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be an applicant or full-time student who is a high school graduate or has completed the General Education Development (GED) program, enrolled in an associate degree, diploma or certificate program
- Enroll in a North Carolina community college
- Exemplify the membership philosophy of credit unions, "People Helping People," and demonstrate leadership, excellence of character, integrity, and community involvement
- Demonstrate scholastic achievement and maintain a 2.5 or higher grade point average on a 4.0 scale or attain a score of 3,000 on the GED test

- Use the scholarship to pay tuition, books, fees, course supplies, and transportation
- Agree to continue at the community college where enrolled at the time of the scholarship award for the duration of the scholarship, for four consecutive semesters or until completing a diploma program if less than four consecutive semesters
- Not be a director, employee or family member of an employee of the State Employees' Credit Union or the SECU Foundation
- Demonstrate financial need
- Be a U.S. citizen and resident of North Carolina
- Must not have been previously awarded the SECU 2 year People Helping People Scholarship

Deadline: July 1

To Apply: Speak with your community college's financial aid office for more information about applying, requirements, and deadlines.

► **State Employees' Credit Union Foundation "People Helping People" High School Scholarship Program**

Award Amount: Valued at \$10,000 (\$1,250 per semester for up to 8 consecutive semesters)

Eligibility: Must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a senior at a North Carolina regular public high school who has been accepted to one of the 16 constituent campuses of the University of North Carolina
- Enroll in one of the 16 constituent campuses of the University of North Carolina System
- Be a U.S. citizen and resident of North Carolina
- Must either be an SECU member or eligible for membership through a parent/guardian who is an SECU member
- Exemplify the membership philosophy of credit unions, "People Helping People," and demonstrate leadership, excellence of character, integrity and community involvement
- Demonstrate scholastic achievement with a maintained 2.5 or higher grade point average on a 4.0 scale, and be deserving of financial aid
- Use the scholarship to pay for full-time undergraduate student tuition and fee
- Agree to continue as a full-time student in good standing with the same university for eight consecutive semesters
- Not be a director, employee or family member of an employee of the State Employees Credit Union or the SECU Foundation

Deadline: April/May

To Apply: Speak with your high school guidance counselor for more information about applying, requirements, and deadlines.

► **Wells Fargo Technical Scholarship**

Award Amount: \$500

Eligibility: Be a full-time student enrolled in the second year of a two-year NC community college educational/technical program; demonstrate financial need and scholastic promise.

Deadline: Determined by local NC community college

► **Winston-Salem Foundation**

Award Amount: Varies

Eligibility: The Foundation offers many scholarships utilizing a one-stop application process. Filling out one application will check your eligibility for multiple scholarships, including both need and merit-based awards.

Deadline: March 15 for merit-based scholarships, July 1 for financial need-based scholarships

To Apply: Visit <https://www.wsfoundation.org/scholarships>.

Additional Resources for Teaching

- The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant in the Federal Grant Programs
- The Forgivable Education Loans for Service (FELS) in State Loans
- The North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program in State Loans

Scholarships for Students with Special Needs

► **Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf**

Award Amount: Varies

Eligibility: Have bilateral hearing loss diagnosed before the age of 4, use Listening & Spoken Language as primary communication mode, enroll in or plan to attend a four-year university pursuing bachelor's master's or doctorate degree, and have a minimum 3.25 cumulative unweighted GPA.

Deadline: March

► **Allegra Ford Thomas Scholarship (National Center for Learning Disabilities)**

Award Amount: \$5,000 (\$2,500 /year over two years)

Eligibility: Be a graduating high school senior who will be attending a two-year community college, a vocational/technical training program, or a specialized program for students with LD and/or ADHD in the fall. Documented learning disability and/or ADHD.

Deadline: April

▶ **American Council of the Blind (also includes American Foundation for the Blind)**

Award Amount: \$2,000 - \$7,500

Eligibility: Applicants need to be legally blind and maintain a 3.0 GPA

Deadline: February 15

▶ **Anne Ford Scholarship (National Center for Learning Disabilities)**

Award Amount: \$10,000 scholarship (\$2,500/year over four years)

Eligibility: Be a graduating high school senior who will attend a four-year bachelor degree program in the fall; have a documented learning disability and/or ADHD.

