



# CAPE FEAR ACADEMY

## SCHOOL PROFILE 2026-2027

### 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 & Assistant Head of School for Strategic Planning and Initiatives*

### COLLEGE COUNSELING

**Leigh Ann Hodges**

*Director of College Counseling*

910.791.0287 x.3061

[leighann.hodges@capefearacademy.org](mailto:leighann.hodges@capefearacademy.org)

**Bethany Fee**

*Associate Director of College Counseling*

910.791.0287 x.3081

[bethany.fee@capefearacademy.org](mailto:bethany.fee@capefearacademy.org)

### ENROLLMENT

**826**

Total Enrollment

**257**

Upper School (9-12)

**216**

Middle School (6-8)

**353**

Lower School (LE-5)

% Students Representing Minority Ethnicity:

17%

% Students Receiving Need-Based Financial

Assistance: 11%

### 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

Cape Fear Academy believes that strength of character is essential to success. We foster good decision-making, interacting with others with compassion and empathy, tackling challenges with optimism and diligence, delivering on commitments, and taking responsibility for actions.

### 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

## Class of 2026 Statistics

| CLASS OF 2026                |         | STUDENTS |         | COLLEGE BOUND |         | MEAN GPA<br>(Unweighted) |                              | MEAN GPA<br>(Weighted) |            | GPA Range<br>(Weighted) |             | GPA MID-50%<br>(Weighted) |  |
|------------------------------|---------|----------|---------|---------------|---------|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--|
|                              |         | 64       |         | 100%          |         | 3.72                     |                              | 4.23                   |            | 3.40-5.09               |             | 4.02-4.53                 |  |
| ACT (36)                     |         |          |         |               |         |                          | SAT (1600)                   |                        |            |                         |             |                           |  |
|                              |         | Math     | Science | English       | Reading | Composite                |                              |                        | EBRW (800) | Math (800)              | Total Score |                           |  |
| Class of 2025<br>(19 Tested) | Average | 29       | 27      | 29            | 30      | 29                       | Class of 2026<br>(45 Tested) | Average                | 640        | 637                     | 1277        |                           |  |
|                              | Mid 50% | 26-31    | 23-32   | 35-33         | 26-36   | 25-32                    |                              | Mid 50%                | 610-680    | 600-700                 | 1210-1350   |                           |  |

## 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.

| 2026 AP EXAM STATISTICS |       |                       |                  |
|-------------------------|-------|-----------------------|------------------|
| STUDENTS                | EXAMS | SCORE:<br>3 or Higher | SCORE:<br>4 or 5 |
| 195                     | 580   | 88%                   | 65%              |

| 2026 AP COURSE ENROLLMENT |       |                        |
|---------------------------|-------|------------------------|
| AVERAGE PER STUDENT       | RANGE | MAJORITY OF CLASS TOOK |
| 7.38                      | 1-15  | 5-10                   |

## 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<br>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                                                    | A+              | A                 | A-                 | B+                 | B                 | B-                 | C+                 | C                 | C-                                                                                                                                                                                          | D+                 | D                 | D-               | NP             |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Class of 2026<br>64 students                           | 100-98<br>4.33+ | 97-93<br>4.32-4.0 | 92-90<br>3.99-3.67 | 89-88<br>3.66-3.33 | 87-83<br>3.32-3.0 | 82-80<br>2.99-2.67 | 79-78<br>2.66-2.33 | 77-73<br>2.32-2.0 | 72-70<br>1.99-1.67                                                                                                                                                                          | 69-68<br>1.66-1.33 | 67-63<br>1.32-1.0 | 62-60<br>.99-.67 | 59-90<br>.66-0 |
| Unweighted<br>Grade<br>Distribution as<br>of June 2026 | 0%              | 20.3%             | 42.2%              | 28.1%              | 9.4%              | 0%                 | 0%                 | 0%                | 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. |                    |                   |                  |                |

## Community Engagement

In addition to their academic schedule, students are required to complete 16 community engagement units per semester. Cape Fear Academy views community engagement as an integral part of becoming an active and productive member of society. Examples of this might be: attending a religious service outside of a student's faith tradition, attending a city council meeting, attending a school board meeting, participating in a community service activity, attending a local play, musical, or theatrical performance, etc.

