

# Your Checklist for College



## 9th Grade Set Your Sights on College

- Take courses that challenge you.
- Meet with your school counselor to discuss your educational and course options.
- Explore course options such as AP, honors, and Career and College Promise.
- Create a free CFNC account to save your courses, activities, and more.
- Discover career interests at CFNC.org.
- Research ways to save and pay for college.

## 10th Grade Keep Your Focus

- Pursue extracurricular interests, such as dance, sports, clubs, or community service.
- Review your goals for the future with your counselor.
- Update your CFNC plan of study.
- Start using the free SAT and ACT test prep at CFNC.org.
- Look on CFNC.org for free SAT and ACT test prep resources.
- Take the PSAT for practice.
- Talk with family and friends about their educational choices.
- Use CFNC's College Search tool to research N.C. colleges.

## 11th Grade The Critical Year for Success

- Review your academic plan with your counselor.
- Use CFNC.org to find free practice tests for the SAT and ACT.
- Take the PSAT in October (you might qualify for National Merit Scholarships).
- Check admissions requirements of colleges that interest you.
- Keep your CFNC plan of study updated.
- Attend college fairs and financial aid workshops.
- Visit colleges.
- Use CFNC.org to start researching scholarships, grants, and loans.
- Talk with coaches about college sports and scholarship eligibility.
- Register and take SAT, ACT, and/or AP tests.
- Narrow down your list of colleges.
- Find a summer job or internship in your field of interest.
- Get a head start on finding money for college. Go to [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov) for a Federal Student Aid Identification (FSA ID) for both you and a parent or guardian. You'll need them to file your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) early in your senior year. Save these IDs in a secure place and do not share them with anyone else.

CFNC.org



## 12th Grade Fall Don't Let Up

- Review courses, graduation requirements, and scholarship opportunities with your counselor.
- Update your CFNC plan of study.
- Take the first SAT or ACT offered this fall.
- Select at least five colleges – a reach school, a safety school, and others in between.
- As soon as possible after October 1, go to [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov) to complete and submit the FAFSA. If you need help with your FAFSA, check [CFNC.org](https://CFNC.org) for a FAFSA Day event near you or call 866.866.CFNC.
- Participate in College Application Month if offered at your school.
- Keep track of the application and financial aid deadlines of your college choices.
- Check with college financial aid offices for school-specific scholarship information, deadlines, and forms.
- Write, edit, proofread, and rewrite your admissions essays early.
- Ask teachers, counselors, or community leaders to write recommendation letters to support your applications.
- Use [NCR residency.org](https://NCR residency.org) to determine eligibility for in-state tuition and state grants.
- Use the [CFNC.org](https://CFNC.org) online application system to complete your N.C. college and university applications and to send your official transcripts (if you attend an N.C. public high school).
- Submit any applications to out-of-state schools through their websites.
- If you are a student athlete, send transcripts to NCAA Clearinghouse for eligibility certification.

## 12th Grade Spring Finish Strong

- Compare admission acceptance letters and financial aid packages.
- Apply for education loans, if needed. Limit the amount you borrow; you will have to pay it back.
- Send in your enrollment deposit to hold your spot at the college you choose.
- If not accepted by your college of choice, use the College Redirection module at [CFNC.org](https://CFNC.org) for new options.
- Make sure your final high school transcript is sent to your college (goes automatically if you requested one through [CFNC.org](https://CFNC.org) earlier).
- Send in college credit course transcripts (community college, middle college), if any.
- Take exams for any AP or college-level courses completed.
- If planning to attend a community college, check with your local campus about placement testing requirements.

More CFNC information on



**CFNC.org**

866.866.CFNC

CFNC is a service of the State of North Carolina provided by a collaboration of Pathways (the N.C. Department of Public Instructions, the N.C. Community College System, the N.C. Independent Colleges and Universities, and The University of North Carolina System), College Foundation, Inc., and N.C. State Education Assistance Authority.