



# CFNC.org

Are you on track for college?

College  Foundation  
of North Carolina

# College preparation starts now.



Though it may seem a long way off, your student will soon be graduating from high school and thinking about what to do next. The education and experiences from going to college can help make for a brighter, more successful future. But to get there, you and your student must start planning now.

To give your student every opportunity to go to college, be sure you both are prepared and on the college track. That's where free services provided by College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) and your student's school counselor can help.

## **Every parent should know:**

- **College is an option for every student entering high school.**
- **There is a college to fit every student.**
- **Financial aid is available to help pay for college.**

# CFNC.org is your one source for college information.

The CFNC website has everything you need to plan, apply, and pay for college.

**At CFNC.org, you can:**

- **Explore interests and careers.**
- **Search for colleges by size, academic program, location, and more.**
- **Get information on scholarships, grants, loans, and the NC 529 Plan.**
- **Use online college tours and links.**
- **Access 2,000 vocabulary words and free test prep for SAT, ACT.**
- **Keep track of high school courses, activities, and extracurriculars.**
- **Check entrance requirements.**
- **Track your search and preparation in your free online account.**



# 10 Key Points For Parents

It may seem like your student is growing up fast, but that doesn't mean he or she no longer needs your help with school. Below is a list of things you can do to make sure your student stays on track for a successful future.

- 1** Help your student choose challenging high school courses. Strong academic preparation is the number one predictor of success in college.
- 2** Attend high school planning sessions, orientations, and open houses with your student. Know what is on the school calendar, visit the school website, and attend school events.
- 3** Learn more about saving and financial aid for college at [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org) (Paying for College and NC 529 Plan College Savings).
- 4** Talk with your student about future plans. Together, visit [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org) to learn more about career options (Career Center) and North Carolina colleges (College Fair).
- 5** Meet regularly with teachers and the school counselor to discuss your student's progress and potential.
- 6** Make sure you and your student know the entrance requirements for colleges of particular interest to you both, as these will affect your student's high school course work. College entrance requirements are available from your student's school counselor or at [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org) (Student Planner).
- 7** Encourage your student to set up a My CFNC account at [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org) and enter 9th grade courses into the online High School Planner (Student Planner).
- 8** Store activities, honors and awards, and extracurricular activities, including volunteer work and paid employment, at [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org) (Student Planner).
- 9** Encourage your student to:
  - Develop good study habits and time management skills.
  - Take challenging courses.
  - Get involved in groups and activities both in and outside of school.
- 10** When in doubt, ask questions! Talk to your student's school counselor or call 866-866-CFNC to talk to a college planning expert.

# 10 Key Points For Students

You're about to enter high school! There are so many new things you need to know and do. Below is a list to help you get started.

- 1** Attend an orientation session at your new school. Make sure you understand your new school's attendance policy. Attendance in high school is critical, and poor attendance can negatively affect your grades and your ability to participate in school sports.
- 2** Create your free My CFNC account at CFNC.org, if you haven't already. Use the High School Planner to keep track of your grades, awards and honors, and extracurricular activities.
- 3** Challenge yourself academically. Slightly lower grades in challenging courses like Honors and Advanced Placement are better than higher grades in standard courses.
- 4** Work hard to get good grades. Your final grades in all of your high school subjects are saved forever in your transcript. In fact, prior to obtaining your learner's permit or driver's license, your grades are reviewed to determine your eligibility.
- 5** Explore career possibilities in the Career Center at CFNC.org. Start using CFNC.org to tour lots of college campuses (College Fair).
- 6** Make sure you know the entrance requirements for any colleges you become interested in, as these will affect what classes you take in high school. You can find out college entrance requirements by talking to your school counselor or going to the Student Planner at CFNC.org.
- 7** Develop and maintain good study habits. Carry an agenda (calendar/organizer) with you every day to help you stay organized.
- 8** Find at least one caring adult you can talk to; then be sure to maintain this relationship throughout your high school career.
- 9** Read! Take a few minutes each day for a book, magazine, or newspaper. It can build your vocabulary and even make you a better writer.
- 10** When in doubt, ask questions! Meet with your school counselor regularly.

# More Than 100 College Possibilities



Colleges are like people: they come in all different sizes and personalities. In North Carolina, there are more than 100 colleges and universities—and a school to fit every student. These colleges and universities are divided into three kinds of institutions: community colleges, the multi-campus University of North Carolina, and independent colleges and universities. Talk with your student about what kind of school may best help meet his or her future goals.

## **North Carolina Community Colleges**

There are 58 community colleges in North Carolina, all of which maintain an “open door” policy. This policy provides for the admission of any persons who are 18 or older or who have a high school diploma or its equivalent (GED). Someone attending a community college can earn a certificate or diploma (usually requiring six months to two years of study in a specific skill area), a two-year associate’s degree, or college credits that can be transferred to a four-year college or university.

## University of North Carolina

UNC is a multi-campus university system made up of 16 institutions. Because these institutions are funded and managed by the State of North Carolina, they are referred to as public universities. In addition to four-year undergraduate degrees (Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science), UNC institutions also grant graduate (master's and doctoral) and professional degrees (e.g., law, medicine, etc.).

## North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities

North Carolina has 36 colleges and universities that are not part of the University of North Carolina system. For this reason, they are often referred to as independent or private institutions. At an independent college, a student can earn either a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BS) degree. In addition to bachelor's degrees for four years of undergraduate course work, many independent universities also grant graduate and professional degrees.

**CFNC.org**

866.866.CFNC

Helping you plan, apply, and pay for college