## 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.

## NC College Connect Pilot Program for Class of 2027

Cape Fear Academy was selected by the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority and the College Foundation, Inc. to participate in the NC College Connect Program, a direct admission program that guarantees eligible students a spot at participating UNC System and North Carolina independent colleges and universities. Cape Fear Academy is one of three institutions chosen to pilot this program at independent schools for the 2026-2027 academic year.

# 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
- ▶ Honors 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
- ▶ Honors Advanced Algebra & Trig
- ▶ Statistics and Modeling \*
- ▶ AP Pre-Calculus
- ▶ AP Statistics
- ▶ AP Calculus AB
- ▶ AP Calculus BC

### Science (3)

(Biology, Chemistry, and Physics Required)

- ▶ Biology
- ▶ Honors Biology
- ▶ AP Biology
- ▶ Chemistry
- ▶ Honors Chemistry
- ▶ AP Chemistry
- ▶ AP Environmental Science
- ▶ Introduction to Engineering and Physics
- ▶ Honors Physics: Coastal Engineering
- ▶ Honors Engineering Design
- ▶ Honors EM and Circuits
- ▶ Honors Physics
- ▶ AP Physics C (Mechanics)

### Social Studies (3)

- ▶ Civics and Economics
- ▶ Honors Civics and Economics
- ▶ World History
- ▶ AP World History
- ▶ Honors U.S. History
- ▶ AP U.S. History
- ▶ AP Human Geography
- ▶ AP U.S. Government and Politics
- ▶ AP Psychology
- ▶ AP Seminar
- ▶ AP Research
- ▶ AP Business with Personal Finance \*

### World Language (2)

- ▶ Spanish I, II
- ▶ Honors Spanish III, IV
- ▶ 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 \*
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Honors Publications
- ▶ Film & Filmmaking: Mise-en-Scene, Cinematography, & Editing
- ▶ Photography
- ▶ Honors Photography
- ▶ Technical Theater and Design
- ▶ Honors Technical Theater Design
- ▶ Vocal Ensemble
- ▶ Honors Vocal Ensemble
- ▶ Band
- ▶ Honors Band

### Computing, Innovation and Design

- ▶ Entrepreneurship - Design and Fabrication †
- ▶ Applied Computing, Innovation & Design †
- ▶ AP Computer Science A
- ▶ AP Computer Science Principles

### 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 Schoolhouse, 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          |  |                            |  |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| 86                              |  | 18                         |  |
| # full-time instructors         |  | # of part-time instructors |  |
| 41                              |  | 9:1                        |  |
| # of whom hold advanced degrees |  | Student to faculty ratio   |  |

