

High School Planner



Name: _____

Phone/E-mail: _____

Why College?

A college education can be a great investment in your future. Higher education can significantly improve the quality of your life by exposing you to new people, ideas, interests, skills, activities, and career opportunities. Whether you attend a community college, a public university, or a private college or university, your life will be enriched in many ways.

There's Help Available

The CFNC website, CFNC.org, was created to make going to college easier. You can find free information and resources to guide you through every step of the process and get help making smart decisions about choosing the college and career that are right for you. Learn everything you need to know about planning, applying, and paying for college at CFNC.org or by calling toll free 866-866-CFNC.

Apply Yourself and Get to College!

When evaluating your admissions application, colleges consider a wide variety of information including your grade point average (GPA), class rank, standardized test scores, extracurricular activities, and advanced-level course work.

To get to college, you should do the following while you're in high school:

- Plan early and work hard to keep your options for college open.

- Keep track of all your classes and activities in your portfolio at CFNC.org to save time when you apply online.
- Take responsibility for your grades and education.
- Challenge yourself academically. Grades are important, but colleges also pay attention to the difficulty of your classes. Admissions officers may prefer to see a B in AP History or an advanced science class rather than an A in an easier class or elective.
- Know deadlines and meet them! Whether it is a deadline for an entrance test, college application, or financial aid form, you must keep track of these important dates. You will find that each college has different application deadlines, and if you miss a deadline, you may miss out on getting admitted into a college. You may want to record all of the deadlines in a calendar online or on paper.
- Make sure you plan ahead when you ask for recommendation letters from teachers. You need to allow them enough time to prepare a good letter for you. Also, take some time to prepare admissions essays (if applicable). Your admissions essay gives the college a good idea about who you are and what you can do academically.

CFNC.org

Helping you plan, apply, and pay for college

College 
Foundation
of North Carolina

College Entrance Requirements

North Carolina Community College System

There are 58 community colleges in North Carolina. These colleges maintain an "Open Door" admissions policy. This policy provides for the admission of anyone who is 18 or older or who has attained a high school diploma or its equivalent (GED). Admission to a college does not imply admission to all programs of study, as selected programs have limited enrollment. There are also programs that allow younger students to enroll.

Applicants 18 or older who do not have a high school diploma or GED may enroll in classes leading to a high school equivalency (GED) certificate or an Adult High School Diploma.

For more information, contact the admissions office at the college where you wish to apply.

North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities

Entrance requirements for North Carolina's 36 independent colleges and universities vary among institutions. Prospective students should contact the admissions offices at individual colleges and universities to determine specific entrance requirements. To learn more about independent colleges and universities, go to CFNC.org.

University of North Carolina

UNC is a multi-campus university made up of 16 institutions. The table below shows the Minimum Course Requirements (MCR) for undergraduate admission to UNC institutions. Individual campuses may have additional requirements, so be sure to check with institutions you would like to attend.

To be considered for admission, students will need to submit their scores for the SAT or ACT with the Writing Test. The ACT without the Writing Test will not be accepted.

Minimum Admissions Requirements (MAR) for students entering in Fall 2012 are 2.3 GPA, 750 SAT, or 16 ACT. For Fall 2013 and beyond, MAR will increase to 2.5 GPA, 800 SAT, or 17 ACT.

Checklists for High School Students

9th Grade

- Take challenging courses, even if your grades are slightly lower.
- Concentrate on earning good grades.
- Meet your counselor and discuss your goals.
- 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.

