

College Compass

Foster Good Relationships With Your Teachers and Counselors!

By now, you know that teachers are an invaluable source of information about schoolwork. Beyond getting a good grade in the classroom, however, it is important to create and maintain a good relationship with teachers throughout your high school years. In addition to helping you with your study habits and maximizing your high school experience, teachers will likely be writing college recommendations for you when it comes time to apply for college. A teacher you have a good relationship with, who knows you and what your interests are will be able to write a better college recommendation for you. It is the same with counselors. Teachers and counselors can write better letters of recommendation for you if they know you well and they can write an even better recommendation if they like you!



Education Pays!

Have you ever wondered if your education really makes a difference in the amount of money you will earn in your job? The U.S. Census Bureau asked all the full-time workers in the United States about how much money they earn in a year. The salaries were put into groups based on how much education the workers had. Listed here are the average salaries for each group. Since it is the average salary, you know that about half of the people earned less and about half of the people earned more than the salary listed below.

People who never graduated from high school: \$22,152

Note: for a family of 4, anything less than \$22,050 is below the poverty line

High school graduates who didn't attend college: \$30,732

People who attended college, and/or earned an Associate's Degree: \$38,272

People who earned a four-year degree: \$50,856

People who earned a master's, doctoral, and other advanced degrees: \$72,358

Start a College Savings Program today!
Visit CFNC.org to learn how.

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Make Yourself the Boss

Does your career plan involve owning your own business? Perhaps you plan to own a hair salon, auto repair shop, or wedding planning service. What does it take to run your own business?

A person who starts his or her own business is called entrepreneur. As you think about becoming an entrepreneur, keep these things in mind. Small business owners usually work more hours than people employed by someone else. A new business can take anywhere from one to five years before it makes a profit, so you need to have another source of income to make ends meet during the first few years. Entrepreneurs need strong organization-skills, computer skills, and business training.



You can obtain business training at community colleges and four-year colleges and universities across North Carolina. Community colleges have small business development centers that help entrepreneurs develop and grow new businesses. Short-term courses at the community college can teach you how to write a business plan, finance your business, market your product or services, and keep financial records. A four-year degree in business administration provides a solid foundation with which to build the business of your dreams.

To read more about starting your own business, visit your public library and check out a book like *Careers for Self-Starters & Other Entrepreneurial Types* by Blythe Camenson.

What is a College Major?

In college, the subject that you will take the most courses in is your primary area of study and is called your “major.” For example, a person who wants to teach elementary school would major in education, and a person who wants to work as a curator in an art museum would major in art history. In addition to choosing a major, college students also sometimes have a secondary area of interest or study called a “minor.” The combination of majors and minors allows students to prepare themselves for careers that match their interests. For example, a student who wants to work for an international company could major in business and minor in Spanish.

To find out what majors and minors are offered at different schools, visit CFNC.org. You can use Matching Assistant or Major Finder to search for schools that offer a specific major.



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Helping you plan, apply and pay for college