



Finding and Applying for the Right Scholarships

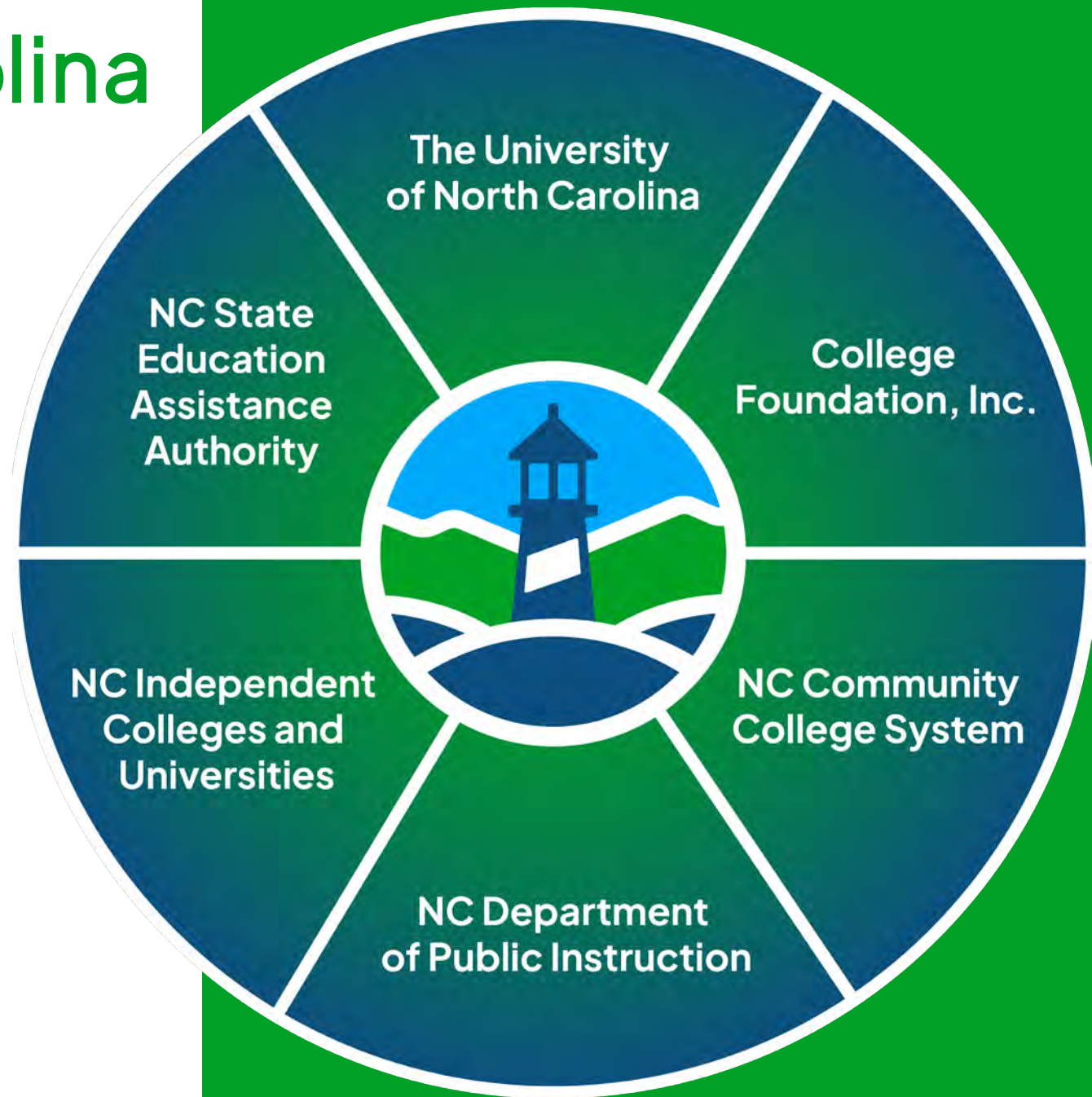
College for North Carolina (CFNC)



College for North Carolina (CFNC)

- Comprehensive website: CFNC.org
- Toll-free telephone advice at 866.866.CFNC
- Field representatives in every area code in NC

A free resource for North Carolina students and families to Plan, Apply, and Pay for College!