Deadline: April

▶ **Foundation for Science and Disability, Inc. Grant**

Award Amount: \$1,000

Eligibility: Student with physical or sensory disability who will study science, mathematics, medicine, technology, computer science or engineering; U.S. Citizen

- U.S. Citizen

Deadline: December 1

▶ **National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Scholarship**

Award Amount: Varies

Eligibility: Must be legally blind; pursuing or planning to pursue a full-time, postsecondary course of study in a degree program; residing in the United States, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico; participate in the entire NFB National Convention and in all its scheduled scholarship program activities (finalists will receive assistance to attend the national convention)

Deadline: March 31

▶ **National Hemophilia Foundation - Kevin Child Scholarship**

Award Amount: \$1,000

Eligibility: High school senior planning to attend an institute of higher education (college, university, or vocational-technical school) or a college student already pursuing a post-secondary education; diagnosed with Hemophilia A or B.

Deadline: June 1

▶ **Neyhart Scholarship**

Award Amount: Two (2) \$4,500 scholarships awarded; other smaller awards given when possible.

Eligibility: Students with kidney disease, kidney transplant, or children of parents with kidney disease or transplant

Deadline: June

Programs for Graduate and Professional Students

▶ **Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships**

Award Amount: \$30,000

Eligibility: Must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be candidates for Ph.D. or Th.D. degrees in doctoral programs at graduate schools in the United States
- Be able to fulfill all pre-dissertation requirements by the application deadline, including approval of the dissertation proposal
- Be in the writing stage of the dissertation
- Plan to write on topics where ethical or religious values are a central concern
- Have never applied for the Newcombe Fellowship before

Deadline: November 15

▶ **Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowships**

Award Amount: \$27,000 per year for three years

Eligibility: All U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, and U.S. permanent residents (holders of a Permanent Resident Card), as well as individuals granted deferred action status under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program; Indigenous individuals exercising rights associated with the Jay Treaty of 1794; political asylees, and refugees, regardless of race, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, or sexual orientation; individuals with evidence of superior academic achievement (such as grade point average, class rank, honors or other designations); and individuals committed to a career in teaching and research at the college or university level

Deadline: December 15 for application; January 5 for supplementary application materials.

▶ **George H. Nofer Scholarship for Law and Public Policy**

Award Amount: \$5,000

Eligibility: Students who are deaf and hard of hearing who use listening and spoken language; seeking a graduate degree in law or public policy/administration

Deadline: April 10

▶ **Forgivable Loans for Teaching and Health Care**

For students committed to working in North Carolina in a critical employment shortage area. See *State Loans*.

▶ **Forgivable Loans for Principals**

North Carolina Transforming Principal Preparation Program. See *State Loans*.

Programs for Military and Their Dependents

Federal Assistance

Individuals who served on active duty with the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard may be entitled to educational assistance benefits as Veterans. Active duty members of the armed services may earn tuition assistance while on active duty. Members of the Army and Air National Guard, and members of the five service components of the Selected Reserve, may qualify for educational assistance under special programs. Spouses and children of Veterans who are totally disabled from service-connected disabilities or deceased may qualify for educational assistance programs.

Applications and assistance with determining qualifications for educational benefits can be obtained from several sources, including:

- The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA),
www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/ or www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/ or 1-888-GI-BILL-1
- The US Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) Regional Office, Veterans Services Office, 251 N. Main St., Winston-Salem, NC 27155, www.benefits.va.gov/winstonsalem/ or 1-800-827-1000
- County Veterans Services Offices (96 such offices in North Carolina — search online)
- NC Department of Veterans Affairs District Offices (15 such offices — search online)
- The Veterans Affairs or Financial Aid Officer in the Veteran Affairs or Financial Aid Office of the student's college/university

Note: Funds awarded from these programs do *not* need to be repaid. Annual award amounts are subject to change.

► **Coast Guard College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative Program (CSPI)**

Annual Award Amount: Students who are accepted into this scholarship program will be enlisted into the United States Coast Guard, complete basic training during the summer, and receive full funding for up to two years of college. Funding includes not only payment of tuition, books, and fees, but a full-time Coast Guard salary, housing allowance, and medical benefits.

Eligibility: The Coast Guard College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative Program is designed for motivated individuals who demonstrate a high caliber of academic and leadership excellence and who desire to serve their country in the United States Coast Guard. Students currently enrolled, accepted for enrollment or pending enrollment in a full-time bachelor's degree program at designated college or institution (see website) with the desire to complete college and receive a guaranteed commission as an officer in the United States Coast Guard can apply for CSPI. This means that a student currently pursuing an AA/AS degree at a junior college or community college who plans to continue with their BS/BA degree may be eligible for CSPI if they are accepted for enrollment at a qualifying college.

