

College Application Tips

Applying to college is **exciting**, but you'll need to stay **organized**



Give yourself enough time to complete applications

It is important to start early. Many students apply to college in the Fall of their senior year to meet early application deadlines. Many colleges open their applications around August. As part of the application process, you may be asked to submit letters of recommendation and an essay along with your transcripts, so you want to leave enough time for these steps.

Pro Tip: make sure to keep up with **important deadlines**. There is a list of all major deadlines for most of the colleges in North Carolina. Just go to **CFNC.org** and select "Apply to College."



Apply to more than one college

You may have that one dream college in mind, but it is important to keep a list of colleges that have the programs and qualities you are looking for.

Pro Tip: Be sure to find the **right college fit for you**. There may be a number of colleges you have never heard of, so start your research early to build your target list of colleges that may be of interest to you.



Be ready to submit certain documents

Every college is different, but most require two things: an online application and an official high school transcript. To take advantage of College Application Week (CAW), where many colleges waive application fees, you need to submit applications through **CFNC.org**.

Pro Tip: Some colleges also require **letters of recommendation or essays**. Make sure to reach out to potential references ahead of time. These should be teachers, counselors, coaches, or community leaders who know you well and can speak to your good qualities. You should not use relatives.



Scan for more tips and resources

Application Do's and Don'ts

DO

- ✓ Consistently check your email and application portals for communication regarding the status of your applications.
- ✓ Use a personal email, rather than your high school email so you continue to receive important communications after you graduate.
- ✓ Speak with admissions counselors who contact you. You want to make a good first impression.
- ✓ Speak to the college's financial aid office and ask about your award letter, scholarship opportunities, and other financial aid-related questions.
- ✓ Use all the resources at your disposal to help you along the way. This could be your school counselor, [CFNC.org](https://www.cfnc.org), teachers, parents, and others.

DON'T

- ✗ Apply to only one college that you consider your dream school without researching their programs.
- ✗ Submit your application and just wait for an acceptance letter. You could be missing documents that you forgot about or didn't know of.
- ✗ Ignore admissions counselors' phone calls, texts, and emails. They could be reaching out to you about important updates about your application.
- ✗ Commit to a college without fully understanding your financial aid package and without knowing your exact cost to attend.
- ✗ Go through the application process on your own. There are many resources out there to help you find and afford the college of your dreams.