



## NC Countdown to College Sample Events

Below is a sample schedule that you may consider using during the week of your event. The items on this schedule are just examples. Use the options that work best for your students, and feel free to add your own ideas!

If you are hosting NC Countdown to College at a location other than a school, the events listed below can be modified as time and resources allow. Before the event, do your best to communicate the need for students to bring their necessary information with them on the day they apply for college.

### Sample Weekly Events during NC Countdown to College

#### Week 1- Imagine Your Future

##### **Monday**

- Whether you decide to do a pep rally or a presentation in an auditorium or cafeteria, a kickoff event will inform students of the month's activities and build enthusiasm, as well as encourage students to attend.
- Coffee with a Counselor: Offer parents the chance to sign up for a time to have "coffee with a counselor" in the morning or evening to discuss college planning.

##### **Tuesday**

- Invite an expert you know to talk to your senior students about career exploration, college preparation and the financial aid process.
- Invite professionals from your community to mix and mingle with seniors who may be interested in their career field. Students are encouraged to dress in professional attire to practice professional networking during the event.
- Host workshops on programs and majors. [Explore Programs and Majors](#) on CFNC.org.

##### **Wednesday**

- Invite representatives from local colleges (or other colleges your seniors may be able to attend) to set up booths for an allotted time during the school day so students can ask questions and gather information about the colleges

##### **Thursday**

- FAFSA/RDS Night- host a FAFSA night for parent and students to complete the FAFSA and RDS. The workshop can give an overview of the financial aid process and the residency determination service system.
- Host workshops on scholarship opportunities and paying for college. Financial aid and [scholarships](#) help offset cost differences between two colleges. See information about [Paying for College](#) on CFNC.org.

##### **Friday**

- Host a panel discussion with college and career representatives, current college students, and/or parents of current college students.

## Week 2- Prepare to Apply

### **Monday**

- Host a MyCFNC workshop for students that may need to create a CFNC account or update information to their account. In order for students to submit applications online via CFNC.org, students must create an account prior to college application week.

### **Tuesday**

- Invite English teachers to host essay workshops for students to complete essays or to get assistance completing essays.
- Invite English teachers to review essay writing skills during English classes.
- English teachers can use the CFNC publication “Writing Your College Admissions Essay” to encourage students to work on admission or scholarship essays.  
[https://www.cfnc.org/static/pdf/home/sc/pdf/Writing\\_Your\\_Admissions\\_Essay.pdf](https://www.cfnc.org/static/pdf/home/sc/pdf/Writing_Your_Admissions_Essay.pdf)

### **Wednesday**

- To assist students with the online application during college application week, host a practice application session with your seniors. Practice applications can be found on [cfnc.org/C2C](http://cfnc.org/C2C).

### **Thursday**

- Utilize the scavenger hunt to help students familiarize themselves with the many steps (Applications, FAFSA, and RDS) to college admissions.

## Week 3-College Application Week

- **College Application Week Event (Monday-Friday)**
  - During the event, students (by class, or by any other method that works best at your organization) will be brought to a computer lab or designated space with their application information. Volunteers will help students apply to at least one college during this time. Students should also complete the online exit survey before they leave. Students who complete an application will receive an “I Applied” sticker.
  - Provide a sign-in sheet for seniors to sign as they enter. As each student is leaving, gather information from them about: Number of applications, name(s) of college(s), and whether applications are complete or incomplete. This information can be used to assist students in completion of incomplete applications during the week.
  - Be sure to stress the importance of protecting and destroying their biographical information worksheets and payment information when they’re finished if applicable. Emphasize that this data can be used to commit fraud using their (or their parents’) information.
  - If possible, provide a shredder for them to use to destroy sensitive information that may be written on paper.

### **Friday**

- Celebration
  - Whether you decide to do a pizza party, ice cream social or other event, students who completed at least one college application will be invited to celebrate their future

## Week 4- I Applied, Now What?

### **Monday-Friday**



- Create a “College Wall”. Seniors write the names of the colleges to which they have applied on banners or strips of construction paper to hang in a main hallway. Highlight college names when acceptances are received. Utilize
- Assist students in completing incomplete applications. Please note completion of applications during this week may not be eligible for free application fee waivers.
- Assist students in completion of FAFSA.
- Hold workshops and/or one on one meetings with seniors to discuss what to expect after their application have been submitted.

### Sample Daily Announcements during College Application Week

- Each day, a college admission tip or fact can be presented during the morning and afternoon announcements. Seniors will also be encouraged to attend the day’s or the following day’s activities. Ideas:
  - **Monday-** Hey, seniors! It’s College Application Week, and you can’t enroll if you don’t apply! Today’s event is...
  - **Tuesday-** College graduates make about a million more in salary over their lifetime than non- college grads. Who wants to be a millionaire? Get involved in College App Week! Today’s event is...
  - **Wednesday-** Worried about a job after high school? College grads have low unemployment rates compared to those that don’t have a degree. High school dropouts are four times more likely than college graduates to be unemployed. Check out College App Week! Today’s event is...
  - **Thursday-** Planning for college is a team effort. Who’s on your team? Your parents, teachers, coaches and school counselor(s) are all here to help you during College App Week. Today’s event is...
  - **Friday-** Seniors, we’re wrapping up College App Week with a few reminders: Make sure you file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible to make sure you get all the financial aid you are eligible for. And remember, the FAFSA is a FREE application, so be sure to fill it out at the FREE website, FAFSA.gov.
- The day before College Application Day, make announcements in senior classes reminding them to bring their bio information and application fee.

### Apparel

- Students and teachers can be encouraged to wear college clothing each day of the week.