Application: For more information, contact your local U.S. Coast Guard Recruiter or call 877-NOW-USCG.

► Department of Defense Voluntary Education Programs

Tuition assistance.

Annual Award Amount: The services typically pay 100% of tuition and related instructional costs up to certain credit caps and determined annual ceilings.

Eligibility: The Department of Defense (DoD) off-duty, Voluntary Education Programs constitute one of the largest continuing education programs in the world. Each year, approximately 300,000 Service members enroll in postsecondary courses leading to associate, bachelors, masters, and doctorate degrees. Colleges and universities, through an extensive network, deliver classroom instruction to hundreds of military installations around the world. Service members are also afforded opportunities to earn college credits for learning that has taken place outside the traditional classroom.

Voluntary Education Programs include: high school completion and GEDs; basic academic skills; college courses (traditional classroom and on-line delivery both on- and off-military installations); college credit by exam; licensure and certification; language and cultural programs; tuition assistance (TA), and Navy College Programs for Afloat College Education (NC PACE) for Sailors stationed aboard a ship.

To the extent that space is otherwise available, eligible adult family members of Service members, DoD civilian employees and their eligible adult family members, and military retirees may enroll in postsecondary education programs offered on a military installation at no cost to the individual Service TA Programs.

Application: Service members need to first check with their education counselor for the specifics involving TA with either a visit to their local installation education office or by going on-line to a virtual education center. For additional information, visit: <http://www.defense.gov/Resources>.

► Fry Scholarship

Entitlement/Scholarship.

Annual Award Amount: Subject to change due to government appropriations; consult the following website for further information and current values: <https://www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/fry-scholarship/>.

Eligibility: The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship) is a scholarship for the children and dependents of an active duty service member who died in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001.

Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

A child of a service member:

- Married or unmarried
- Turned 18 or graduated from high school before January 1, 2013. The scholarship is good until the child is 33 years old
- Turned 18 or graduated from high school after January 1, 2013. The scholarship is good at any age over 18 or after graduation (whichever comes first)
- Parent died in the line of duty before August 1, 2011. Applicants may qualify for both the Fry Scholarship and the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Chapter 35 program; Only one program can be utilized at a time

A spouse of a service member:

- Remarried spouses are not eligible for the Fry Scholarship.

Application: Apply via on one of the methods mentioned at the beginning of the *Programs for Military and Their Dependents* section of this booklet.

► **Iraq/Afghanistan Service Grant (IASG)**

Annual Award Amount: The same amount as the maximum Pell Grant for the award year, adjusted for enrollment status and cost of attendance.

Eligibility: The Iraq/Afghanistan Service Grant is for undergraduate students whose parents or guardians died as a result of U.S. military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001. Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Meet all federal Pell Grant eligibility requirements, except for having a Pell-eligible EFC
- Have been less than 24 years of age when the parent or guardian died or, if 24 or older, enrolled at an institution of higher education at least part-time at the time of the parent or guardian's death

Application: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at FAFSA.gov. Submit beginning Oct. 1; the earlier the better – there may be limited funds for certain grants.

► **Montgomery G.I. Bill – (Chapter 30)**

Annual Award Amount: Subject to change due to government appropriations; consult the following website for further information and current values: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets.asp>.

Eligibility: The Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty (MGIB-AD) offers assistance with education and training benefits for Service members who have served at least 2 years on active duty. There are five categories of eligibility for this program. Visit the following website to review complete eligibility criteria: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets.asp>.

Application: Apply via on one of the methods mentioned at the beginning of this section, *Programs for Military and Their Dependents – Federal Assistance*.

► **Montgomery G.I. Bill–Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606)**

Annual Award Amount: Subject to change due to government appropriations; consult the following website for further information and current values: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets.asp>.

Eligibility: The Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) program offers education and training benefits to members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard Reserve, Army National Guard, or Air National Guard may be eligible for this benefit.

To be eligible, the service member must have a 6-year service obligation in the Selected Reserve or be an officer in the Selected Reserve and agreed to serve 6 years in addition to the initial service obligation. Additionally, service members must have completed initial active duty for training (IADT), have a high school diploma or certificate of equal value, like a High School Equivalency Diploma or GED, before finishing IADT, and stay in good standing while serving in an active Selected Reserve unit. Visit the following website to review complete eligibility criteria: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets.asp>.

Application: Apply via on one of the methods mentioned at the beginning of this section, *Programs for Military and Their Dependents – Federal Assistance*.