01 Plan for your future

- Plan for college
- Plan for a Career
- Planning Resources
- College Search

03 Pay for College

- Scholarship Search
- Financial Aid and FAFSA
- FAFSA 101
- Next NC Scholarship
- Financial Aid Calculators
- Student Loan Information

02 Apply for College

- Application Hub
- Request Transcripts
- Request NC Residency Determination
- NC Countdown to College

04 Save for College

- NC 529 Education Savings Plan
- Gifting
- Eligible Expenses
- Investment Options
- Manage Account

Paying for College: Scholarships



First Things First

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- Primary form for need-based financial aid
 - Federal Aid
 - State Aid
 - Institutional Aid
- Must meet eligibility requirements
- [Studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)
- Available October 1st, 2025



CSS Profile

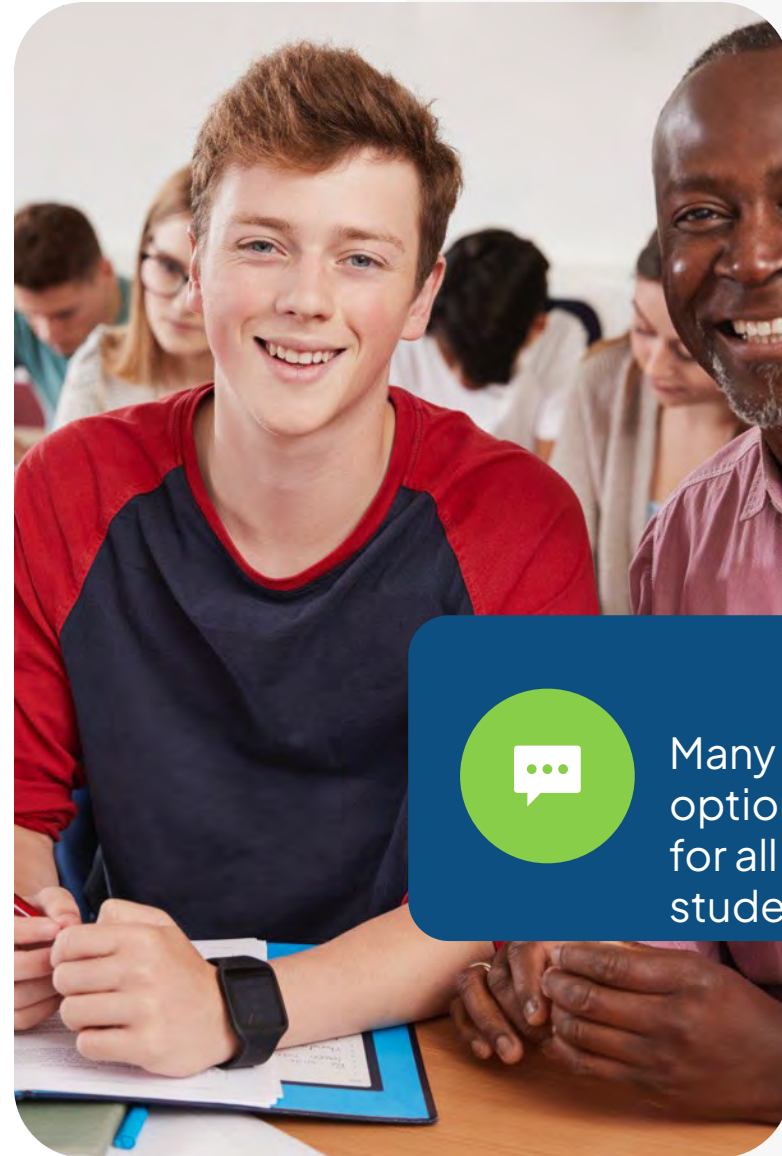
College Scholarship Service Profile

- Online Application Managed by the College Board to award non-federal institutional aid
- UNC Chapel Hill, Elon, Duke, Davidson, Wake Forest
- Available October 1st
- Check school deadlines
- Visit cssprofile.org for more information



