



**NC** COUNTDOWN  
TO COLLEGE

# Event Overview

Residency | FAFSA | Applications

## EVENT OVERVIEW

# What is NC Countdown to College?

NC Countdown to College is a month-long initiative that encompasses FAFSA, RDS, and Applications.

This initiative includes the popular College Application Week event, when many colleges waive their application fees.

NC Countdown to College is geared towards graduating NC high school seniors, although we do encourage all students to participate in NC Countdown to College activities.



## EVENT OVERVIEW

# NC Countdown to College Month

NC Countdown to College will be held during the entire month of October.

NC Countdown to College At A Glance:

Week 1: Imagine Your Future

Week 2: Prepare To Apply

Week 3: College Application Week

Week 4: I Applied Now What?



## EVENT OVERVIEW

# NC Countdown to College Month: Creating a College-Going Culture

Purpose: To establish schools as learning communities that are inclusive of all paths of learning

Important aspects of a college-going culture in your school include:

- All adults in the school influence college-going in and out of classes;
- Expectations that college is for all students;
- The entire school becomes a community of learning;
- Create an environment that shapes college-going identities;
- Pay special attention to parents of first-gen students; and
- Events concentrated at all venues including campuses, high schools, community centers, etc.



## EVENT OVERVIEW

# Getting Your CFNC Professional Center Account Ready

1. If you already have a CFNC Professional Center account, make sure you can log in at: <http://procenter.cfnc.org>. If you encounter any issues, follow the instructions at [procenter.cfnc.org](http://procenter.cfnc.org) or email [cfnc@northcarolina.edu](mailto:cfnc@northcarolina.edu).
2. If you do not have a CFNC Professional Center account, follow [these instructions](#) and allow two weeks for processing.
3. Check out the [CFNC Professional Center FAQ](#), located in the Application Resources section of this page: <https://www.cfnc.org/education-professionals/>



## EVENT OVERVIEW

# NC Countdown to College Focus

NC Countdown to College focuses on providing support to high school seniors to complete the three important college enrollment steps:

- FAFSA
- Residency Determination Service (RDS)
- College Admission Applications



FAFSA

# When to File FAFSA

File your FAFSA on or shortly after October 1.

## STEPS:

1. The student and one parent will need a FSA ID in order to sign the FAFSA. <https://fsaid.ed.gov>
2. To submit the FAFSA, go to [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov). Make sure to choose the correct year-the year you will enter college.
3. Use the Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) if possible to link income information to your FAFSA.
4. If entering college in 2021, use 2019 tax information.
5. After FAFSA submission, watch for an email with the Student Aid Report (SAR). Follow instructions.



