

College Application Quick Reference



DIXON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2026



THINGS TO CONSIDER

- COMMUNITY COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY?
- MAJORS & MINORS?
- COST: TUITION, BOOKS, HOUSING, MEALS?
- CLOSE TO HOME OR FAR AWAY?
- BIG CITY OR SMALL TOWN?
- ATHLETICS? CLUBS? EXPERIENCES? SCHOLARSHIPS?

HOW DO I APPLY TO COLLEGE?

1. CFNC.ORG (FOR NC COLLEGES)
2. COLLEGE WEBSITE
3. COMMON APP

DON'T WAIT TO SUBMIT!



YOU CAN STILL REQUEST ITEMS LIKE TRANSCRIPTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AFTER SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

EVERY SCHOOL HAS ITS OWN POLICIES REGARDING ENTRANCE EXAMS. MANY DO NOT REQUIRE THEM. CHECK WITH THE SCHOOL YOU'RE APPLYING TO FOR GUIDANCE.

SAT

COLLEGEBOARD.ORG

OCT 4, NOV 8,
DEC 6, MARCH 14,
MAY 2,
JUNE 6

ACT

ACT.ORG
SEPT 6, OCT
18, DEC 13,
FEB 14, APRIL
11, JUNE 13,
JULY 11

OFFICIAL TEST
SCORES ARE SENT
THROUGH THE
TESTING WEBSITE,
NOT DHS

WHAT ABOUT MY TRANSCRIPTS?

OPTION 1: SEND YOUR OWN (NC SCHOOLS ONLY)

- LOG INTO YOUR CFNC.ORG ACCOUNT
- CLICK "APPLY TO COLLEGE"
- CLICK "REQUEST YOUR TRANSCRIPT"
- FILL IN YOUR INFO AND SELECT THE SCHOOLS THAT NEED YOUR TRANSCRIPT
- CLICK "REQUEST YOUR TRANSCRIPT"

OPTION 2: SEND ELECTRONICALLY

- YOUR COUNSELOR CAN SUBMIT TRANSCRIPTS THROUGH COMMON APP, UNIVERSITY PORTALS, AND SOMETIMES EMAIL.

OPTION 3: MAIL A PAPER TRANSCRIPT

- COMPLETE A TRANSCRIPT REQUEST (ON OUR WEBSITE)
- ASK YOUR COUNSELOR TO MAIL A PAPER TRANSCRIPT AFTER YOU HAVE SUBMITTED YOUR APPLICATION.
- PLEASE PROVIDE THE MAILING ADDRESS.

QUICK TIPS

- **APPLY EARLY!** DO NOT WAIT TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATIONS. Show off your time management skills
- **Optional Essay? WRITE IT!** ask an English Teacher to proofread your essays.
- **Requirements:** Research each school and make sure you are taking the High School courses they require
- **Personality!** Don't be afraid to tell your story and stand out from the crowd! What obstacles have you overcome? How do you plan to use your college experience to make the world a better place?
- **No Senioritis:** Already accepted? Colleges are watching to make sure you didn't slack off 2nd semester. Finish strong!



PAYING FOR COLLEGE

SCHOLARSHIPS

- AWARDED BASED ON: ACADEMIC MERIT, FINANCIAL NEED, ATHLETICS, ESSAYS, COLLEGE MAJORS, ETC.
- RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS WEEKLY (THOUSANDS TO CHOOSE FROM!)
- MAY BE LINKED TO COLLEGE APPLICATION DEADLINES
- WHERE TO FIND THEM? WOHS WEBSITE

FINANCIAL AID (STUDENTAID.GOV)

- FEDERAL FUNDING IN THE FORM OF LOANS AND GRANTS
- YOU WILL NEED: YOUR PARENTS AND THEIR FEDERAL INCOME TAX RECORDS, YOUR FSA ID, SOCIAL SECURITY #, DRIVERS LICENSE #, LIST OF POTENTIAL COLLEGES
- FAFSA FOR 2026-2027 OPENS OCTOBER 1



RECOMMENDATIONS

- **COMPLETE A BRAG SHEET:** LIST ALL OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ATHLETICS, INTERESTS, VOLUNTEER TIME, AND PERSONAL QUALITIES. LIST EXPERIENCES FROM ALL 4 YEARS OF HS, SO THE RECOMMENDER CAN GIVE YOU THE BEST POSSIBLE RATING.
- [BRAG SHEET](#), also in the Senior Newsletter
- **REQUEST RECOMMENDATIONS:** CHOOSE RECOMMENDERS WHO CAN SPEAK ABOUT YOU AS A CANDIDATE. ASK NICELY — GIVE THEM A COPY OF YOUR BRAG SHEET, & TELL THEM THE DEADLINE.

REQUESTS SHOULD BE MADE AT LEAST 2 WEEKS IN ADVANCE.

- **DEADLINES AND APPRECIATION:** KEEP TRACK OF YOUR APPLICATION DEADLINES AND REMIND RECOMMENDERS IF NECESSARY. ONCE THEY HAVE SUBMITTED YOUR RECOMMENDATION, WRITE A THANK-YOU NOTE AS A GESTURE OF APPRECIATION.

LEARN THE LINGO

ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE: 2 YEAR DEGREE, OFTEN COMPLETED AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BACHELOR'S DEGREE: 4-YEAR DEGREE, OFTEN COMPLETED AT A UNIVERSITY

CLASS RANK: MEASUREMENT OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT COMPARED TO OTHERS IN YOUR CLASS. BASED ON WEIGHTED GPA

DEFERRED: ADMISSION DECISION THAT APPLICATION CAN BE RECONSIDERED-SOMETIMES ENTRY REQUIREMENTS ARE MISSING SUCH AS TEST SCORES.

***EARLY ACTION** NON BINDING. STUDENTS RECEIVE AN EARLY RESPONSE, BUT ARE NOT COMMITTED TO THE COLLEGE

***EARLY DECISION** BINDING IF ACCEPTED, YOU MUST ATTEND THE UNIVERSITY

LOAN: MONEY BORROWED FROM AN ORGANIZATION THAT MUST BE REPAYED, USUALLY WITH INTEREST

OPEN ADMISSION: POLICY OF ACCEPTING STUDENTS REGARDLESS OF GRADES, UNTIL SPACE IS FULL

ROLLING ADMISSION: ADMISSIONS CONSIDER APPLICANTS IMMEDIATELY RATHER THAN SETTING AN APPLICATION DEADLINE, UNTIL SPACE IS FULL

SCHOLARSHIP/GRANT: FINANCIAL AWARD STUDENTS MAY USE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION. NOT REPAYED

TRANSCRIPT: OFFICIAL RECORD OF COURSE WORK AND GRADES IN SCHOOL; INCLUDES GPA & CLASS RANK

UNDERGRADUATE: A COLLEGE STUDENT WORKING TOWARDS AN ASSOCIATE OR BACHELOR'S DEGREE

WAITLIST: THE LIST OF APPLICANTS WHO MAY BE ADMITTED TO A COLLEGE IF SPACE BECOMES AVAILABLE

WEIGHTED GPA: GPA THAT INCLUDES ADDITIONAL POINT VALUE FOR HONORS AND AP LEVEL COURSES

UNWEIGHTED GPA: GPA WHERE ALL COURSES ARE TREATED EQUALLY REGARDLESS OF THEIR DIFFICULTY LEVEL

NCAA INITIAL ELIGIBILITY

FOR COLLEGE ATHLETES
[HTTPS://WEB3.NCAA.ORG/ECWR3/](https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/)



QUESTIONS?

REACH OUT TO YOUR COUNSELOR

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