► **New Montgomery G.I. Bill – Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance (Chapter 33)**

Annual Award Amount: Based on the length of active duty service, eligible participants are entitled to receive a percentage of the cost of in-state tuition and fees at public institutions or the tuition and fees capped at a national maximum rate for private or foreign schools. Visit the following website for updated information: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets.asp>.

Eligibility: The Post-9/11 GI Bill is an education benefit program for service members and Veterans who served on active duty after Sept. 10, 2001. Benefits are payable for training pursued on or after Aug. 1, 2009.

To be eligible, the service member or Veteran must serve at least 90 aggregate days on active duty after Sept. 10, 2001 and remain on active duty or be honorably discharged. Active duty includes active service performed by National Guard members under title 32 U.S.C. for the purposes of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training the National Guard; or under section 502(f) for the purpose of responding to a national emergency. Veterans may also be eligible if they were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability after serving 30 continuous days after Sept. 10, 2001. Additionally, under the Colmery Act of 2017, also known as the “Forever GI Bill,” all Purple Heart award recipients are eligible for Post 9/11 GI Bill entitlement providing the award was made during service occurring on or after Sept. 11, 2001, and the recipient continues on duty or receives an honorable discharge. Visit the following website to review complete eligibility criteria: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets.asp>.

Application: Apply via one of the methods mentioned at the beginning of this section, *Programs for Military and Their Dependents – Federal Assistance*.

► **Reserve Officers’ Training Corps Scholarships (ROTC) – includes Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Repetitive**

Annual Award Amount: ROTC Scholarships are offered at different monetary levels of up to \$180,000 annually that provide for college tuition and educational fees. Scholarship recipients also receive a monthly tax-free allowance during the academic school year for each year the student is on a scholarship.

Eligibility: Four-year scholarships are available on a competitive, merit basis to high school students who plan to enroll in the Army, Air Force, Navy, or Marine, Reserve Officers’ Training Corps at a postsecondary institution. Visit the following website to review complete eligibility criteria: <https://www.todaysmilitary.com/education-training/rotc-programs#jump-army.rotc>.

Application: Create an account at <https://my.goarmy.com>, login to the Scholarship Application, then locate and contact the Recruiting Operations Officer at the school you plan to attend.

► **Selected Reserve/National Guard Student Loan Repayment Program**

Annual Award Amount: The SLRP repays an amount not to exceed \$7,500 each anniversary year. Payments are made once a year on the anniversary of the enlistment on loans at least one year old.

Eligibility: The Selected Reserve/National Guard Student Loan Repayment Program is available to Soldiers and officer candidates who have one or more qualifying and disbursed Title IV federal loan(s). The loans must be listed on the Department of Education National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) aid summary website. Federal Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) that are in the name of anyone other than the Soldier applying for the SLRP program are not eligible for repayment. State and private loans are not eligible for repayment under the SLRP.

Application: The educational assistance grant may only be applied to those institutions approved by the NC State Approving Agency and physically located in North Carolina. To apply, please contact the State Education Office for the most accurate information or visit <https://www.nationalguard.com/tools/student-loan-repayment-program>.

► **Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Program (Chapter 35)**

Annual Award Amount: Subject to change due to government appropriations; consult the following website for further information and current values: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets.asp>.

Eligibility: The Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance Program is available to children or spouses of a Veteran or service member who has died, is captured or missing, or has disabilities. Children and spouses may be able to get help paying for school or job training through the program. Visit the following website to review complete eligibility criteria: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets.asp>.

Application: Apply via one of the methods mentioned at the beginning of this section, *Programs for Military and Their Dependents – Federal Assistance*.

► **Tuition Assistance “Top Up” Program**

Annual Award Amount: The amount of the benefit can be equal to the difference between the total cost of a college course and the amount of Tuition Assistance that is paid by the military for the course. For more information, consult your local Veteran's Affairs Office or visit <https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/how-to-use-benefits/tuition-assistance-top-up/>.

Eligibility: The Top-Up Program allows GI Bill participants to use the GI Bill to supplement the tuition and fees not covered by tuition assistance. The amount of the benefit can be equal to the difference between the total cost of a college course and the amount of Tuition Assistance that is paid by the military for the course.

Application: For information on how to apply, visit <https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/>.

► **Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP/Chapter 32)**

Annual Award Amount: Subject to change due to government appropriations; consult the following website for further information and current values: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets.asp>.