## RESIDENCY

# Purpose of Residency Determination Service

## In-State Tuition & State Grants

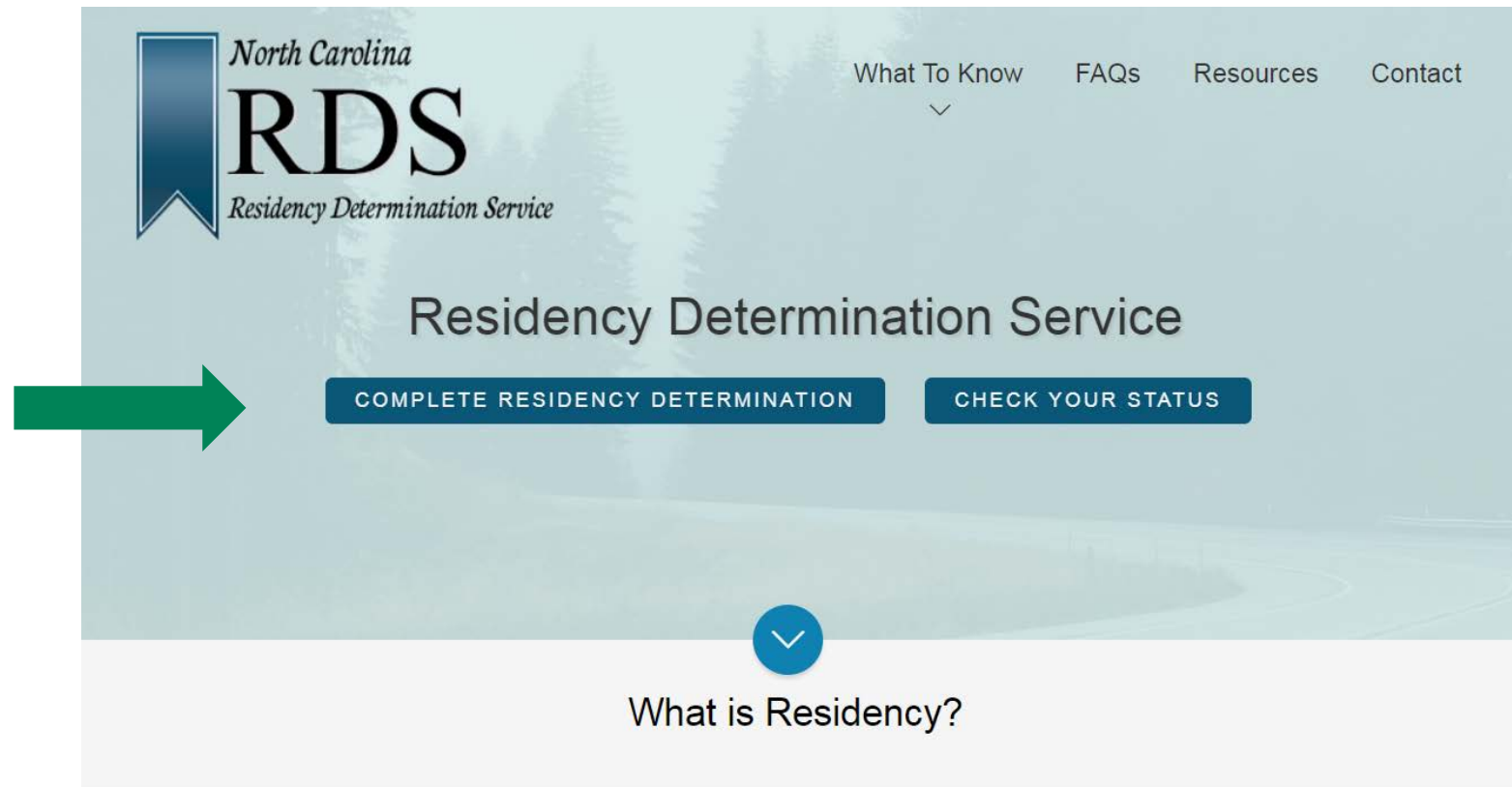
1. An applicant must go through the Residency Determination Service (RDS) in order to be eligible for:
  - a. **in-state tuition** at any of the NC public colleges and universities, and
  - b. **state grants** at any schools in NC, including private or independent colleges and universities.
2. RDS uses similar information to FAFSA. So, it makes sense to ask students to do them at the same time or as early in the admission process as possible.
3. When a student completes RDS, they receive a Residency Certification Number (RCN). The RCN is used by all NC schools to access the student's residency status.
4. Some schools (NC Community Colleges) require an RCN to be submitted before they will accept an admissions application.



