CAPE FEAR ACADEMY
SCHOOL PROFILE *2025-2026*

CAPE FEAR ACADEMY;
founded in 1967, is a college preparatory, non-sectarian, independent coeducational day school located in Wilmington, North Carolina, enrolling students in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve.

ADMINISTRATION

Ed Ellison
Head of School

Ran Holeman
Director of Upper School

COLLEGE COUNSELING

Leigh Ann Hodges
Director of College Counseling
910.791.0287 x.3061
leighann.hodges@capefearacademy.org

Bethany Fee
Associate Director of College Counseling
910.791.0287 x.3081
bethany.fee@capefearacademy.org

ENROLLMENT

806
Total Enrollment

328
Upper School (9-12)

210
Middle School (6-8)

268
Lower School (LE-5)

% Students Representing Minority Ethnicity: 14%

% Students Receiving Need-Based Financial Assistance: 10%

MISSION
Cape Fear Academy is a learning community committed to discovering and developing individual potential, preparing each student for success in college and life.

CORE VALUES
CFA believes strongly in the value of every student and maintains high expectations for each student's success that are guided by our four Core Values:

INTEGRITY • RESPECT • RESILIENCE • ACCOUNTABILITY

STATEMENT OF HONOR
The Cape Fear Academy standard is that each student will live as a responsible person, one whose word is one's bond, whose work is always one's own, and around whom the well-being and property of others are safe.

ACCREDITATION & MEMBERSHIPS
CFA is accredited by the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS), and is a member of both the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) and the North Carolina Association of Independent Schools (NCAIS).

ACADEMIC CALENDAR
The academic calendar is organized on a semester system, with a rotating seven-period schedule. Each class meets for an average of 210 minutes per week.

ACADEMIC CURRICULUM

Community Engagement

In addition to their academic schedule, students are required to complete 16 community engagement units per semester. Community engagement allows our students to consider the difference they can make locally, regionally, and in some cases, globally. Students involved in community engagement gain greater understanding of their impact within our community, while also envisioning how their work contributes towards a greater good beyond themselves and the classroom.

Engineering Certificate Program

The Engineering Certification Program is designed for students considering a career or college major in STEM that want to supplement their high school education with focused coursework towards their interests, goals, and passion. The program consists of required courses in engineering and physics topics, electives from an approved list, an engineering design requirement, and an engineering experiential component outside the classroom. The Advanced Engineering Certificate is a calculus-based program.

Quality Point Equivalencies

A+	**4.33**	**98-100**	**C+**	**2.33**	**78-79**
A	**4.00**	**93-97**	**C**	**2.00**	**73-77**
A-	**3.67**	**90-92**	**C-**	**1.67**	**70-72**
B+	**3.33**	**88-89**	**D+**	**1.33**	**68-69**
B	**3.00**	**83-87**	**D**	**1.00**	**63-67**
B-	**2.67**	**80-82**	**D-**	**0.67**	**60-62**
NP	**0.00**	**Below 60**	0.5 points added for Honors and Advanced Topics; 1.0 point added for AP		

Grades are weighted, although unweighted GPAs are available and published to each transcript. All CFA courses are included in the GPA. A Senior's mid-year GPA is available to colleges if requested. Cape Fear Academy does not include previous school grades on the transcript, nor does it use dual enrollment when computing GPA. One Schoolhouse offerings are the only online courses calculated in the GPA. All other online courses are not calculated in the GPA.

GPA Class of 2025 *55 students*	**A+** 100-98 4.33+	**A** 97-93 4.32-4.0	**A-** 92-90 3.99-3.67	**B+** 89-88 3.66-3.33	**B** 87-83 3.32-3.0	**B-** 82-80 2.99-2.67	**C+** 79-78 2.66-2.33	**C** 77-73 2.32-2.0	**C-** 72-70 1.99-1.67	**D+** 69-68 1.66-1.33	**D** 67-63 1.32-1.0	**D-** 62-60 .99-.67	**NP** 59-90 .66-0
Unweighted Grade Distribution as of June 2025	0%	16.4%	40%	30.9%	7.3%	3.6%	0%	1.8%					

Grade distribution is cumulative for grades 9-11. Cape Fear Academy does not rank students. This chart should be used to determine a student's competitiveness with respect to their peers.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Students' academic load should be reasonable with regard to honors and AP classes scheduled. CFA encourages a healthy balance of academics, athletics, and the arts.