Scholarship Categories

- Merit Based
- Need Based
- Demographic
- Field of study



Many scholarship options available for all type of students

Merit Based Scholarships

Based on student's abilities, achievements or potential

- Academic Excellence
- Leadership
- Athletics
- Arts & Performance
- Community Service
- Other Talents



Need Based Scholarships

Based primarily on financial need

- Students from low-income or financially disadvantaged backgrounds
- Often require income documentation
 - FAFSA, CSS Profile



Demographic Scholarships

Based on identity, background or personal characteristics

- Gender-Based Scholarships
- Ethnicity or Race
- LGBTQ+ Scholarships
- Students with Disability
- Religion or Faith
- First-Generation Students
- Refugee or Immigrant Backgrounds



GENERATION GOOGLE
SCHOLARSHIP



Field of Study

Based on specific academic or professional discipline.

- STEM
- Business or Law
- Arts & Humanities
- Medical and Healthcare
- Education



TEACH Grant

Four Main Scholarship Areas

- Local
- State scholarships
- Institutional scholarships
- National scholarships



Local Scholarships

Resources

- School Counselors
- Websites

Offered by:

- Religious organizations
- Community-based organizations
- Private organizations
- Small Local Businesses
- Employers



State Scholarships



NEXT NC
SCHOLARSHIP



Main NC Resources:

- College for North Carolina scholarship search tool
 - [CFNC.org/scholarships](https://cfnc.org/scholarships)
- North Carolina Community Foundation-
nccommunityfoundation.org
- Foundation for the Carolinas- [FFTC.org](https://fftc.org)

Offered by:

- State organizations & Employers
- Complete the FAFSA for many
- Must validate Residency for NC – [NCResidency.org](https://ncresidency.org)*

State scholarship Program



Know what you're getting.
Know where you're going.



\$80,000

Most students
from households
making \$80,000
or less will qualify

At least
\$3,000/yr

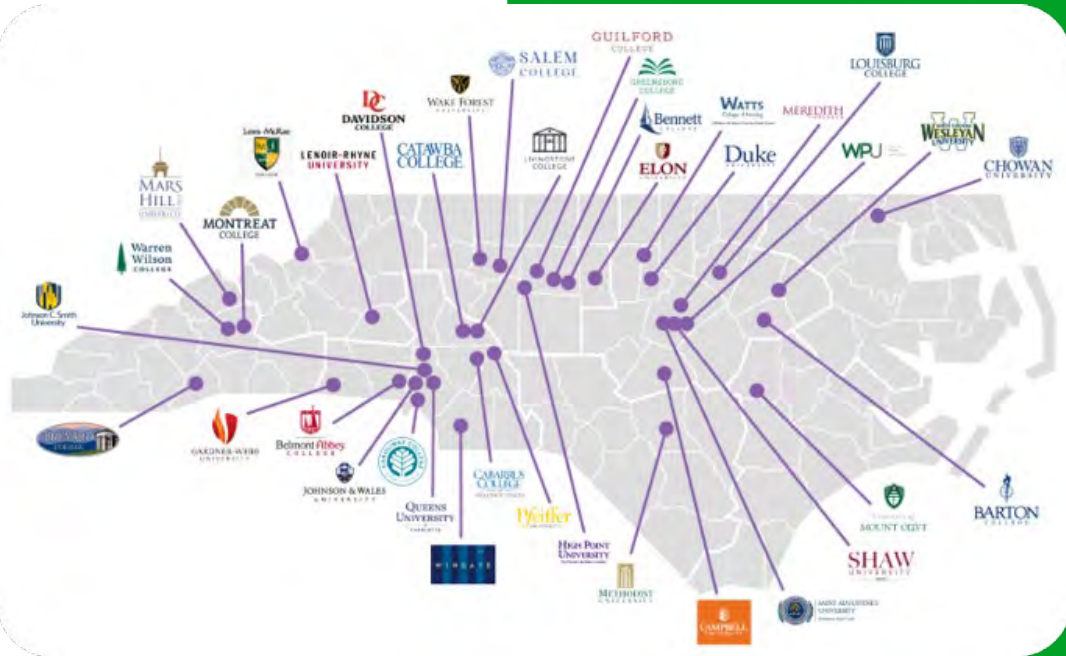
Students
attending a
community
college will get at
least \$3,000/yr
that covers all
tuition & fees