Eligibility: The Veterans Educational Assistance Program is available to applicants that meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Entered service for the first time between January 1, 1977, and June 30, 1985
- Opened a contribution account before April 1, 1987
- Voluntarily contributed from \$25 to \$2,700
- Completed your first period of service
- Were discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable

Application: Apply via one of the methods mentioned at the beginning of this section, *Programs for Military and Their Dependents – Federal Assistance*.

► **Vocational Rehabilitation for Veterans with Service-Connected Disabilities Program (Chapter 31)**

Annual Award Amount: Rates subject to change; consult the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office for further information.

Eligibility: The Vocational Rehabilitation for Veterans and Service- Connected Disabilities Program assists those with a service-connected disability that limits the ability to work or prevents one from being able to work. In some cases, family members may also be eligible for certain benefits. Eligibility is determined by a counselor located at the US Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Winston-Salem based upon application by the disabled Veteran.

Application: Contact the US Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Winston-Salem at 1-800-827-1000 or visit <https://www.benefits.va.gov/winstonsalem/>.

► **Yellow Ribbon Program**

Annual Award Amount: The Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program (Yellow Ribbon Program) is a provision of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. This program allows institutions of higher learning (degree-granting institutions) in the United States to voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to fund tuition expenses that exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate. The institution can waive up to 50% of those expenses, and VA will match the amount from the institution. Benefits are payable for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009. Program details are available at: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets.asp>.

Eligibility: The Yellow Ribbon Program can assist with higher out-of-state, private school, or graduate school tuition that the Post-9/11 GI Bill does not cover. The program may be available to applicants that served an aggregate period of active duty after September 10, 2001 of at least 36 months; were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability and served 30 continuous days after September 10, 2001; and were a dependent eligible for Transfer of Entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill based on a Veteran's service under Yellow Ribbon Info for Vets (U.S.Department of Veterans Affairs).

Application: Apply for Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits and contact the Veteran's Affairs/Financial Aid Office at a college/university the applicant plans to attend. The applicant's school will decide whether it has already enrolled the maximum number of students for the program period.

► **Veterans Work-Study Program**

See the *Work-Study* section of this document.

State Assistance

Note: Funds awarded from these programs do not need to be repaid. Annual award amounts are subject to change.

► **North Carolina National Guard Tuition Assistance Program (NCTAP)**

Annual Award Amount: Assistance for tuition to qualified members of the Guard is awarded up to an amount set by the NC State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA). Subject to the availability of funds.

Eligibility: NCTAP is tuition reimbursement program for NC Army and Air National Guard members. Applicant must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be an active drilling member of the NC Army or Air National Guard PRIOR to the start of the semester, term and/or class(es)
- Have a minimum of two years remaining as a member of the Guard from the end of the academic period for which the grant is provided
- Commit to extend membership in the Guard for at least two years from the end of the academic period for which the grant is provided. Extension forms must be effective, signed and submitted to the NCTAP Manager prior to the end of the current semester, term, and/or class(es) for which the benefit is provided
- Be in good standing with Guard unit
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an approved program of study at an approved institution
- Be certified by the approved institution as eligible to receive the grant
- Meet the approved institution's standards to measure a member's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward completion of a program of study for the purposes of determining eligibility for federal financial aid

Application: Visit the North Carolina National Guard website at <https://nc.ng.mil/ESO/Pages/NCTAP.aspx>.

► **North Carolina Veterans' Scholarships**

Annual Award Amount: Full scholarships provide for four academic years of free tuition, room and board allowances, and mandatory fees at state supported institutions. Limited scholarships provide free tuition and mandatory fees at public universities. Awards may be used for either undergraduate or graduate study.

Eligibility: To receive the North Carolina Veterans' Scholarship, an applicant must be children (under age 25 at time of application) of certain deceased or disabled Veterans or of Veterans who were listed as POW/MIA; Veteran's disabilities must have occurred during a period of war; Veteran must have been a legal resident of North Carolina at time of entry into service, or child must have been born in North Carolina and resided there continuously.

Application: Contact your local Veteran's Affairs Office or the North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs, 4001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4001, call 844-624-8387, or visit <https://www.milvets.nc.gov>.

► **North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc. Scholarship Program (NCVVI)**

Annual Award Amount: Scholarships are valued up to \$1,500 and may be used for any year of undergraduate study. Monies will be paid directly to the recipient for reimbursement of tuition, fees, housing, or books upon submission of receipts.

