

COLLEGE PLANNING

Admissions Criteria

What are colleges looking at?

Rigor of courses (Honors, AP, Dual Enrollment)	Grade Point Average and Grades Earned	Class Rank
SAT/ACT Scores where required	Recommendations	Activities/Athletics
Essays/Personal Statements	Community Service/Volunteer Work	Interviews/Portfolios where required

How to Find Colleges

1. Online Search Sites: CFNC.org, BigFuture
2. College Rep Visits at AHS: [click here for schedule](#)
3. Visit Colleges: Educational Leave must be approved 2 weeks prior to absence

Know Your Deadline Options

- Early Action: Nonbinding. Typically Oct 15, Nov 1, Nov 15
- Early Decision: Binding. Typically Oct 15, Nov 1, Nov 15
- Regular Decision: Nonbinding. Typically Jan 1, Feb 1, Feb 15

*Not all colleges offer all of these options, and some have other options such as Restrictive Early Action, Rolling Admission, etc.

How to Get Started: Common App

Common App is the easiest way to apply to multiple schools. Applications open on August 1st before your senior year. For most colleges, Common App is where:

1. You fill out your student applications (including essays)
2. You invite teachers/counselors to submit letters of recommendation
3. Your Counselor submits your high school transcript & School Report
4. You pay your application fees & submit your applications to each school

Common App Help:

Video: [Getting Started with Common App](#)

Video: [How to Invite Recommenders to Common App](#)

SAT & ACT Info

Due to the impact of Covid-19 and other considerations, many colleges are remaining test-optional through admissions for 2024 and beyond. Please check the requirements for each of your colleges.

- ➔ All juniors take the ACT at school during the spring of junior year
- ➔ It is recommended to take an SAT by the end of junior year

SAT	ACT
Reading, Writing and Language, Math sections	English, Math, Reading, Science, optional Writing sections
180 total minutes	175 total minutes (+40 for optional Writing)
Score range: 400-1600	Score range: 1-36
Offers more time per question	Faster paced; less time per question
Click here for more info Click here to register	Click here for more info and to register

COLLEGE APPLICATION CHECKLIST: 4 YEAR COLLEGES/ UNIVERSITIES

☐

Finalize your college list and decide on your deadlines

☐

Create your Common App account/other app portal accounts; start working on applications!

☐

Ask for letters of recommendation; add recommenders to Common App/apps. Counseling LOR Request form

☐

Complete the Residency Determination Service for NC schools; save your RCN # to put on your applications

☐

Log into your CollegeBoard and/or ACT accounts to send official test scores if needed

☐

Complete the FAFSA starting October 1

☐

Continue working on any scholarship applications and make sure to submit before the deadlines

☐

Complete all parts of your applications and submit before your deadlines

☐

Once accepted, review your financial aid letters, make your choice, notify colleges of your decision

☐

Send official dual enrollment transcripts and AP scores to your college for credits

COLLEGE APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

2 YEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGES/JUNIOR COLLEGES

☐

Finalize your college list and check on deadlines

☐

Visit colleges' websites; create accounts for application; start to work on applications!

☐

Complete the Residency Determination Service for NC schools; save your RCN # to put on your applications

☐

Complete the FAFSA starting October 1

☐

Check colleges' websites/speak to financial aid office for additional scholarship opportunities

☐

Complete all parts of your application, including scholarship application, and submit

☐

Once accepted, review your financial aid letters, make your choice, notify colleges of your decision

☐

Send official dual enrollment transcripts and AP scores to your college for credits

☐

Complete enrollment steps for your college, meet with an advisor, register for classes

[Click here for New Student Enrollment steps at AB Tech](#)

Financial Aid

Financial aid is any money a student receives to help pay for college.

Grants	Money from the government to help those in need. Not repaid; completely need-based.
Scholarships	Chosen and given by a scholarship committee. Not repaid; could be merit-based or need-based.
Work-Study	Students with financial need are eligible. This program allows students to work part-time jobs to help pay for their education expenses.
Loans	Given by the government or private agency. MUST be repaid usually with interest. Last resort and borrow only what you need. Could be need-based or not.

After you receive an offer of admission from a college, you will receive a financial aid offer letter outlining all of the different types of financial aid available to you. Check out [this video](#) from CFNC about how to understand financial aid offer letters!

I'm Admitted...Now What?

1. Carefully review your financial aid letters and consider the total cost of attendance.
2. Review your options carefully and make your decision.
3. Follow instructions from your college about how to notify them of your enrollment.
Complete all required forms and steps by the deadline.
4. Send AP scores and dual enrollment transcripts, if needed.
5. Follow all instructions from your college about registering for orientation, applying for housing, registering for classes, etc.
6. Have a strong finish to high school and keep your grades up!

We Are Here to Help You!

Your School Counselors are here to help you through this process and support you toward your goals. Please contact your Counselor to schedule an appointment to discuss your future plans and options.