At least
\$5,000/yr

Students
attending a UNC
4-year will get at
least \$5,000/yr
that covers more
than half of
tuition & fees

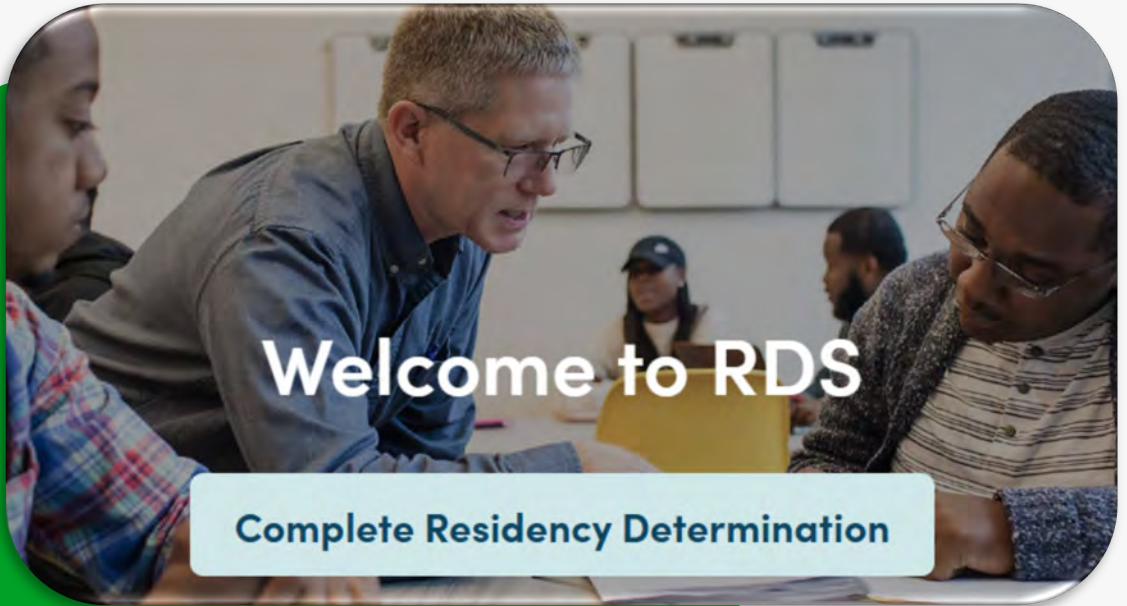
NC Independent Colleges and Universities

- Need Based Scholarship
- Meet Pell Grant Requirement
- NC Resident



NC Residency Determination (NC RDS)

- Centralized, and uniform process to determine if a student is eligible to receive **in-state tuition** and eligibility to receive **state financial aid**
- Students use CFNC.org username and password.
- Input student and parent information
- RCN = Residency Certification Number
- **Apply at ncesidency.org**



