

Senior Planning Guide

2022-2023



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Class of 2023 Planning Guide

Seniors,

Congratulations! You have made it to your final year of high school. Now is the time to plan for your future and decide what you are going to do after graduation. This planning guide should be used as your main resource of information on how to best navigate senior year. Please review the following pages carefully and refer to this document when you need assistance. If you have questions, consult with your counselor. Have a great year!

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Future Ready Core Graduation Checklist

English - 4 credits

- English I
- English II
- English III
- English IV

Math - 4 credits

- Math 1
- Math 2
- Math 3
- 4th Math must be aligned with student's postsecondary plans

Science - 3 credits

- Earth/Environmental Science
- Biology
- A physical science (Physical Science, Chemistry, Physics)

Social Studies - 4 credits

- World History
- A Founding Principles Course (Civics & Economics, Civics Literacy, or AP Government & Politics)
- An American History course (American History, American History I, American History II, AP US History, or IB HOTA I)
- A Social Studies course (An American History course from above, HOTA II, or a SS elective)

Health & PE - 1 credit

- CPR Requirement

General Electives - 8 credits

- 2 credits must be CTE, Art, or World Language
- World Language credits are not required for graduation but are required for the UNC System admissions' requirements

= 24 credits total

College Application Process

Most, if not all, college applications are electronic. Make sure to reference individual college websites for specific information regarding their admissions process. Deadlines vary! Be sure to check the dates for the colleges to which you are applying.

Common Application to Apply for College

- Many colleges now offer students the option of using the Common Application. The Common Application (common app) allows students to complete one application online which then submits the same information to all the schools the student designates. Some colleges may require supplemental information.
- Go to www.commonapp.org to access the Common Application.

College Admissions Options

- **Early Action** is an admissions procedure to notify students of early admissions to the college. Students are not obligated to accept the college's offer of admission.
- **Early Decision** is a plan under which candidates may submit credentials early to one college, usually by October 15th of the senior year. Applicants are notified of their status by December. As part of an early decision plan, students are required to sign a statement agreeing to accept the college's offer of admission and must only apply to one school as Early Decision. Students must withdraw applications from other colleges if accepted under early decision.
- **Regular Admission** is the plan under which candidates submit credentials during November to February, depending on school deadlines. Check the deadlines for each individual school.
- **Rolling Admission** is the plan under which candidates submit credentials at their convenience through a certain date, usually late in the year. They receive an offer of acceptance or denial within four to six weeks.
- **Onsite Admission** is an admissions option in which colleges visit students at the high school and make admissions determinations during a scheduled appointment.

College Admission Keywords

- **Offer of Conditional Acceptance** is acceptance to a college provided the candidate maintains academic performance throughout the year. A college can withdraw its offer if grades fall significantly or if a student is involved in an activity that results in disciplinary action by the school or law enforcement.
- **Denial** is a final decision by the college to not offer admission. Students who are denied can apply again after completing at least a semester of college coursework.

- **Deferment** is a delay of admissions decision until a later time. Many competitive schools will defer fall applications to the spring in order to receive additional grades and other information.
- **Waitlisting** occurs after the regular admissions process is complete. There is no guarantee a college will go to the waitlist or where students rank on the waitlist. Students on a waitlist for one college should plan to attend another college and then reconsider if offered admission at a later time.

Letters of Recommendation

- Not all colleges require teacher recommendations. Be sure to pay close attention to which ones do so that you can give teachers plenty of time to complete the recommendation.
- Choose a teacher, coach, club sponsor, etc. that knows you well and can provide specific details about what makes you unique. Be sure to ask someone who fulfills the recommendation requirements.
- Allow at least 2 weeks for the teacher to write the letter.
- Provide the teacher with a copy of your resume, senior profile, and any additional information they need to write a comprehensive letter for you.
- Review this [video](#) for more information about how to add a teacher to provide your recommendation in Naviance.

Resume

If you have not already, you need to review your years in high school, grades 9-12, and make sure you prepare a resume (factsheet) which will list all the school, civic, religious, community, and sports activities you have participated in by school year. You will need to provide this to your teacher and/or counselor to assist them in the writing of a letter of recommendation. Examples of resumes can be found online, and you can create your own on Naviance using a guided template.

