

College Application Boot Camp



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What do I do? Where do I go?

- Evaluate strengths and weaknesses
- Seek direction
- Psalm 37:4 Do what the Lord wants, and he will give you your heart's desire.
- Proverbs 16:3 Commit to the LORD everything you do. Then your plans will succeed.

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Which colleges should I apply?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Geographic location | • Have you visited? |
| • Size of campus and student body | • Where is God leading you? |
| • Private vs. Public | |
| • Tuition | • Reach vs. Safety |
| • GPA and Test Scores | |
| • Major or Program of Study | |
| • Organizations, clubs, etc. | |

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Application

- How do I start?
- Use Scoir as starting point to determine application method (3 main methods - Common App, Coalition App using Scoir, College Website)
- Move college to "Applying" in Scoir and leave there until application is complete.
- Apply and pay the application fee.
- Important: return to Scoir and move to "Applied". I am notified of the status change.

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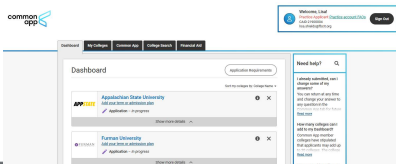
Deadlines

- Early Decision plans are binding — a student who is accepted as an ED applicant must attend the college.
- Early Action plans are nonbinding — students receive an early response to their application but do not have to commit to the college until the normal reply date of May 1.
- Regular Decision – Deadlines are January – March.
- Rolling Admissions – Apply anytime and hear back within 2-3 weeks.

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The Common App

- www.commonapp.org
- DO NOT use Common App to request Letters of Recommendation or Counselor Recommendation. This will be done in Scoir.



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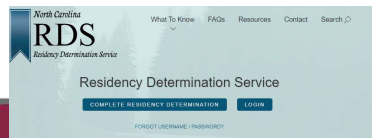
The Coalition App

- <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>
- Coalition App requires a unique login and request collaboration with your counselor. Scoir and Coalition App sync together so you can apply using Scoir to select colleges.
- Some colleges allow multiple options for applying, so select the application method that is best for you.

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Residency Determination Service (RDS)

- Provide proof of residency to qualify for NC in-state tuition. Required for all NC residents to attend a public university in the state.
- You will must complete RDS before applying to a NC public university or you will be considered out of state for tuition purposes.
- Parents are part of the RDS process. Need SSN, DOB, vehicle information, etc.



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Application Review

- College Admissions store your application in an electronic file.
- Other pieces of your application are added to the file as they arrive. If data is missing, your admission portal will be incomplete.
- Admissions reviews School Profile, recalculates GPA
- Automatic denials: universities with large numbers of applications, applicants who do not meet the college's minimum GPA and test score standards may be automatically denied.

For example: UNCC Minimum automatic acceptance is currently
ACT 23 or SAT 1150 GPA 3.75

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Application Do's & Don'ts

- **Do read directions**
 - Pay attention to the instructions for each application.
- **Do pay attention to deadlines**
 - A college usually won't accept a late application. Scholarship deadlines are firm, too.
- **Do pay attention to grammar and spelling**
 - Ask a parent or teacher to proof your application.
- **Do get organized**
 - Make a calendar or spreadsheet of all your deadlines.
- **Do get presentable online**
 - Set up an adult-friendly email account that you can check from anywhere.
 - Clean up your social media pages.

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Application Do's & Don'ts

- **Don't forget pieces of your application**
 - Be sure to finish all the steps, such as arranging for teacher recommendations, sending test scores, and completing supplements and financial aid documents.
- **Don't assume you can't afford a given school**
 - Many of the most expensive schools out there also have the most financial aid to offer. Wingate is extremely generous.
- **Don't apply to every school in NC/SC** carefully consider whether you are a fit.
- **Don't make things up**
- **Don't let Mom or Dad (or AI) fill out your application**
 - Admission officers are skilled at detecting a parent's hand in an application. AI is used to review the application.

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Recommendation Letters

- **When?**
 - Do not ask unless you need a rec letter. Review application requirements first.
 - At least 2 weeks advance notice
 - Ask both in person and electronically (via Scoir). Make sure the deadline is clear.
- **Who?**
 - Teachers, Work Boss, Pastor and/or Counselor – no need to request counselor rec
 - Consider strengths AND weaknesses
- **How?**
 - Remind recommender of specific work or projects you're proud of via resume in Scoir.
 - Tell them what you learned in their class.
 - Give them the information they need to provide specific examples of your work.
- **Etiquette**
 - Write a thank you note, buy them a cup of coffee or candy.