RESIDENCY

# Residency Tips

1. Go to [www.ncresidency.org](http://www.ncresidency.org)

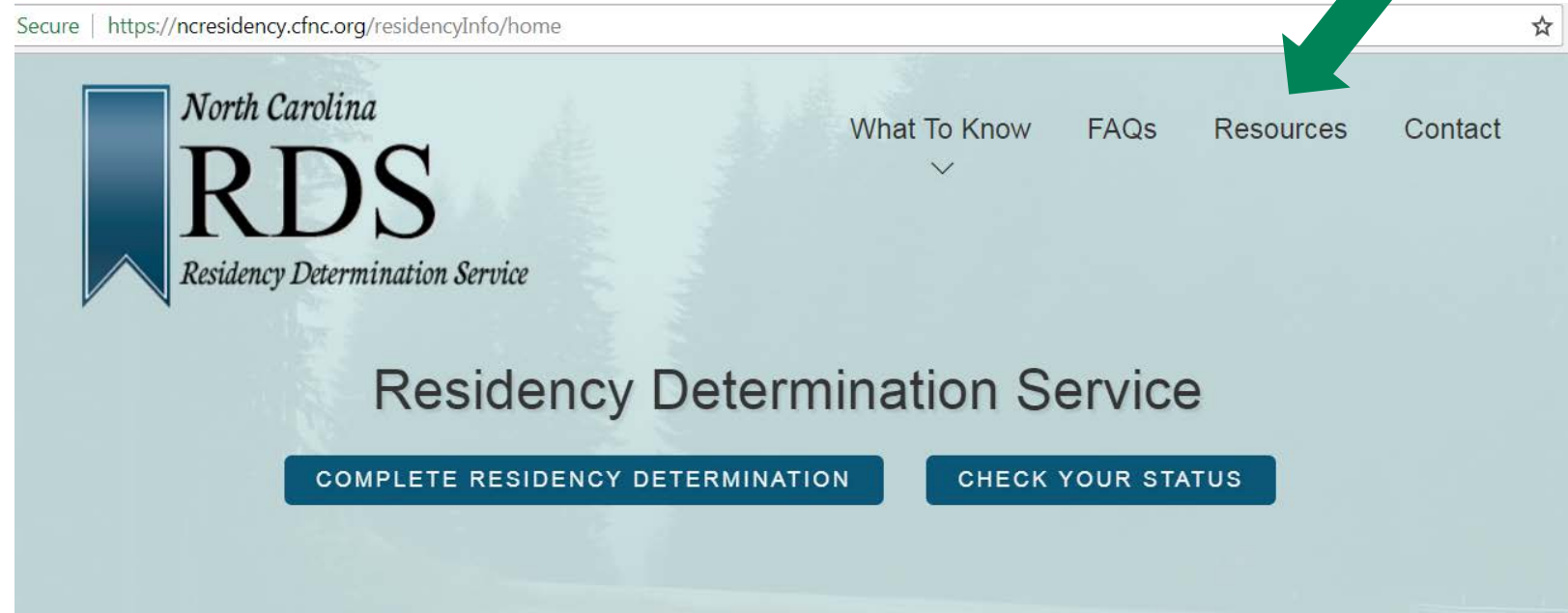


2. RDS and CFNC use the **same login** information.
  - Students should not create a new login if they already have a CFNC account.
  - Once a student has started RDS, s/he must complete RDS using the *same* login information.

## RESIDENCY

# Residency Tips

3. Like FAFSA, students will need their parents' [information](#) in order to complete RDS.
  - Students should not guess because they cannot go back and change their responses.
4. Many helpful [resources](#) can be found on the RDS website:



5. For assistance:

Email: [rdsinfo@ncresidency.org](mailto:rdsinfo@ncresidency.org)

Phone: 844-319-3640

## APPLICATIONS

# College Application Week

1. NC College Application Week will be held October 19, 2020 - October 30, 2020.
2. A list of all colleges and universities that will be waiving their application fees will be posted on [CFNC.org/C2C](https://www.cfnc.org/C2C).
  - Fees are only waived for students using the CFNC App Hub. The fee waiver may not apply to other application systems like Common App.
3. None of the NC community colleges charge application fees.
4. Majority of colleges and universities will accept the SAT, ACT, and NCAC fee waiver.



## APPLICATIONS

# Application Fee & Fee Waiver Tips

Many colleges require an application fee when submitting an online application. You may find app fee info in the Admissions link of the School Profile. Unless the school has waived fees for the week, or a student has a need-based fee waiver (see #3 below), you need to be prepared to enter a credit/debit card number or mail a check once you complete your online application.

### **1. College App Week Fee Waivers for CFNC Apps:**

- Several NC colleges and universities will temporarily waive their applications fees for College Application Week.

### **2. NC Community Colleges**

- Community Colleges in North Carolina do not charge applications fees at any time.