Welcome to RDS

Complete Residency Determination

RDS Tip
Complete *before* NC
Admissions Applications

Institutional Scholarships

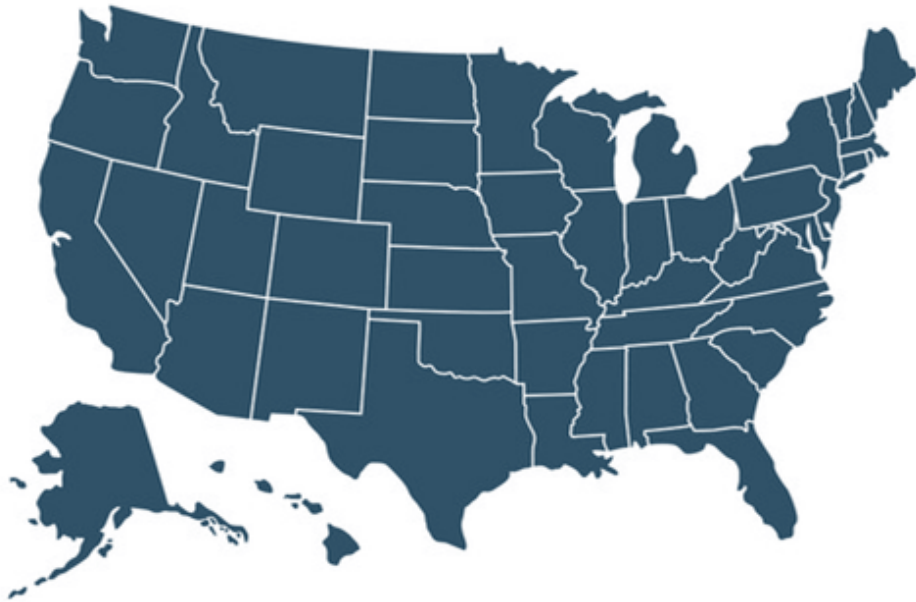
Offered directly by college or university

- Full ride or partial
- College or departmental
- Early deadlines
- College Application Submitted
- Where to look
 - Individual college websites
 - Admissions / FA representatives



National Scholarships

Competitive and offered by **national organizations, foundations, companies, or government agencies**



- Studentaid.gov
- Collegeboard.org
- CareerOneStop.org
- Fastweb.com
- Petersons.com
- GoingMerry.com
- ScholarshipOwl.com
- MyScholly.com
- Scholarships.com
- Appily.com
- SoMuchPotential.org
- Immigrantsrising.org
- **Google!**

Paying for College: Scholarship Tips



Scholarship Tips

- Start early
- Create a scholarship calendar
 - Include deadlines, requirements
- Have a professional email address
- Read to see if it is renewable
- Read about Prior winners if available



Don't stop searching after senior year!

Scholarship Tips

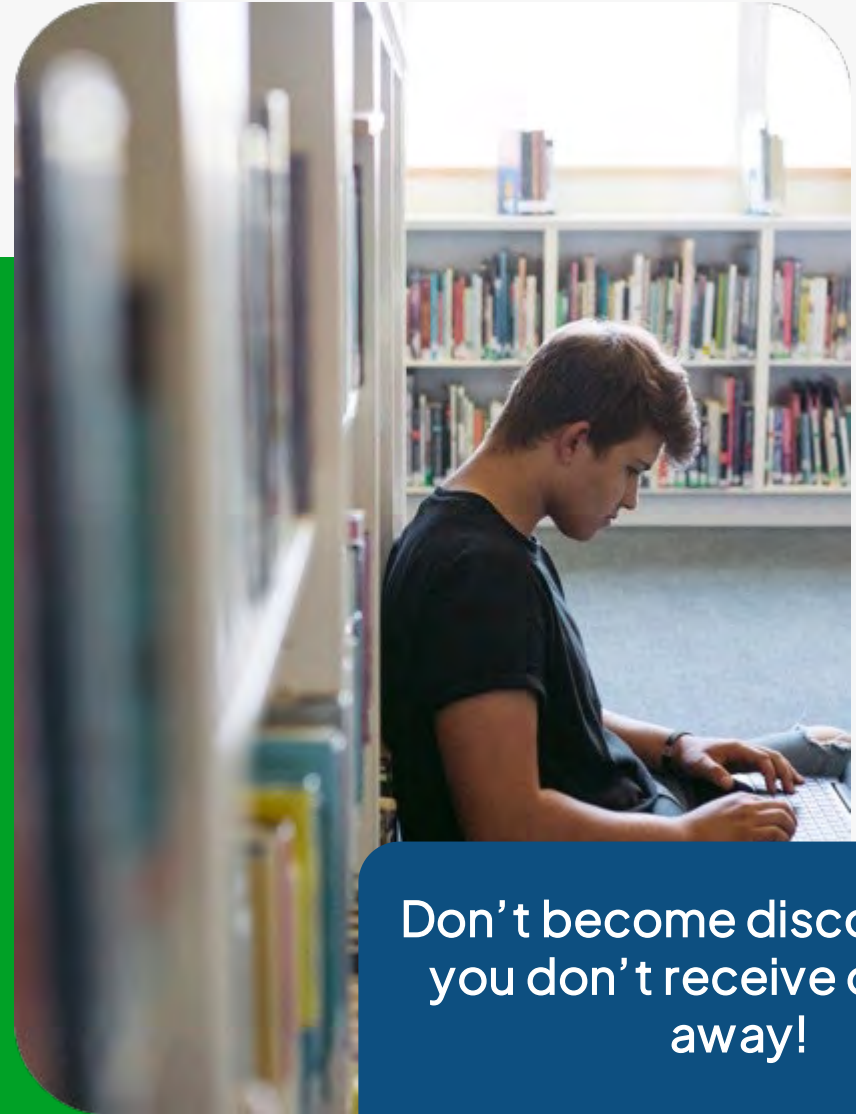
- Get organized and have important documents ready
 - Transcripts
 - Letters of recommendation
 - Resume
 - Financial Documents
- Check eligibility and read criteria carefully
- Practice for interviews



