# College Is Affordable

The benefits of a college education are within reach for your child

CFNC.org/collegeworks





## **WAYS**PAys

A college degree can transform your child's life in five important ways:

- 1. More security
- 2. Better health
- 3. Closer family
- 4. Stronger community
- 5. Greater wealth

Talking to your child about staying in school and aiming for college is a good way to help him or her achieve a brighter future.

Each extra year that your child stays in school will lead to higher earnings. And for most students who go to college, the increase in their lifetime earnings is far greater than the cost of their education.

But greater wealth is not the only positive outcome of a college education. College provides a path to an overall fuller life.

That's why we want to show you that your family really can afford your child's college education.

## How do families like yours afford college?

College is affordable because of what is known as **financial aid**. Offered by the federal and state governments, colleges, and other sources, aid is available to everyone who needs it. Financial aid can significantly reduce the cost of college, even covering the entire cost of tuition and fees. Financial aid can also make paying for any small costs you may have to cover much easier to manage.

It is important for you to know that most students pay far less than the high prices you hear about in the news. So nobody should ever rule out going to college based just on published prices!

There are three types of financial aid that let you reduce and manage the cost of a college education.

Reduce the cost of college	<b>1. Grants and scholarships</b> are "free" money that you don't repay. They make the real price you pay for college much lower. Most are based on your family income, not on your child's grades or athletic ability. They come from the federal or state government, the college itself, or private organizations.		
Manage the cost of college	2. Part-time work-study jobs on campus or in the community provide good wages and flexible work hours that will fit into your child's class schedule.		
	<b>3. Student loans</b> must be repaid, but not until after your child finishes college. The federal government funds most student loans.		
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## Think college costs too much? Think again.

The amount you will have to pay for college will be based on your family's income. You will find out exactly what it will cost for you when your child is a senior in high school. At that time, you can fill out a free application for financial aid.

- In general, families who make less than \$30,000 qualify for a lot of grants and scholarships based on family income. These families pay very little for college.
- Middle income families are often surprised that they can also get grants to help with college costs. Grants can come from the state and federal governments and from colleges themselves.
- There are also tax advantages for middle income families who are saving for college through plans like North Carolina's "NC529." Income tax credits and deductions are available at the federal level as well, saving families as much as \$2,500 each year.
- While families with higher incomes do have to pay a share of college costs, most still qualify for financial aid, federal tax credits, or the tax advantages of NC529 - and often for all three!
- You may also be pleasantly surprised by how reasonably priced North Carolina colleges are when compared with most out-of-state schools.

<u>Not</u> going to college can be very costly. On average, college graduates earn 66% more income than high school graduates, and they are only half as likely to be unemployed even in difficult economic times.



For more information, go to CFNC.org/collegeworks

## There's a college that's right for your child!

#### **Community colleges**

Community colleges have two kinds of programs. One type offers diplomas and certificates that can be earned in six months to two years. These show that the student has a set of skills for a job like auto mechanics or medical technology. The other type is for two-year associate degrees. These prepare students for a career, such as a dental technician or teacher's assistant. They also prepare students for continuing their education. Many students now spend their first two years in an associate program before moving on to finish at a four-year college.

#### Four-year colleges and universities

Four-year colleges and universities offer undergraduate degrees, which are also called bachelor's degrees. Students select a major to focus their studies and prepare for a career. Examples of majors are history, engineering, biology, computer science and business. Students going to these colleges may get a job after graduation in careers like teaching, nursing or technology. Or they might go on to a graduate school to get an advanced degree in fields like medicine or law. It's also important to know that there are many kinds of colleges, with a wide range of costs. Every college charges tuition and fees, but they may be different for each college. There are also other costs of going to college, like housing and food as well as books and other study materials. These won't differ much from college to college.

## There are many great colleges in North Carolina

#### North Carolina has

#### 58 public community colleges

with campuses near every county. Tuition and fees are very low at these schools.