# CAPE FEAR ACADEMY COLLEGE CHOICES

## Application Statistics for the Class of 2026

**Average:** 7.67 apps per student

**Matriculation Statistics:** Out of State 57.8% / North Carolina 42.2%

## Students were accepted into the following colleges and universities:

*Full list of acceptances for the last 3 years (2026, 2025, and 2024)*

|                                                           |                                            |                                           |                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| American University                                       | Furman University                          | Providence College                        | University of Kansas                                                |
| Amherst College                                           | George Mason University                    | Purdue University (Main Campus)           | University of Kentucky                                              |
| Appalachian State University                              | George Washington University               | Purdue University Fort Wayne              | University of Liverpool (England)                                   |
| Arizona State University (Tempe)                          | Georgetown University                      | Purdue University Northwest               | University of Maryland (College Park)                               |
| Auburn University                                         | Guilford College                           | Queens University of Charlotte            | University of Massachusetts (Amherst)                               |
| Barry University                                          | Gordon College                             | Quinnipiac University                     | University of Miami                                                 |
| Bates College                                             | Hamilton College                           | Radford University                        | University of Michigan                                              |
| Bellarmino University                                     | Harvard College                            | Regis University                          | University of Mississippi                                           |
| Belmont University                                        | High Point University                      | Rhodes College                            | University of North Carolina at Asheville                           |
| Belmont Abbey College                                     | Hobart and William Smith Colleges          | Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute          | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill                         |
| Boston College                                            | Houston Christian University               | Robert Morris University                  | University of North Carolina at Charlotte                           |
| Boston University                                         | Howard University                          | Rochester Institute of Technology         | University of North Carolina at Greensboro                          |
| Bowdoin College                                           | IE University (Madrid, Spain)              | Saint Francis University                  | University of North Carolina at Pembroke                            |
| Butler University                                         | Indiana University (Bloomington)           | Salve Regina University                   | University of North Carolina Wilmington                             |
| California Polytechnic State University (San Luis Obispo) | Indiana University Indianapolis            | San Diego State University                | University of North Carolina School of the Arts                     |
| California State University (Channel Islands)             | Indiana University of Pennsylvania         | Santa Clara University                    | University of Notre Dame                                            |
| California State University (Fullerton)                   | Jacksonville University                    | Savannah College of Art and Design        | University of Oklahoma                                              |
| Campbell University                                       | James Madison University                   | Sewanee: The University of the South      | University of Pittsburgh (Johnstown)                                |
| Cardiff University (Wales)                                | Lafayette College                          | Southern Methodist University             | University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh)                               |
| Catholic University of America                            | Lehigh University                          | St. John's College (Annapolis)            | University of Richmond                                              |
| Chapman University                                        | Loughborough University (England)          | St. Bonaventure University                | University of San Diego                                             |
| Christopher Newport University                            | Louisiana State University                 | St. Lawrence College                      | University of San Francisco                                         |
| Clark University                                          | Loyola Marymount University                | Swarthmore College                        | University of South Carolina                                        |
| Clemson University                                        | Loyola University Chicago                  | Syracuse University                       | University of South Carolina (Upstate)                              |
| Coastal Carolina University                               | Loyola University Maryland                 | Texas Christian University                | University of Southern California                                   |
| Colgate University                                        | Mary Baldwin University                    | Texas Tech University                     | University of South Florida (Main campus)                           |
| College of Charleston                                     | Marymount Manhattan College                | The University of Alabama                 | University of St. Andrews (Scotland)                                |
| Colorado School of Mines                                  | Mercer University                          | The University of Tampa                   | University of Tulsa                                                 |
| Colorado State University (Fort Collins)                  | Methodist University                       | The University of Tennessee (Chattanooga) | University of Utah                                                  |
| Cornell University                                        | Miami University (Oxford)                  | The University of Tennessee (Knoxville)   | University of Vermont                                               |
| Creighton University                                      | Michigan State University                  | Tufts University                          | University of Virginia (Main Campus)                                |
| Dartmouth College                                         | Middlebury College                         | Union College                             | University of Wisconsin (Madison)                                   |
| Davidson College                                          | Mississippi State University               | University College Cork (Ireland)         | University of Wyoming                                               |
| Drake University                                          | Monmouth University                        | University of Arkansas                    | Vanderbilt University                                               |
| Drew University                                           | Morehead State University                  | University of Birmingham (England)        | Villanova University                                                |
| Drexel University                                         | Newcastle University (England)             | University College Dublin (Ireland)       | Virginia Military Institute                                         |
| Duke University                                           | New York University                        | University of California (Davis)          | Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) |
| Duquesne University                                       | Newberry College                           | University of California (Los Angeles)    | Wake Forest University                                              |
| East Carolina University                                  | North Carolina Central University          | University of California (Riverside)      | Warren Wilson College                                               |
| Eckerd College                                            | North Carolina State University            | University of California (San Diego)      | Washington and Lee University                                       |
| Elon University                                           | Northeastern University                    | University of California (Santa Barbara)  | Western Carolina University                                         |
| Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University                      | Norwich University                         | University of California (Santa Cruz)     | Westminster College                                                 |
| Emerson College                                           | Nova Southeastern University               | University of Central Florida             | Wilkes University                                                   |
| Emory University                                          | Occidental College                         | University of Colorado Boulder            | William and Mary                                                    |
| Flagler College                                           | Palm Beach Atlantic University             | University of Connecticut                 | Wofford College                                                     |
| Florida Atlantic University                               | Parsons School of Design at the New School | University of Delaware                    | Yale University                                                     |
| Florida Gulf Coast University                             | Penn State University (University Park)    | University of Evansville                  | Young Harris College                                                |
| Florida State University                                  | Pepperdine University                      | University of Florida                     |                                                                     |
| Fordham University                                        | Pfeiffer University                        | University of Georgia                     |                                                                     |
|                                                           | Pratt Institute                            | University of Hawaii at Manoa             |                                                                     |

**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.