Don't stop searching after senior year!

Scholarship Tips

- Write strong essays
 - Address the essay prompt
 - Tell your story
 - Focus on Impact and growth
 - Spell check and proofread!
- Ask for strong recommendations
 - Give people 2–3 weeks
 - Provide Brag sheet or resume and details about scholarship
- Avoid Scams



Don't become discouraged if
you don't receive one right
away!

Paying for College: Other Unique Opportunities



Education Training Voucher (ETV) for Foster Youth

- Designed to help students currently or formerly experiencing foster care pay for college or career school/vocational training
 - Grant limits: Up to 5,000/year up to 5 years
 - Limited funding, distributed on first-come, first-served
 - Can be combined with other grants and scholarships
 - For more information visit [Ncreach.org](https://www.Ncreach.org)



NC Reach

- Designed to help students formerly experiencing foster care pay for college
- Funding is awarded after other financial aid and scholarships have been processed
- Award is for up to four (4) years of undergraduate study at NC public universities and community colleges.
- Cannot be used at a private or out of state schools



GI Bill Education Benefits

- Designed to help active-duty service member, veteran or member of the National Guard or reserves pay for tuition
- Can cover 36–48 months of education benefits
- Up to 36 months of unused GI Bill education benefits can be transferred to spouse or a dependent child
- Check with the Veteran's administration on eligibility for yourself or to transfer to a family member



University of North Carolina System



NC Promise

- Elizabeth City State University
- University of North Carolina at Pembroke
- Fayetteville State University
- Western Carolina University