UNC Minimum Course Requirements (MCR)	
English	4 course units* emphasizing grammar, composition, and literature
Math	4 course units in any of these combinations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra I and II, Geometry, and one unit beyond Algebra II • Algebra I and II, and two units beyond Algebra II • Integrated Math I, II, and III, and one unit beyond Integrated Math III If you complete Algebra I in 8th grade, it counts toward the UNC MCR, but you still need four math courses in 9th-12th grades to meet high school graduation requirements. It is recommended that all students take a mathematics course in the 12th grade.
Foreign Language	2 course units in a language other than English If you only plan to take two foreign language courses, it's recommended to take them during 11th and 12th grade.
Science	3 course units in science, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A unit in a life or biological science, such as biology • A unit in physical science, such as chemistry, physics, or physical science • A laboratory course
Social Studies	2 course units in social studies, including one unit in U.S. History

*"Course units" as defined in these requirements may include those high school-level courses taken and passed by an applicant after graduating from high school as well as those taken while enrolled as a high school student. For some transfer students and students who graduated from high school prior to 1990, special considerations have been made.



10th Grade

- Meet with your counselor and review your goals.
- Ask your school counselor about earning college credit while in high school through Career and College Promise.
- Register for AP, honors, and advanced courses, if available.
- Update your CFNC planner with courses, awards, and activities.
- Practice for the SAT and ACT for free at CFNC.org.
- Take the PSAT or the PLAN for practice.
- Pursue extracurricular interests, such as dance, computers, music, sports, clubs, or community service.
- Talk with family and friends about their educational choices.
- Start “touring” colleges online at CFNC.org.

11th Grade

- Meet with your school counselor to review your academic record.
- Practice for the SAT and ACT for free at CFNC.org.
- Take the 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 campuses 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 the SAT, ACT, and/or AP tests.
- Narrow down your list of colleges.
- Find a summer job or internship in your field of interest.

12th Grade

- Review courses and graduation requirements with your counselor.
- Update your CFNC planner.
- If needed, take the ACT in September or the SAT in October.
- 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, and check out scholarship information at CFNC.org.
- 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.
- Submit your college applications. If you have a definite first choice, consider applying early decision.
- Student athletes, send transcripts to NCAA Eligibility Center for eligibility certification.
- Complete and submit your FAFSA as soon after January 1 as possible. Need help? Sign up at CFNC.org for the February FAFSA Day at a location near you.
- Compare acceptance letters and financial aid packages.
- Apply for education loans, if needed.
- 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.)
- Send in any early college credit course transcripts.
- Take exams for any AP or college-level courses completed.
- For community college admission, take the ASSET, COMPASS, or ACCUPLACER test.

High School Course Planning Worksheet

Use the sample outline below to plan your high school courses. If you entered high school in Fall 2009 or after and attend a public high school, you will graduate under the Future Ready Course of Study. Check with your school counselor for local graduation requirements and to stay on top of any statewide graduation requirement changes (ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/graduation).

Enter your course plan into Your Plan of Study at CFNC.org, and you'll be able to click on the icon near the top of the page to see how your plan compares to admission requirements at any NC college or university. Please keep in mind that meeting minimum admission and course requirements only makes you eligible for admission; it is not guaranteed. The admission process at many campuses is competitive, so you'll want to take challenging courses to improve your options.

9TH GRADE

English I _____
 Algebra I or other Math _____
 Health/PE _____
 Elective _____

1ST SEMESTER

9TH GRADE

Earth/Environmental Science _____
 World History _____
 Elective _____
 Elective _____

2ND SEMESTER

10TH GRADE

English II _____
 Geometry or other Math _____
 Elective _____
 Elective _____

10TH GRADE

Biology _____
 Civics _____
 Elective _____
 Elective _____

11TH GRADE

English III _____
 Algebra II or other Math _____
 Elective _____
 Elective _____

11TH GRADE

A Physical Science _____
 U.S. History _____
 Elective _____
 Elective _____

12TH GRADE

English IV _____
 Math _____
 Elective _____
 Elective _____

12TH GRADE

Elective _____
 Elective _____
 Elective _____
 Elective _____

Electives: 6 elective credits are required—2 from Foreign Language OR Career Tech Ed OR Arts Education AND 4 credits from Career Tech Ed, JROTC, Arts Education, or another subject area (course concentration recommended)