

# Your Checklist for College



## 9th Grade Set Your Sights on College

- Concentrate on making good grades.
- Meet your counselor and discuss your goals.
- Take challenging courses, even if your grades are slightly lower.
- Create a free CFNC account. Keep track of courses, grades, awards, honors, and more.
- Explore career interests at CFNC.org.
- Research ways to save money and pay for college.

## 10th Grade Keep Your Focus

- Pursue extracurricular interests, such as dance, computers, music, sports, clubs, or community service.
- Meet with your counselor and review your goals.
- Update your CFNC planner with courses, awards, and activities.
- Practice for the SAT and ACT for free at CFNC.org.
- Take the PSAT for practice.
- Talk with family and friends about their educational choices.
- Start "touring" colleges online at CFNC.org.
- Register for AP, honors, and advanced courses, if available.

## 11th Grade The Critical Year for Success

- Meet with your school counselor to review your academic record.
- Get schedules for college entrance and placement tests.
- Practice for the SAT and ACT for free at CFNC.org.
- Take PSAT in October (you may qualify for National Merit Scholarships).
- Check entrance requirements for colleges of interest to you.
- Keep your CFNC planner up-to-date.
- Attend college fairs and financial aid workshops.
- Schedule college visits to tour the campus and talk with admissions staff.
- Research scholarships, grants, and loans at CFNC.org.
- Talk with coaches about eligibility for college sports and scholarships.
- Register and take SAT, ACT, and/or AP tests.
- Narrow down your list of colleges.
- Find a summer job or internship in your field of interest.

**CFNC.org**

Helping you plan, apply, and pay for college

**College**  
**Foundation**  
*of North Carolina*

## 12th Grade Fall Don't Let Up

- Review courses and graduation requirements with your counselor.
- Update your CFNC planner.
- Take the SAT or ACT in September.
- Note application and financial aid deadlines for colleges.
- Remind parents that you will need up-to-date tax information by January 1 for financial aid applications.
- Prepare online college applications at CFNC.org.
- Check to see if your school already uses the CFNC online transcript option.
- Write essays early. Edit, proofread, and rewrite.
- Ask your counselor about scholarship opportunities.
- Ask teachers, counselors, or references to write letters of recommendation well in advance.
- Select three to five colleges. Include a dream school, a safety school, and others that are in-between.
- Check with college financial aid offices for school-specific scholarship information, costs, and any additional financial aid forms required.
- Send in your college applications. If you have a definite first choice, consider applying early decision.
- Student athletes send transcripts to NCAA Clearinghouse for eligibility certification.

## 12th Grade Spring Finish Strong

- Complete and submit FAFSA between January 1 and February 25 online at CFNC.org. Need help? Sign up at CFNC.org for the February FAFSA Day at a location near you.
- Compare acceptance letters and financial aid packages.
- Look into education loans for students and parents.
- Submit your enrollment deposit to hold your spot at the college you choose.
- If not accepted by your college of choice, submit your name to the College Redirection Pool at CFNC.org for colleges to contact you.
- Ask your high school counselor to send a final transcript to your college (if you used the transcript service through CFNC.org, it will be sent for you).
- Make sure transcripts for any early college credit courses (community college classes, middle college) are sent in.
- Take exams for any AP or college-level courses completed.
- For community college admission, take the ASSET, COMPASS, or ACCUPLACER test.

**If you have not completed some of the items listed on this card, don't panic! Contact your high school counselor or call 866-866-CFNC to find out how you can get back on track.**



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**866.866.CFNC**