## APPLICATIONS

# Application Fee & Fee Waiver Tips

- 3. Need-Based Fee Waivers (College Board/SAT, NACAC, ACT):**
  - Certain need-based application fee waivers must be authorized by high school counselors or other entities. Students who are eligible for fee waivers for the standard college entrance tests are usually eligible for application fee waivers as well. Encourage students to talk with their school counselor well in advance of college application season to complete the necessary paperwork.
  - Different schools may have different policies about accepting these waivers. The waivers sometimes have a limited use (example: only 4 schools), so encourage students to use them wisely. Do not use a need-based fee waiver for a school that has already waived its fees for Countdown to College.
  - For more information:
    - [College Board Fee Waiver](#)
    - [NACAC Fee Waiver](#)
    - [ACT Fee Waiver](#)

## APPLICATIONS

# CFNC Application Hub Tips

1. The CFNC Application Hub allows students to view all of their application and transcript activity in one place.
2. Find details about the Application Hub in the [CFNC Application Hub FAQ](#)
3. Most NC colleges accept the CFNC online application, but even if they don't, students can still go to CFNC Application Hub and it will link them to the preferred application for that college.
4. Check out the Application Resources documents at: [CFNC.org/C2C](https://www.cfnc.org/C2C)



## APPLICATIONS

# College Application Checklist

- Consider sharing the College Application Checklist with students – great for parents too!
- The checklist encourages students to take important steps before applying, and to make sure they complete all the essential tasks after submitting their applications (e.g. transcripts, recommendations)

The image shows a screenshot of a 'College Application Checklist' document. At the top, it features the 'NC COUNTDOWN TO COLLEGE' logo. The checklist is titled 'College Application Checklist' and includes a legend: a green checkmark icon indicates that the user needs information from their parents to complete that item. The checklist contains 12 numbered items, each with a brief description of the task and any necessary instructions or links. The items are: 1. Create a My CFNC account at CFNC.org, if you haven't already. 2. Update your MY CFNC profile. 3. Explore colleges and universities. 4. Save your favorite schools. 5. Complete your residency determination. 6. Submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). 7. Take note of application deadlines. 8. Identify application fees. 9. Prepare admission essays and personal statements. 10. Complete a practice application from the Apply tab on www.CFNC.org. 11. Carefully read the online introduction on your college application. 12. Ensure the colleges you apply to receive your transcripts.

Find the [College Application Checklist](#) in the Application Resources section of: <https://www.cfnc.org/apply-to-college/nc-countdown-to-college/for-students/>

## APPLICATIONS

# A Few Benefits of the CFNC Transcript System

- Students can request unlimited free transcripts through the CFNC Transcript System. This not only saves money for schools and students, it enables students to send transcripts without having to use a credit card.
- Students can use the CFNC transcript system even if they use a different online application for admission (e.g. Common App or campus website).
- Counselors and other school personnel do not need to be engaged in the process; students can request the transcript themselves.
- The CFNC Transcript System sends a current transcript and automatically creates a request for the final transcript to be sent – one less thing to worry about after graduation.





## APPLICATIONS

# Tips for Sending Transcripts

- Transcripts may be requested: (1) in the online application, or (2) directly from the Application Hub, “Request a Transcript” section.
- Students must provide: Student Name, NC Student Number, Date of Birth, Gender, Email Address and Most Recent High School.
- The student last name must be entered exactly the way it appears in the PowerSchool system (student legal name).
- If requesting from the online application, the student will select from the submittal page the checkbox to request an electronic transcript be sent. This checkbox will only appear if the required information was completed on the online application.
- If requesting from the “Request a Transcript” section, the student will be able to update and save any of the required information before making a request.



## APPLICATIONS

# Tips for Sending Transcripts

- The student's high school must be a participating school in the electronic transcript system in order for requests to be processed regardless of where the request is made.
- To see a full list of participating schools, go to [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org) > Apply > To College and click on the Quicklink, "E-Transcript School List"
- If the application is completed somewhere other than [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org) (e.g., the common application or a postsecondary institution's website), the student may request that the transcript be sent through the CFNC Application Hub (Request a Transcript section).
- For more detailed information about the CFNC electronic transcript process, see the [Electronic High School Transcript FAQ](#).
- If your public high school is not part of the CFNC Transcript System, your school principal can send a request to [cfnc@northcarolina.edu](mailto:cfnc@northcarolina.edu) with "Electronic Transcript Request" in the subject. Include first and last name, email address, school name and school College Board Code. Adding school will take 1-2 weeks.



CONCLUSION

# Questions

The answers to most questions can be found on CFNC.org; however, you can call CFNC toll free at 866-866-CFNC, and select option “1” for assistance with your question.

You can also contact the NC Countdown to College Coordinator by email at [C2C@northcarolina.edu](mailto:C2C@northcarolina.edu), or by phone at 919-843-0448.