Eligibility: To be considered for the North Carolina Vietnam Veterans Scholarship, applicants must be a current resident of Wake, Durham, Harnett, Johnston, Franklin, Nash, Chatham, or Granville counties in North Carolina; have been awarded the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM) for service in the Vietnam War, or be a spouse, child, foster child, adopted child, grandchild, etc. of a Vietnam Veteran (a recipient of the VSM). Scholarships are awarded without regard to race, sex, age, religion, or national origin for study at an accredited institution that offers degrees, licenses or certificates. Some awards are reserved for study at junior colleges and trade schools and for senior students who participate in the Lessons of Vietnam War course.

Application: Applications can be obtained through the website www.ncvvi.org (click on Scholarship Info), by sending an email request to info@ncvvi.org, or by sending a request and a self-addressed stamped envelope to NCVVI, 7316 Ray Road, Raleigh, NC 27613. Applications must be received between January 1 and the last day of February. The applicant must provide: a copy of the Department of Defense Form DD214 to document Vietnam service; a copy of the applicant's birth certificate and/or marriage license, as needed; a personal statement; a list of current activities and awards; and a short essay (600- 900 words typed and double-spaced) on a topic relating to the Vietnam War. The essay topic will be posted to the organization's website www.ncvvi.org sometime after Thanksgiving.

Tax Benefits Related to Paying for Education

This section references resources that may assist you in learning about certain tax benefits available for and associated with paying the costs of education. The information contained in this section is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended as individualized tax advice to any person. Individuals reading this information should consult their own tax advisors or qualified financial professionals concerning the applicability of these benefits and programs to their specific circumstances.

IRS Publication 970

The Internal Revenue Service's Publication 970 entitled "Tax Benefits for Education" explains the tax treatment of various types of educational assistance, including scholarships, fellowship grants, and tuition reductions. Publication 970 can be found here: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf>.

Two tax credits for which you may be eligible, as explained in the IRS Publication, are: (1) The American Opportunity credit, and (2) The Lifetime Learning credit.

Other types of benefits explained in the IRS Publication, which reduce the amount of income tax you may have to pay, are: (1) Deducting student loan interest; (2) Receiving tax-free treatment of a canceled student loan; (3) Deducting tuition and fees for education; (4) Receiving tax-free student loan repayment assistance; (5) Establishing and contributing to a Coverdell education savings account (ESA), which features tax-free earnings; (6) Participating in a qualified tuition program (QTP), which features tax-free earnings; (7) Taking early distributions from any type of individual retirement arrangement (IRA) for education costs without paying the 10% additional tax on early distributions; (8) Cashing in savings bonds for education costs without having to pay tax on the interest; (9) Receiving tax-free education benefits from your employer; and (10) Claiming a business deduction for work-related education. Please note that you generally can't claim more than one of the benefits described in the list above for the same qualifying education expense.

The NC 529 Plan: North Carolina's National College Savings Program

The NC 529 Plan enables residents of any state to invest funds to be used to pay qualified education expenses in connection with attendance at an eligible college or university in any state, including tuition, fees, room and board, books, a computer, as well as trade schools, K-12 tuition, apprenticeships, and student loan payments.

The NC 529 Plan is designed to meet the requirements of a qualified tuition program under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, allowing Participants to save with certain tax advantages, specifically:

- NC 529 Account earnings accrue free from federal income tax and, for North Carolina residents, from North Carolina state income tax when used for qualified education expenses.
- Funds held in a 529 account for the benefit of a student can have a minimal effect on financial aid eligibility determined under the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), depending on ownership of the account, family income and size of family, and timing of the qualified withdrawal.
- The value of a 529 plan owned by a dependent student's parent is considered a parent asset on the FAFSA and is used to help calculate the EFC. Generally, the first \$10,000 in 529 assets will fall under the Asset Protection Allowance (the exact amount depends on the older parent's age). Any parental assets beyond that amount will reduce a student's aid package by up to a maximum of 5.64% of the asset's value.

For example, if a student completing the FAFSA is a beneficiary on a parent-owned 529 account with a value of \$20,000, the first \$10,000 would be excluded under the Asset Protection Allowance. The maximum consideration would be 5.64% of the \$10,000 or an increase of \$564 toward EFC.

Overall, most 529 plan assets held by parents and others will have a low impact. Additionally, depending on investment choices and market performance, the tax benefit on the earnings may outweigh the percentage of the asset attributed toward EFC as determined by the FAFSA.

NCSEAA is responsible for having established and continues to maintain North Carolina's National College Savings Program, also known as the NC 529 Plan. The North Carolina General Assembly established the Parental Savings Trust Fund, of which NCSEAA is trustee, to hold all assets of the Program. The NC 529 Plan is administered by College Foundation, Inc. (CFI), which serves as an agent of the NCSEAA.