Placement into Honors and AP classes is contingent upon meeting a grade prerequisite set for each class as well as teacher recommendation. All AP students are required to complete the AP exam in order to earn the AP grade weight in their GPA. In cases in which a student completes the most advanced AP-level course prior to their senior year, students often take dual-enrollment courses at either Cape Fear Community College or the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

2025 AP EXAM STATISTICS

STUDENTS	EXAMS	SCORE: 3 or Higher	SCORE: 4 or 5
184	516	92.39%	63%

2025 AP COURSE ENROLLMENT

AVERAGE PER STUDENT	RANGE	MAJORITY OF CLASS TOOK
7	1-14	4-10

Class of 2025 Statistics

CLASS OF 2025	STUDENTS	COLLEGE BOUND	MEAN GPA (Unweighted)	MEAN GPA (Weighted)	GPA Range (Weighted)	GPA MID-50% (Weighted)
	55	98%	3.65	4.18	5.05-2.61	3.99-4.54

ACT (36)

		Math	Science	English	Reading	Composite
Class of 2025 *(15 Tested)*	***Average***	27	28	31	31	29
	Mid 50%	25-30	24-30	30-35	30-34	27-31

SAT (1600)

		EBRW (800)	Math (800)	Total Score
Class of 2025 *(32 Tested)*	***Average***	650	637	1287
	Mid 50%	620-690	590-690	1150-1370

ACADEMIC OFFERINGS

Academic Offerings for Grades 9-12

Required credits to graduate shown in parentheses.

Cape Fear Academy expects students to graduate with a minimum of **24 credits but recommends 26 credits.**

English (4)

- English 9, 10
- Honors English 9, 10
- English 11/12
- AP English Language & Composition
- AP English Literature & Composition

Math (4)

- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Honors Geometry
- Algebra 2
- Honors Algebra 2
- Advanced Algebra & Trig
- Discrete Math
- AP Pre-Calculus
- AP Statistics
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC

Science (3)

(Biology, Chemistry, and Physics Required)

- Biology
- Honors Biology
- AP Biology
- Honors Anatomy and Physiology †
- Biotechnology *
- Botany †
- Genetics †
- Marine Science †
- Earth and Space Science †
- Zoology †
- Chemistry
- Honors Chemistry
- AP Chemistry
- AP Environmental Science
- Introduction to Engineering and Physics
- Advanced Topics Physics: Coastal Engineering †
- Advanced Topics: Engineering Design †
- Advanced Topics: EM and Circuits †
- Honors Physics: Coastal Engineering *
- Honors Engineering Design *
- Honors EM and Circuits *
- Honors Physics
- AP Physics I *
- AP Physics C (Mechanics)

Social Studies (3)

- Civics and Economics
- Honors Civics and Economics
- World History
- AP World History
- U.S. History
- AP U.S. History
- AP Human Geography
- AP U.S. Government and Politics
- AP Psychology
- AP Seminar
- AP Research

World Language (2)

- Spanish I, II
- Honors Spanish III, IV
- Advanced Topics: Spanish Conversation †
- Honors Spanish Conversation *
- AP Spanish Language and Culture
- AP Spanish Literature and Culture
- Mandarin I, II
- Honors Mandarin III, IV, V
- AP Chinese Language and Culture

Fine Arts (1)

- 2D Art Fundamentals
- 3D Art Fundamentals
- Drawing and Painting
- Honors Drawing and Painting
- Ceramics and Sculptures
- Honors Ceramics and Sculptures
- AP Art & Design *
- Acting and Directing / Theater Movement
- Musical Theater Techniques
- Publications
- Honors Publications
- Filmmaking †
- Honors Filmmaking †
- Film & Filmmaking: Mise-en-Scene, Cinematography, & Editing *
- Cinematography in Action *
- Honors Film and Filmmaking *
- Photography
- Honors Photography
- Technical Theater and Design
- Honors Technical Theater Design
- Vocal Ensemble
- Honors Vocal Ensemble
- Band
- Honors Band
- Sewing and Fashion Design †
- Honors Sewing Fashion and Design †