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Application Essay

- Shares something significant about you
- Stay on point and make sure you answer the prompt given
- Stay away from telling a narrative story unless it brings you to a life-changing event that you feel you must share
- Have someone proofread
- English class review
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0MaLslu1vdE>

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ACT and SAT

- Retakes – improve chances for admission, improve scholarship offers
- Can go ahead and apply to college, but if your scores are low, you can wait for retake to submit app. Just don't miss any deadlines!
- Prepare – free resources on actstudent.org, collegeboard.org and khanacademy.org
- ACT/SAT scores – how to send
- SAT on campus first week of October.

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Time to Apply

- Which method?
 - College website, Common App, Coalition App via Scoir
- Scoir outlines deadlines, requirements, types of applications
- Submit application
- Go to Scoir to move college from Applying to Applied to notify me that you have completed your application. Do not email.

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Application submitted, now what?

- Request Transcripts and Recommendation Letters
Step-by-step directions are available on MCA webpage under Academics/Guidance
- Keep track of any correspondence from admissions offices and do what they ask in a timely manner. Create your portal immediately upon receiving instructions.
- Check email frequently. Hint: may want to create email only for college applications.
- Check college application portals frequently.
- Check Scoir to ensure your colleges are in the proper category (Applied).

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Decision received, now what?

- Update Scoir on every college decision. Find this under the college name in the Applied category under "Edit Outcome".
- Financial Aid offer comes later, after FAFSA docs are processed. FAFSA is scheduled to open October 1.

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Financial Aid

- FAFSA – Complete as soon as possible, between October – December is ideal.
- Student will do a portion of the FAFSA and the parents will do a portion. Some schools also require their own Financial Aid forms, so pay attention to communication from the school.
- Federal and State funds are first-come, first-served so do not wait to complete the FAFSA. Goal is to complete by January.
- Funds will be allocated after February 2025.
- FAFSA Day is offered through SPCC, CPCC, UNCC.



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Paying for college

- **Scholarships** www.chegg.com; www.fastweb.com; www.scholarships.com; www.goingmerry.com
- **Grants**
- **Work Study**
- **Loans** - Needs Based vs. Non-Needs Based <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/loans/types-of-college-loans>
 - **(NB)Federal Perkins Loans** may be awarded by colleges to students with the highest need.
 - **(NB)Federal Direct Subsidized Loans** are interest-free while you're in college and have a borrowing limit that increases each school year.
 - **(NNB)Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans** charge interest, but allow you to add the interest fees to the amount you borrow until after graduation. However, doing this means you'll actually end up owing more.
 - **(NNB)Federal Direct PLUS Loans** allow parents (or graduate students) to borrow the total cost of college, minus any financial aid received.

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Congratulations, You did it!

- Deadline to confirm acceptance with intent to attend is May 1, 2025
- Confirm by acknowledging acceptance, paying deposit, or begin registration process
- You can only confirm with one school
- Celebrate!

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Review

- Apply to colleges on their website according to their format. Use Scoir to see application requirements.
- Review all requirements on application
 - Essay, letter of recommendation from teacher or counselor, test scores
 - Submit application
- Log in to Scoir and request transcripts and letters of recommendation
- Send test scores: actstudent.org or collegeboard.org
- Check email, create online admission portal with college
- Once decision is received you must update Scoir

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Questions?

- Questions are always welcome, but you must do research before you ask. Learn to fish! Your professors will expect it next year.
- Do not have your mom or dad send me an email or call. Come see me yourself. I expect and encourage well-thought-out questions.
- Read my emails! Make a "Mrs. Shields email folder". Read the Guidance Newsletter. Look on the MCA Guidance page.
- Example Bad: What are the admission requirements for NC State?
- Example Good: I see that NC State's average ACT is 28. I made a 26 – should I submit my application and then retake my test?

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Forgot something? MCA Website

ABOUT US ADMISSIONS **ACADEMICS** ATHLETICS ARTS CAMPUS LIFE SUPPORT MCA ALUMNI

Guidance

At Metroline Christian Academy, we work with our families to provide an educational setting that nurtures each student's spiritual, academic, physical, and emotional development. Our guidance team is committed to serving our students and parents and would love to assist in answering questions about academic, social, or spiritual topics in the guidance area.



Resources

- Transcript Request - Current Students
- Transcript Request - Former Students & Alumni
- How to request SPCC Transcripts
- Socr
- Steps to Apply to College
- Drivers Education Information
- Parent Resources
- College Visit Absence Request Form (Dix & Dix)
- Student Absence Request



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Senior Meetings

Senior "sit down" Meetings are optional – can include parents.

Will meet during elective period, before school or in the afternoons by appointment.

You can also email me and ask if you can stop in during elective or before or after school (even same day) for quick questions.

Email me anytime! I will answer quickly.

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