For more information on the NC 529 Plan, visit [CFNC.org/NC529](https://www.cfnc.org/NC529).

Glossary

Academic Year – An academic year requires a minimum of 30 weeks of instructional time for a program that measures its length in credit hours or a minimum of 26 weeks of instructional time for a program that measures its length in clock hours. For an undergraduate program, a year is at least 24 semester or trimester hours, or 36 quarter hours for a course of study that measures its program length in credit hours or 900 clock hours for a course of study that measures its program length in clock hours. All programs must define an academic year that conforms to the minimum requirements even if the program itself is shorter than those minimum requirements.

Award Notification/Letter – An official notice, issued by the financial aid office, that lists all the financial aid awarded to the student. This communication may be online and generally provides the expected family contribution, cost of attendance, and the terms of the aid awarded.

Cost of Attendance (COA) – The total cost of an education, which is usually expressed as a yearly amount. COA includes tuition and fees, room and board, an allowance for books and supplies, transportation, and miscellaneous expenses, dependent care, study abroad expenses, disability expenses, employment expenses for co-op study and loan fees. The amount is determined by the financial aid office of the institution.

Dependent Student – For financial aid purposes, an undergraduate student is usually classified as a dependent and is expected to have access to parental financial resources if he/she is not married, does not have legal dependents, including children that he/she supports more than 50%, is not a veteran, is not currently serving on active duty (including National Guard or Reserves activated by Federal Authority) in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training, was not an orphan, ward of the court, or foster child at the age of 13 or any time thereafter, or is not an emancipated minor, in legal guardianship, or unaccompanied youth who is homeless or self-supporting and at risk of homelessness and under 24 years of age.

Entrance/Exit Interviews – Counseling sessions for borrowers are required before their first loan disbursement can be released and before the borrower leaves school.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC) – Determined by a formula, this figure indicates how much of a family's financial resources are expected to help pay for the student's education. The EFC is used in determining eligibility for financial aid. Both FM (federal methodology) and IM (institutional methodology) use the EFC concept, although the calculated EFC under the two methodologies may differ.

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) – The federal aid application that must be completed by students who want to be considered for federal and much state need-based aid.

Financial Aid Package – The total financial aid a student receives to meet educational expenses. It may include federal, state, and private aid such as grants, loans, work study, and scholarships.

Financial Need – The difference between the Cost of Attendance and the Estimated Family Contribution. It is used in determining what the student's aid package will be.

Forgivable Loan for Service – A form of financial aid that has a service and/or cash repayment obligation as a condition for receiving the funds. A student must promise to repay the money upon graduation or withdrawal from the program within a specified time period, either through service in a certain geographical and /or subject area or in cash at a predetermined interest rate.

Full-Time Student – For undergraduate students, this is usually a minimum of 12 semester hours of enrollment in a degree-granting program.

General Education Development (GED) Certificate – A certificate students receive if they've passed a specific, approved high school equivalency test. Students who don't have a high school diploma but who have a GED may still qualify for federal and state student aid.

Grace Period – Period of time when a borrower leaves school or drops below half-time and the borrower is not obligated to begin repayment of his/her loans – usually six or nine months.

Grant – Financial aid awarded on the basis of need or merit that the student is not obligated to repay.

Independent Student – Students who are independent do not have to provide parental information on the FAFSA. To be considered independent, students have to meet certain criteria, such as 24 years old, married, or a veteran or active duty military.

Interest – The charge made to a borrower for use of a lender's money.

IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) – The DRT electronically transfers your federal tax return information into your FAFSA form.

Master Promissory Note – The legal document that a borrower must sign when he/she receives an educational loan that lists conditions under which the money is borrowed and the terms under which he/she agrees to repay the loan with interest.

North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA) – The state agency in North Carolina that promotes access to higher education by administering financial aid and savings programs, informing students and families about paying for college, teaching educators about financial aid administration, and advocating for resources to support students. For more information, visit www.ncseaa.edu.

Origination Fee – A fee charged by the federal government and deducted from the loan before disbursement to offset part of the administrative costs of the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (DL).

Principal – The initial amount of the student loan. Interest is charged on this amount, and the origination fee is deducted from the principal prior to disbursement.

Priority Filing Deadline – The date by which a student needs to submit the FAFSA for priority consideration for state funds. These dates are set each individual college or university and are typically earlier than the federal deadline (June 30th). While students can submit the FAFSA later than this date, their award may be smaller if state funds have been exhausted.