### North Carolina has **16 public universities**

that are part of the University of North Carolina. Examples are N.C. State, East Carolina, N.C. A&T, and UNC at Pembroke. The State of North Carolina provides funds to these schools to keep costs low for students and families.

#### North Carolina has

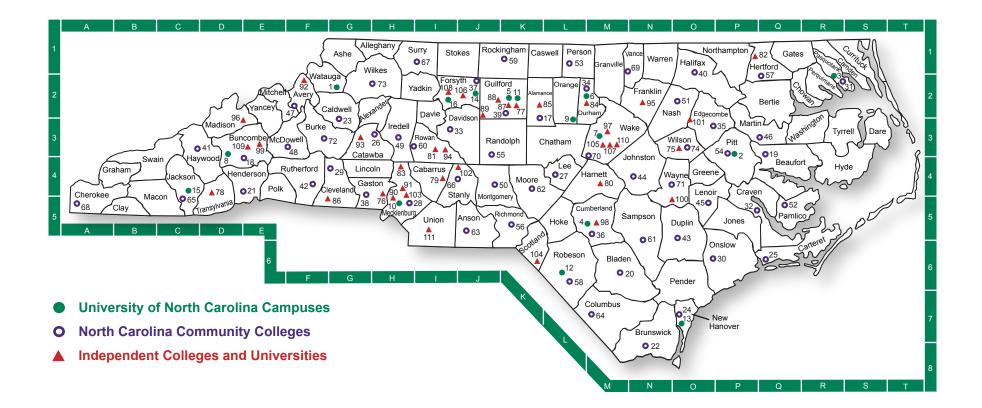
## 36 private non-profit colleges and universities

such as Elon University, Bennett College, Campbell University, and Duke University. Published prices for tuition and fees are higher at private colleges. However, they are often more affordable than public colleges because they can give more financial aid to their students.

## Find the College That's Right for You at **CFNC.**org.



Compare North Carolina colleges, take virtual tours, access college websites, and more at **CFNC**.org.



### North Carolina list of Colleges and Universities:

	University	of North	Carolina	Campuses
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1	Appalachian State University	G2
2	East Carolina University	P3
3	Elizabeth City State University	R2
4	Fayetteville State University	M5
5	North Carolina Agricultural and	
	Technical State University	K2
6	North Carolina Central University	
7	North Carolina State University	M3
8	University of North Carolina at Asheville	D3
9	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	L3
10	University of North Carolina at Charotte	H4
11	University of North Carolina at Greensboro	K2
12	University of North Carolina at Pembroke	L6
13	University of North Carolina at Wilmington	07
14	University of North Carolina	
	School of the Arts	
15	Western Carolina University	
16	Winston-Salem State University	12

#### O North Carolina Community Colleges

17	Alamance Community College	K3
18	Asheville-Buncombe Technical	
	Community College	E3
19	Beaufort County Community College	Q3
20	Bladen Community College	M6
21	Blue Ridge Community College	E4
22	Brunswick Community College	N8
23	Caldwell Community College and	
	Technical Institute	G3
24	Cape Fear Community College	07
25	Carteret Community College	Q6
26	Catawba Valley Community College	H3
27	Central Carolina Community College	L4
28	Central Piedmont Community College	H4
29	Cleveland Community College	G4
30	Coastal Carolina Community College	06
31	College of the Albemarle	R2
32	Craven Community College	P5
33	Davidson County Community College	13
34	Durham Technical Community College	