Residency Determination Service (RDS)

Establishing an in-state residency is another way to help you save money on college admission expenses. In North Carolina, a person's residency status is determined by a centralized service called Residency Determination Service (RDS). An RDS status is applicable for multiple NC public colleges and universities as well as state aid programs for all NC colleges and universities (public or private, 2 or 4 year).

Complete your [NC determination here](#). You can use your CFNC account login to get started.

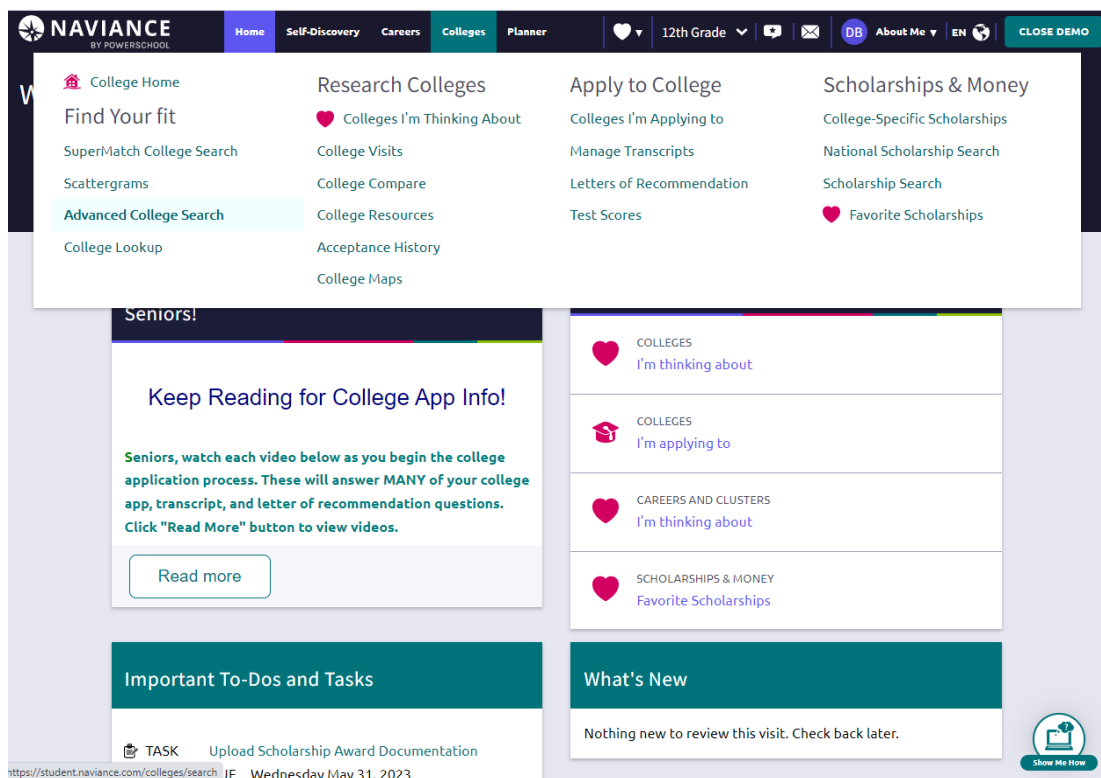
Naviance

Use Naviance to create resumes, request transcripts and letters of recommendation, and update the status of your college applications!

View this [video](#) for more information on how to match your Common Application to your Naviance account.

This must be completed to add teacher recommendations and request transcripts

1. Login to your NCEDCloud account
2. Click on “Clever”
3. Find “Naviance” icon
4. Click on “Colleges” tab in toolbar
5. Use hyperlinks under “Apply to College”



College Application Week

October 17, 2022 - October 21, 2022

Apply to many NC colleges for **FREE** during College Application Week! The list of which college applications are free will be announced on October 1, 2022.