Profile – A need-analysis form required by some institutions for non-federal aid and processed through the College Board’s College Scholarship Service (CSS). This form can be found at <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org>.

Residency – To be eligible to be determined as a resident for tuition purposes and state financial aid (in-state tuition and state grants), a person must establish that his or her presence in the state is, and during the requisite 12-month qualifying period was, for the purposes of maintaining a bona fide domicile rather than of maintaining a mere temporary residence to enroll in an institution of higher education.

State law also allows military personnel and their dependents to qualify for in-state tuition while stationed in North Carolina.

For more information on residency, visit <https://ncresidency.cfnc.org>.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) – A student must be making satisfactory academic progress to continue receiving federal aid. Each institution develops its own satisfactory academic progress standards for financial aid eligibility.

Scholarship – A form of financial aid given to students on the basis of need or merit (or a combination of both) to help pay for their education expenses. Some scholarships have community service requirements and geographic, institutional or academic major restrictions. Most scholarships require the student to maintain satisfactory academic progress for renewal.

Scholarship-Loan – A form of financial aid that has a service and/or cash repayment obligation as a condition for receiving the funds. A student must promise to repay the money upon graduation or withdrawal from the program within a specified time period either through service in a certain geographical and /or subject area or in cash at a predetermined interest rate. Also known as a Forgivable Loan.

Student Aid Report (SAR) – A federal “output” document sent to a student by the Central Processing System. The SAR contains financial and other information reported by the student on the FAFSA. A student receives a paper SAR if he or she files a paper FAFSA and does not provide a valid email address. The student receives a link to online SAR information if he or she provides a valid email address on the FAFSA. The student’s Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is included on the SAR. All information reported on the SAR is also sent to schools the student listed on the FAFSA.

Subsidized Loan – A need-based loan on which the interest is paid by the federal government while the borrower is enrolled in school or during grace and deferment periods.

Unsubsidized Loan – A non-need-based loan for which borrowers are responsible for interest from the date the loan is disbursed.

Verification – A review process to determine the accuracy of the information on a student’s financial aid application. If a student is selected for verification, he/she is required to submit acceptable documentation to support information on his/her FAFSA application.

CFNC Info

College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) is a free service of the State of North Carolina. CFNC promotes access to North Carolina higher education and assists students with education and career planning.

Over twenty years ago, several North Carolina education organizations began a collaboration to create CFNC.org, where students and education professionals find free resources to plan, apply, and pay for college. Their work over the years has provided access to education for countless North Carolinians.

The service provides, in one place, the information North Carolina students and families need to prepare for a high-quality credential or a post-secondary degree. CFNC communicates through a single, one-stop resource that higher education is available and possible, creating more opportunities than ever to go to college.

Via CFNC.org, students can use a wide range of career exploration and planning tools, and maintain a personal dashboard as they explore more than 110 North Carolina colleges and universities and search scholarships with powerful filters. Students and families find help with submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, completing North Carolina's Residency Determination Service (RDS), and can apply online for college admission; as well as access financial planning, college savings, loan, and other grant and scholarship information.

North Carolinians can call CFNC toll-free at 866-866-CFNC (2362), where specialists in career counseling, academic advising, and financial resources for college stand by, ready to help. Students, families, and counselors are encouraged to call with individual questions or to request more information.

Families with young children are able to start early in their financial and academic planning for college. Families with high school students, or adults anticipating college enrollment, find that CFNC provides detailed guidance on both college admission and financial aid. Education professionals in high schools access tools such as reporting on their school's FAFSA filers, and tracking their students' progress with career planning milestones and specific college admissions steps.

CFNC Services in North Carolina

- CFNC accounts customized by students, parents, and education professionals to organize academic and other educational activities throughout middle and high school.
- Two contact centers (one for answering questions about paying for college and one for answering questions about careers, transcripts, and college admissions) provide specialists available via phone and email year-round to help students, parents, and educators navigate the college access process.
- Seven regional representatives located across the state who maintain expertise on college access issues, develop relationships with counselors to help them guide their students, and provide presentations in schools and to community groups on planning, applying, and paying for college.
- Two additional representatives who serve Spanish-speaking families and those whose questions about financial aid are unique, and whose barriers to a college education, whether language or citizenship status, merit specialized attention.
- An active application hub through CFNC.org for students to submit college applications and request electronic high school transcripts.
- Resources to assist school counselors in preparing students for continuing their education beyond high school.