

# College Planning

Sophomore & Junior  
Years

Class of 2021 & 2022

# Sophomore Counseling

- Conducting sophomore interviews in early spring (some group counseling)
  - Reviewing transcript for accuracy from Freshman year
  - Discussing progression toward 4-year academic plan and goals

*An academic plan serves as a blueprint for course selections over all four years of high school*

- Reviewing graduation requirements
- Discussing recommendations for junior course selections and post-secondary plans
- Begin discussing post-secondary interests and reviewing Naviance Tools (institutions, majors, careers)

# Junior Counseling

- Signing up for a junior interview around Thanksgiving
  - Reviewing transcript for accuracy
  - Reviewing completion of graduation requirements
  - Discussing recommendations for senior course selections and post-secondary plans
  - Discussing testing plan
  - Review of initial college interest list
  - Discussion of campus visits, college fairs, etc.

*\*\* Parents are strongly encouraged to be checking CANVAS regularly for information regarding student grades and assignments.*

<https://youtu.be/iigCs2AaiVo>

# Tools to Assist you in Your Search



The screenshot shows the CFNC.org website. The header includes the CFNC.org logo and the tagline "Helping you plan, apply, and pay for college". Navigation links include "Sign in", "Create My CFNC Account", "en Español", "About CFNC", "Contact Us", "Resources/Videos", "Need Help?", "Advanced Search", and a search bar. A secondary navigation bar includes "My CFNC", "Plan", "Apply", "Pay", and "Save (NC 529)". Below this is a menu with "Your Profile", "High School Planning", "College Planning", "Career Planning", and "Financial Portfolio". The main content area has an "Access Your Account" section with fields for "Username:" and "Password:" and a "LOG IN" button. A banner image shows a group of students with the text "It is never too early or too late to plan your future, no matter what your age." To the right is a "Student" dropdown menu with options: "Parent", "Adult Learner", "Military / Military Dependent", "Education Professional", and "Account Holder". Below the login section are "Check It Out" and "Hot Topics" sections. "Check It Out" includes links for "Financial Aid Primer", "eLearningNC.gov", and "Financial Literacy". "Hot Topics" includes "Apply to College" (with a sub-link for "SAT? ACT? Test Prep Help"), "September is College Savings Month", and a "More financial security?" advertisement featuring a woman's face and the text "College works."



# Types of Schools

- Liberal Arts Colleges (Ex- Elon)
- Universities (Ex- UNC)
- Community Colleges (Ex- CPCC)
- Specialized Colleges (Ex- Cabarrus College of Health Sciences)
- Public vs. Private Colleges
- Academies/Prep Schools

*Keep an open mind - look at schools you don't know*

# In Search of the Ideal Fit



# Factors in The College Search Process

- Programs (Major, Internships, Honors etc.)
- Location (Commute, Distance, Urban, Suburban, etc.)
- Cost
- Size (Small <3000, Medium 3-7000, Large 7-10,000)
- Campus Life (Dorms, Activities, Sports, Religion, Diversity, etc.)
- Special Programs (Study Abroad, Athletics, etc.)
- Type of School (public, private, 2-year, specialized schools, etc.)

# Factors in a Holistic Review

- Student transcript – GPA (weighted vs. unweighted), grades, strength of schedule (transcript reflects end of junior year grades and senior year schedule)
- Test scores – ACT, SAT, Subject Tests
- Student Essay & /or Personal Statement
- Recommendation letters (2)
- Extracurricular activities, employment, & / or community service
- Demonstrated interest in the school – including campus visits, emails to admissions office, phone calls, etc. Most document communications in your file!



# Grade Point Average

- **Course Performance** and **Rigor** are the most important factors in college acceptance
- GPA's are more competitive than ever
- Colleges see grades up through end of junior year
- Every year counts - New Research Shows that 9th grade marks Predict College Enrollment & Success
- Colleges may recalculate GPA based on core curriculum
- Weighting for Honors & AP
  - Honors - .5
  - Dual Enrollment & AP 1.0
- Some colleges may use unweighted GPA
- B's are routine; more selective institutions expect A's

# Extracurricular Involvement

- Show commitment in a few activities and demonstrate leadership
- Community Service Hours - Juniors who don't complete and submit hours show incompletes on their transcripts
- Internships, summer opportunities, shadowing experiences can all show initiative (don't have to cost \$)

# PreACT - 10th ONLY October 23

**Who:** Mandatory state-required pre-assessment for all NC 10th graders

**What:** Multiple Choice Test with Sections: English, Math, Reading, Science (shorter than actual ACT)

**When:** 7:10 am - 10:30 am (No one is released until all rooms finish)

**Where:** Upper School Academic Building

**Why:** Measures Academic Skills You'll Need for College, Gives Targeted Feedback on Performance & Suggestions For Improvement, and Provides Direct Score Predictions

# ACT

ACT is an achievement-based test measuring what you've learned with an optional writing portion (Scoring 1-36)

***Juniors will take in February 2020 at School***

<b>Test</b>	<b>Number of Questions</b>	<b>Reporting Categories</b>
English	75 (45 minutes)	Production of Writing; Knowledge of Language; Conventions of Standard Language
Mathematics	60 (60 minutes)	Number & Quantity; Algebra; Functions; Geometry; Stats & Probability; Integrated Skills; Modeling
Reading	40 (35 minutes)	Key Ideas & Details; Craft & Structure; Integration of Knowledge & Ideas
Science	40 (35 minutes)	Interpretation of Data; Scientific Investigation; Evaluation of Models, Inferences, Experimental Results

# PSAT October 16

- ❖ **You Must Register Through [Mypaymentsplus.com](https://mypaymentsplus.com) and pay \$23 to test**
- ❖ Total Time Is About 2 hours 45 minutes
- ❖ No penalties for wrong answers; make educated guesses
- ❖ Reading 60 minutes, 48 questions
- ❖ Writing & Language 35 minutes, 44 questions
- ❖ Math 70 minutes, 47 questions
- ❖ Scored on a scale of 320 to 1520
  - Reading/Writing scores from 160 to 760
  - Math scores from 160 to 760
- ❖ Release around 11:30 am

# SAT

- SAT is an evidence-based exam, assessing skills
  - Reading (52 Questions; 65 Minutes)
  - Writing and Language (44 Questions; 35 Minutes)
  - Math (58 Questions; 80 Minutes)
  - Optional Essay (50 minutes)
- 400–1600 score scale
- No penalty for guessing
- We are not a site for testing

**PSAT is next week 10/16**

# SAT Subject Tests

- One hour, multiple choice test on one of 20 different subjects.
- *Required by some selective colleges for admission.* **Note – most students do not need SAT Subject Tests.**
- Required by some colleges for course placement.
- Offers an additional opportunity to show colleges what a student knows.

# PLP Average GPA's & ACT For Past Early Action Acceptances

- UNC Chapel Hill - 4.48 ACT= 31
- Appalachian State - 4.18 ACT= 27
- UNC Wilmington - 3.98 ACT=25
  - NC State Univ - 4.37 ACT=29
- UNC Charlotte - 4.02 ACT=26



# Paying For College

- Financial Aid
  - Need-based and Merit-based aid
  - FAFSA (**Free** Application for Federal Student Aid, Senior year)
  - CSS PROFILE (financial aid application service of the College Board, Senior Year)
  - Utilizing the College Financial Aid Officer

# Resources

- Twitter –
  - FAFSA
  - New York Times – “The Choice”
  - US Dept. of Education
  - College Board
  
- Facebook - Federal Student Aid
- YouTube – Federal Student Aid
- Naviance Links & Resources
- CFNC