35	Edgecombe Community College	
36	Fayetteville Technical Community College	M5
37	Forsyth Technical Community College	J2
38	Gaston College	
39	Guilford Technical Community College	K2
40	Halifax Community College	
11	Haywood Community College	C3
12	Isothermal Community College	
13	James Sprunt Community College	05
14	Johnston Community College	N4
15	Lenoir Community College	04
16	Martin Community College	P3
17	Mayland Community College	
18	McDowell Technical Community College	
19	Mitchell Community College	
50	Montgomery Communiuty College	J4
51	Nash Community College	
52	Pamlico Community College	
53	Piedmont Community College	L1
54	Pitt Community College	
55	Randolph Community College	
56	Richmond Community College	
57	Roanoke-Chowan Community College	
58	Robeson Community College	
59	Rockingham Community College	
60	Rowan-Cabarrus Community College	13
61	Sampson Community College	
62	Sandhills Community College	
53	South Piedmont Community College	
64	Southeastern Community College	
65	Southwestern Community College	
66	Stanly Community College	
67	Surry Community College	
58	Tri-County Community College	
59	Vance-Granville Community College	
70	Wake Technical Community College	
71	Wayne Community College	
72	Western Piedmont Community College	
73	Wilkes Community College	
74	Wilson Community College	03

	Independent	Colleges	and	Universities
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75	Barton College
76	Belmont Abbey CollegeH4
77	Bennett CollegeK2
78	Brevard CollegeD4
79	Cabarrus College of Health Sciences
80	Campbell UniversityM4
81	Catawba College
82	Chowan UniversityP1
83	Davidson CollegeH4
84	Duke UniversityM2
85	Elon UniversityK2
86	Gardner-Webb UniversityG4
87	Greensboro CollegeK2
88	Guilford CollegeJ2
89	High Point UniversityJ2
90	Johnson & Wales UniversityH4
91	Johnson C. Smith UniversityH4
92	Lees-McRae CollegeF2
93	Lenoir-Rhyne UniversityG3
94	Livingstone College
95	Louisburg CollegeN2
96	Mars Hill CollegeE3
97	Meredith CollegeM3
98	Methodist UniversityM5
99	Montreat CollegeE3
100	Mount Olive CollegeN4
101	North Carolina Wesleyan College03
102	Pfeiffer UniversityJ4
103	Queens University of CharlotteH4
104	St. Andrews UniversityK6
105	Saint Augustine's UniversityM3
106	Salem CollegeJ2
107	
	Wake Forest University
	Warren Wilson CollegeE3
110	William Peace UniversityM3
111	Wingate UniversityI5
	University of North Carolina Campuses
0	North Carolina Community Colleges
	Independent Colleges and Universities

## Start getting ready for college now!

It's too early to fill out financial aid forms—you'll do that during your child's senior year in high school. But middle school is the best time to start your child on the path to college. Here are some things you can do:

- ☑ Let your child know that college is affordable for your family.
- ✓ Tell your child's teachers and counselors that going to college is part of your family's plan for your child's future.
- Make sure your child gets a solid base in reading, writing, and math, including taking algebra in eighth grade.
- ✓ Start saving for college. North Carolina's 529 college savings plan requires only \$25 to start.
- ☑ Learn more about the financial aid available to students from families like yours.
- Go to CFNC.org for more tips to help you and your child pay for college.
- ☑ Call1-866-866-CFNC (2362) to talk with us about planning ahead for college.

#### About The College Board

The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of more than 5,900 of the world's leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success – including the SAT® and the Advanced Placement Program®. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators and schools.

For further information, visit www.collegeboard.org.

The College Board Advocacy & Policy Center was established to help transform education in America. Guided by the College Board's principles of excellence and equity in education, we work to ensure that students from all backgrounds have the opportunity to succeed in college and beyond. We make critical connections between policy, research and real-world practice to develop innovative solutions to the most pressing challenges in education today.

For further information, visit advocacy.collegeboard.org.

#### About College Foundation of North Carolina

College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) is a free information service of the State of North Carolina to help students explore careers and plan, apply, and pay for college. Seeking to promote access to higher education, increase the college-going rate in North Carolina and advocate for resources to support students and educators, CFNC provides college access and career information at no charge for all ages, from kindergarten to adult.

CFNC is a joint effort of the N.C. Community College System, the University of North Carolina, the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, the N.C. Independent Colleges and Universities, the N.C. State Education Assistance Authority, and the nonprofit corporation, College Foundation, Inc.



