



CFNC.org

Adult Learner College Information

Helping you plan, apply, and pay for college

College  Foundation
of North Carolina

How can I be a college student?

What about entrance or placement tests?

Why go to college?

What if I want a new career?

Questions About College?

What should I look for in a college?

How will I pay for it?

How do I learn more?

Whether you are returning to college after a long absence or never completed high school, College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) is here to help. The CFNC website has information on getting your high school diploma, beginning college for the first time, transferring to another college, obtaining a second degree by attending graduate or professional school, or returning as a non-degree seeking student. Start exploring these topics and more in the Adult Learner section at CFNC.org.

We're Here to Help.

This brochure will give you a quick overview of what you will find at our easy-to-use website—CFNC.org. Read more about the options for adult learners and get ideas on how best to prepare for careers that interest you. Use our free college entrance test prep course and even complete your college applications online. Our college and financial aid specialists are available to answer your individual questions when you call toll free 866-866-CFNC.

How Can I Be A College Student?

Maybe you are saying to yourself, “I never finished high school,” “I’m too old to go to college,” or even “No one in my family ever went to college.” You may be surprised to learn that over 40% of all students enrolled in college are considered “nontraditional”—they are over the age of 24, have families, or work and go to college. Adult learners often make great college students because they have such valuable life experiences and they can juggle so many tasks at once.

Why Go To College?

Many people go to college because it’s something they’ve always wanted to do but felt they couldn’t afford it, or that they didn’t have the time or support from family. In our changing job market, others want to gain new skills and training for a desired career change or promotion. Some want to pursue a graduate or professional degree or finish a program they started many years ago. Whatever your reason, CFNC.org can provide you with tools and information that can help you plan, apply, and pay for college.

What If I Want A New Career?

Going to college is a great way to prepare for a new career! Go to Career Center at CFNC.org to find out about the education you may need. Career Center has many tools for you to use, including CFNC Bridges Planning Tools, specifically Choices Planner Career Transitions for adults, now available for free using your My CFNC account at CFNC.org.

What Should I Look For In A College?

- A commitment to adult students in the mission of the college
- Academic support and learning centers
- An orientation program specifically designed for adult learners
- Faculty with the understanding and training to work with adults
- An office dedicated to adult learners or an adult student association
- Night, weekend, and online support services and classes

What About Entrance Or Placement Tests?

In order to be considered for admission into a four-year college, you may need to take an entrance test like the SAT or ACT, which are standardized tests to measure critical thinking skills and your high school preparation. Ask an admissions officer at the college you wish to attend if you have to take an entrance test. Some colleges and universities waive this requirement for adult students. If you have to take the ACT entrance test for a UNC institution, you will also be required to take the ACT Writing Test.

Students who are interested in obtaining a graduate degree may need to take the GRE or a professional school entrance exam. Test preparation tools for the SAT, ACT, and GRE are available in the Student Planner at CFNC.org.

Many two-year community colleges require a placement test instead of the SAT or ACT. Community college advisors use tests such as the ASSET, COMPASS, or ACCUPLACER (CPT) to place you into the appropriate math and English courses. Admissions officers or advisors often have test preparation materials either on site or online. For more information on college entrance and placement tests, click on Downloadable Resources at CFNC.org to get your free copy of the CFNC publication “College Entrance Tests.”

Is Financial Aid Available?

Yes. If you are enrolled at least half-time, there is often federal, state, and institutional aid available to help you pay for college. Some colleges may have other financial assistance available, such as the Federal Pell Grant, even if you are enrolled less than half-time.

An important first step is to talk with an admissions officer at the college you plan to attend. You should also talk with an advisor in the financial aid office to make sure you know all your options and important deadlines.

To be considered for federal and state aid, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). FAFSA professionals use your previous year's tax information to help determine how much you can pay toward your education and to formulate your eligibility for aid.

It's worth your time to complete financial aid forms to see what grants, scholarships, and low-cost education loans may be available to help pay for your education. There are even some scholarship-loans that you can pay back by service in particular careers or tuition reimbursement programs through your employer's human resources benefits officer. Learn more about the financial aid process and research your options in Paying for College at CFNC.org.

Financial Aid Alert!

Be wary of any offers to locate scholarships for a fee; you don't have to pay to find financial aid. With a little effort and free help from CFNC, you can get all the information you need. Call toll free 866-866-CFNC and select option 2 if you have questions about financial aid.

How Do I Learn More?

- Download free CFNC publications such as "Transfer Students," "Distance Education," and "How Do I Pay for College?" at CFNC.org.
- Call toll free 866-866-CFNC to speak with a college information specialist about college and career planning (select option 1) or to speak with a financial aid specialist (select option 2). Help is also available in Spanish (select option 3).
- Create your free and secure online My CFNC account at CFNC.org by clicking on Create My CFNC and Create New Account. An account gives you access to many of the tools and services at CFNC.org.
- For more information on the FAFSA, visit www.fafsa.ed.gov, and register for the annual FAFSA Day in February on CFNC.org. Financial aid professionals can assist you with completing your online application on FAFSA Day, an event cosponsored by CFNC and the NC Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.
- Learn more about online courses and degree programs by visiting the following websites:
 - University of North Carolina System at <http://online.northcarolina.edu>
 - North Carolina Community College System at <http://vlc.ncccommunitycolleges.edu>
 - North Carolina's Independent Colleges and Universities at www.ncicu.org/adults.html



College [®]
Foundation
of North Carolina

CFNC.org **866.866.CFNC**

Servicios en español disponibles