

FALL

9th Grade

- Create your FREE CFNC.org account to help plan for career and college.
- Explore careers that interest you.
- Start learning about colleges and entrance requirements.

10th Grade

- Use the CFNC.org College Search tool to find colleges that interest you.
- Consider signing up for the October PSAT – good practice for the SAT. (Free SAT and ACT practice on CFNC.org.)
- Talk with friends and family about their career and education choices.

11th Grade

- Consider the college programs, activities, and locations that interest you most.
- Start narrowing your list of colleges.
- Research scholarships at your college; some may require the SAT or ACT to be completed for eligibility, even if not required for admissions.
- Attend free College Fairs and Financial Aid workshops held face-to-face or virtually.

12th Grade

- Attend free College Fairs and Financial Aid Workshops.
- Check all deadlines: applications, scholarships & aid.
- Request recommendations, if needed.
- Plan and proofread carefully any college application essays.
- Use CFNC.org Application Hub to complete applications & send free official high school transcripts to any NC college.
- Use NC Residency Determination Service (RDS) to see if you're eligible for state grants and in-state tuition.
- Get your FSA ID and complete the FAFSA early (it opens Oct 1 for the following academic year.) FAFSA determines eligibility for federal and state grants, as well as some need-based scholarships.

WINTER

9th Grade

- Review high school classes to stay on track with graduation and college requirements. Talk with parents & family about the cost of college and plans for paying.
- Talk with your school counselor about challenging courses, such as Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or dual enrollment courses.

10th Grade

- Register for challenging courses such as AP and IB to meet graduation requirements and discover new interests and possible careers.
- Look into the possibility of dual enrollment with Career and College Promise (CCP) to earn college credit while in high school.

11th Grade

- Stay involved in challenging courses to meet graduation and college admission requirements.
- Get familiar with financial aid terms, such as FAFSA, FSA ID, the College PROFILE, scholarships, grants, federal and private loans.

12th Grade

- Use CFNC.org to find multiple ways to help pay for college. Talk with your counselor about local area scholarships and grants.
- Check to ensure that the colleges to which you've applied have received all of your information.
- Watch for admission letters and financial aid offers.
- Keep studying. Your senior year grades are important for final acceptance!

SPRING

9th Grade

- Log into CFNC.org to find free SAT and ACT preparation help.
- Look into summer opportunities, such as camps, classes, or volunteering to help prepare for college.
- Update your CFNC.org Dashboard with your career and college plans.

10th Grade

- If you've taken AP classes, register for the AP exams. May give you extra credit for college.
- Check the fall SAT and ACT dates. Register well in advance to save money.
- Look for college prep, community service, or part-time work summer opportunities.
- Continue exploring career fields that interest you.
- Consider virtual campus tours as well, on CFNC.org and college websites.

11th Grade

- Look into scholarship and grant options.
- Take SAT and ACT as scheduled.
- Plan your senior year courses carefully.
- Schedule college visits and admission interviews with campuses in which you are interested.

12th Grade

- If you are in AP courses, do your best on final exams for possible college credit.
- Weigh financial aid offers & how cost fits the family budget.
- Make your decision! Let your first choice school know & notify rest you are not enrolling.
- If you didn't get into your preferred colleges, use the College Redirection Tool CFNC.org (opens April 1) to find other options.
- Community college? Check with campus about placement tests.
- Celebrate your high school graduation and look forward to a bright future!