

put  
College  
in your  
future

Middle School Students



College  Foundation  
of North Carolina

## Why College?

A college education is a great investment in your future. Over a lifetime, college graduates can earn up to \$1.5 million more than high school drop-outs. But higher education enriches more than your bank account. Studies have shown that people with more education enjoy longer lives, vote more often, stay married longer, and volunteer to help others more frequently. And education improves the quality of your everyday life as well, exposing you to new people, ideas, interests, skills, and activities.

## Why Now?

College may seem like a long way off, but the time to start preparing is **NOW**. In middle school, you build the foundation for the rest of your education. So whether it's building a bridge, teaching children how to read, or being the best citizen you can be, education gives you the knowledge to imagine the best future possible and starts you on a path to get there.

## We're Here to Help

College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) offers help throughout the entire process of planning, applying, and paying for college. Our website offers information and services for students and parents. At [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org), you can find out what careers are of interest to you, what colleges and universities North Carolina has to offer, and how to begin today to save money to pay for the education of your dreams.

Start by visiting [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org) to set up your own CFNC account or call toll free 866-866-CFNC. You can e-mail your questions through the website or talk to a college or financial aid specialist today.

# Take the Right Steps Toward College

## step 1 HIT THE BOOKS

Now is the time to develop good learning habits that will help you in high school and college. Make sure you're getting the most out of your education by:

- choosing the right courses
- reading, writing, studying
- learning how you learn
- challenging yourself
- paying attention in class
- working hard
- managing your time
- reading, writing, and studying even more
- earning the best grades you can

At [CFNC.org](https://www.cfnc.org), you can track your course plan, record grades, and learn a new word every day.

## step 2 GET INVOLVED

Being part of a group or organization increases your confidence and broadens your learning. Also, colleges are very interested in students who participate in extracurricular activities. Below is a list of some extracurricular activities you might consider. Check with your school and community organizations to see what activities are available to you.

Baseball/Softball	Piano Lessons
Debate Club	Dance
Drama	Boy Scouts
Yearbook	Church Choir
Civic Club	Volunteer Work
Summer Camp	Babysitting
Creative Writing	Football
Band	Student Government

At [CFNC.org](https://www.cfnc.org), you can record all your activities and find summer enrichment programs.

## step 3 HAVE A PLAN

Your career and college choices over the next few years will have a major impact on your future. Below are some questions to consider that can help you make better choices for your future.

- What skills and talents do you have?
- What careers interest you?
- What education do you need to get the job you want?
- Which colleges offer you the education you want?
- How much does college really cost?
- What scholarship opportunities are available?

At [CFNC.org](https://www.cfnc.org), you can identify careers, tour colleges, and figure out how to save and pay for college.





Helping you plan, apply, and pay for college



A service of the State of North Carolina  
provided by Pathways, CFI, and NCSEAA.

**CFNC.org**

**866.866.CFNC**