Computing, Innovation and Design

- Entrepreneurship – Design and Fabrication
- Robotics I, II †
- Virtual Reality †
- Cyber Security and Web Design †
- Introduction to Computing, Innovation & Design †
- Applied Computing, Innovation & Design *
- AP Computer Science A
- AP Computer Science Principles
- Advanced Topics in App Development †
- Advanced Topics: Gaming Design with AI †

Physical Education (1)

- Fitness and Conditioning

Students may earn their P.E. credit by participating in three (3) seasons of an Upper School sport or a combination thereof.

Electives (6)

In addition to the credits listed above, all students must have completed a minimum of six (6) credits that can be considered electives to graduate.

Miscellaneous

CFA students can take online courses through programs such as One Schoolhose, Brigham Young University, and NC Virtual. Students are allowed to enroll into the online elective courses if not taught on campus or for courses that create a conflict with a student's schedule.

CFA Faculty Statistics

79 # full-time instructors	**21** # of part-time instructors
40 # of whom hold advanced degrees	**9:1** Student to faculty ratio

KEY: † Course no longer available * Courses added in '25-'26 school year

CAPE FEAR ACADEMY **COLLEGE CHOICES**

Application Statistics for the Class of 2025

Average: 7.29 apps per student

Matriculation Statistics: Out of State 50.9% / North Carolina 47.2%

Students were accepted into the following colleges and universities:

American University
Amherst College
Appalachian State University
Arizona State University (Tempe)
Auburn University
Barry University
Bellarmine University
Belmont Abbey College
Boston University
Butler University
Cardiff University (Wales)
Catholic University of America
Chapman University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
College of Charleston
Colorado State University
Cornell University
Davidson College
Drake University
Drexel University
Duke University
Duquesne University
East Carolina University
Elon University
Emory University
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida State University
Fordham University
George Mason University
George Washington University
Guilford College
High Point University
Houston Christian University
Indiana University (Bloomington)
Indiana University Indianapolis
Jacksonville University
James Madison University
Loughborough University (England)
Louisiana State University
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University Maryland
Miami University (Oxford)
Newcastle University (England)
New York University
North Carolina State University
Northeastern University
Occidental College
Palm Beach Atlantic University
Parsons School of Design at the New School
Penn State University (University Park)
Providence College
Purdue University Fort Wayne
Queens University of Charlotte
Radford University
Regis University
Rhodes College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Saint Francis University
Santa Clara University
Sewanee: The University of the South
Southern Methodist University
St. John's College (Annapolis)
Syracuse University
Texas Christian University
Texas Tech University
The University of Alabama
The University of Tampa
The University of Tennessee (Chattanooga)
The University of Tennessee (Knoxville)
Tufts University
University of Birmingham (England)
University of California (Los Angeles)
University of California (San Diego)
University of California (Santa Barbara)
University of California (Santa Cruz)
University of Central Florida
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Evansville
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Kansas
University of Liverpool (England)
University of Maryland (College Park)
University of Miami
University of Mississippi
University of North Carolina at Asheville
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University of North Carolina Wilmington
University of Notre Dame
University of South Carolina
University of South Carolina (Upstate)
University of Southern California
University of St. Andrews (Scotland)
University of Tulsa
University of Virginia (Main Campus)
University of Wisconsin (Madison)
Villanova University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)
Wake Forest University
Warren Wilson College
Washington and Lee University
Wofford College
Yale University
Young Harris College

COLLEGE COUNSELING MEMBERSHIPS

NACAC National Association for College Admission Counseling

SACAC Southern Association for College Admission Counseling

ACCIS Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools

Disclosure Policy

Colleges and universities rely on college counselors to provide a comprehensive and honest appraisal of our students. Cape Fear Academy has the responsibility to notify any educational institution to which a student has applied or been accepted to, of any change of status CFA through graduation, which may include a disciplinary report. It is Cape Fear Academy's policy to report any student suspension if asked by the college or university.