Fixed Tuition Program

ALL 16 UNC system institutions

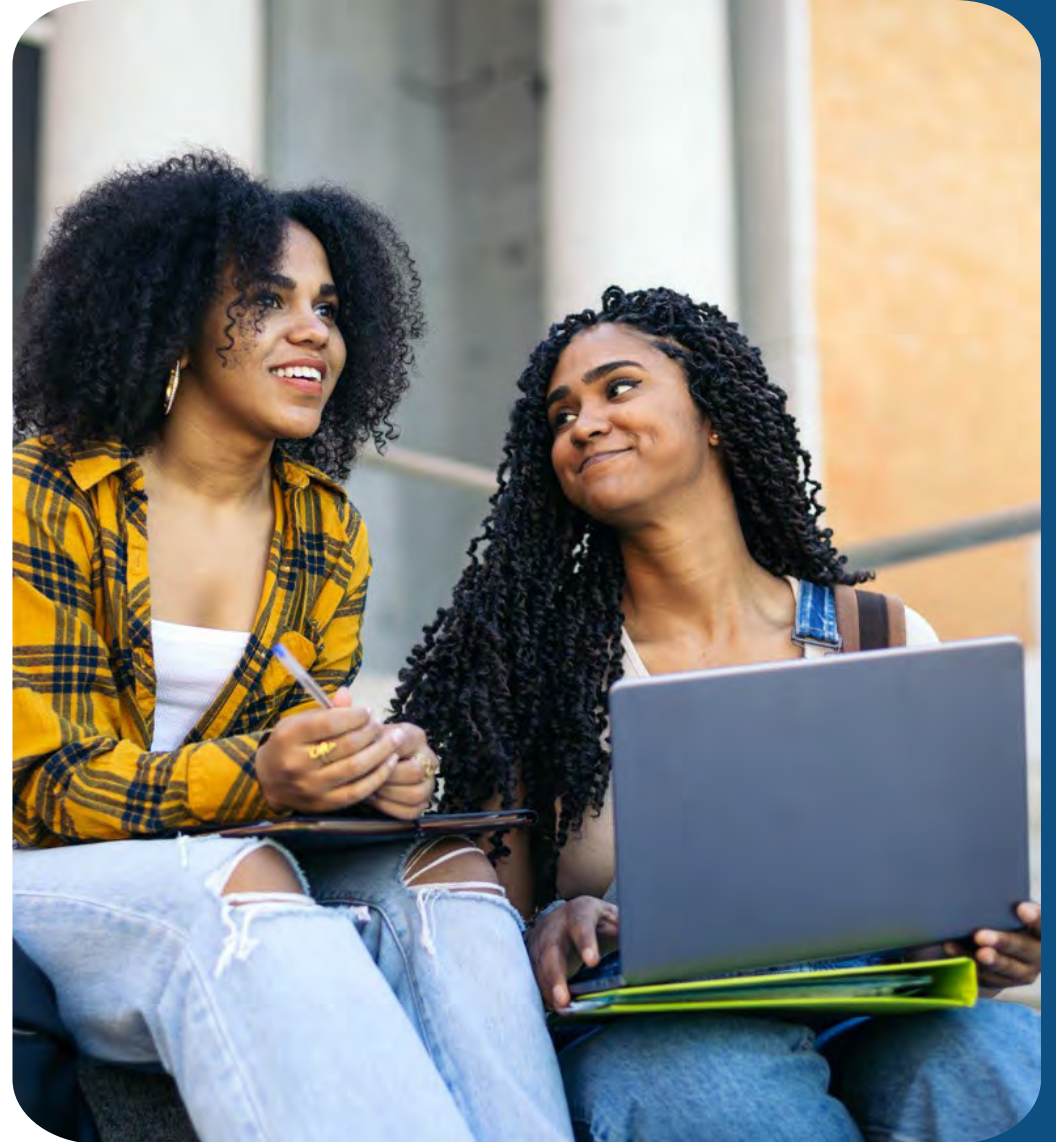
Tuition = \$500 per semester
4 UNC System Institutions

Other Early College Credit Options

As a North Carolina high school student, you can earn early college credit while in high school at no cost

- Advanced Placement (AP)
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Dual Enrollment
- Early and Middle college High School options
- College Level Examination Program (CLEP)

Note: Not all colleges accept early college credit, so check with individual colleges on their rules of acceptance.



NC Forgivable Education Loan for Service (FELS)

Can help you obtain the degree you want **AND** it doesn't have to be repaid back monetarily **IF** you stay in North Carolina to work in your field for every year you received funds for college.

Who can receive FELS?

Qualified students who are enrolled in one of the approved education programs and are committed to working in North Carolina in areas with a critical need for more employees, such as nursing, teaching, allied health fields, or medicine.

Apply & See eligible programs at CFNC.org/FELS



NC Assist No Essay Scholarship



You could join the winners!

These students have unlocked their future with the NC Assist No Essay Scholarship.

The NC Assist \$1,000 No Essay Scholarship is a monthly sweepstakes where one participant is randomly chosen to receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Just complete the form to enter and consider participating each month for additional chances to win.



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NCAssist.org



Don't miss our Statewide Webinars!!

How to pay for college
October 2 at 6pm

Visit CFNC.org/events





Let's Stay Connected!

Visit CFNC.org for more on
paying, applying and planning
for college



@mycfnc



@CFNC



@mycfnc



@CollegeForNC

Thank you!

Questions?



Presented by:

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Populations