1. Login to [CFNC.org](https://www.cfnc.org)
2. Click on “Application Hub”
3. Click on “Start an Application” and/or “Request a Transcript”

Review more information about CFNC’s [Countdown to College](#)

The graphic is titled "COLLEGE ADMISSION CHECKLIST" and features the logos for "NC COUNTDOWN TO COLLEGE" and the "College Foundation of North Carolina". Below the logos is the website "CFNC.org". The main heading is "A Step-by-Step Guide to Applying to College". The checklist is organized into three numbered steps, each with a colored arrow pointing right:

- 1 GET STARTED**
 - Create/Update Your CFNC Profile.** Your My Profile information will automatically populate the corresponding fields on your applications. Your CFNC login will be the same for NC Residency also!
 - Explore Colleges and Universities.** Go to the College Search section to filter schools based on criteria that's important to you and your goals.
 - Save Your Favorite Schools.** Keep your favorite schools in one place for easy access when researching and applying.
 - Get Your FSA ID.** Your Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID allows you to sign your FAFSA and federal education loan promissory notes.
- 2 PREPARE A PLAN**
 - Keep Track of Application Deadlines.** Make sure you have a list of deadlines so you don't miss any important dates
 - Explore Colleges and Identify Application Fees.** If an application fee is required, you may still qualify to get a fee waiver. Check with your school counselor!
 - Complete a Practice Application.** Fill out the CFNC practice application to help you identify and prepare for the information you may need.
 - Prepare Essays and Personal Statements.** Have your essays and personal statements ready so they can be easily uploaded or copy-pasted to your application. Make sure to check for word counts or other requirements.
 - Carefully Read the Introduction.** Take your time and read the application introduction carefully. Each school has different requirements and instructions.
- 3 GO APPLY**
 - Complete Your NC Residency (RDS).** Your residency status determines your eligibility for state grants and in-state tuition. Visit www.ncresidency.org.
 - Submit Your FAFSA.** The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is used to determine your eligibility for federal aid & state grants. Complete your FAFSA as soon after Oct. 1 as possible!
 - Submit Your College Applications.** Start your applications on CFNC.org to take advantage of waived fees at participating NC schools during College Application Week!
 - Send Your High School Transcripts.** Be sure to send your HS transcripts to colleges that you are submitting applications. CFNC allows you to send your transcript from NC high schools to NC colleges.

Financial Aid

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

All students applying for federal financial aid must file the FAFSA form. The FAFSA is the only application students must complete to be considered for all federal financial aid. You can access this form online at

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>. You cannot submit the form until October 1st.

While you can submit the FAFSA up until June 30th of the year you enroll in school, the priority deadline for many schools is either February 15th or March 1st. In addition, some schools require the CSS Profile for institutional need-based aid. Check each college/university for its requirements to ensure you file on time.

Use the following links for help with completing the FAFSA:

 [How to Fill Out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA®\) Fo...](#)

[Filling Out the FAFSA® Form | Federal Student Aid](#)

Scholarships

Check out Mallard Creek's "Creek Cash" spreadsheet for a comprehensive list of institutional, North Carolina, local, and national scholarships. This list will be updated frequently and you should continue to check the spreadsheet for new scholarship opportunities.

Students can do their own research to find scholarships they are eligible to apply for in addition to what is listed on the "Creek Cash" spreadsheet.

Please note that many scholarships require essays. It is important to take time to develop your essays and answer the scholarship questions according to their specific prompts and expectations.

Standardized Tests

SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test)

The SAT measures critical reading, mathematics and writing ability and predicts college performance. The SAT Subject test measures performance in specific subjects. Some highly competitive colleges require SAT Subject tests for placement, and even admission into certain programs. To register for the SAT, go to www.collegeboard.org

ACT (American College Test)

The ACT measures educational achievement in English, math, reading, science, and writing. Colleges select the best scores from each area for admissions criteria. The ACT also predicts performance of the freshman year in college.

To register for the ACT, go to www.act.org

General Information

- Check with colleges/universities to see which test they prefer.
- UNC system schools will remain **test-optional** for the 2022-2023 application cycle.
- Scores can be automatically sent to **four** colleges that you indicate when registering for the test. If you decide to send scores to a college after the test date, you must notify the testing service to make the request.
- Test Scores **MUST** be sent to colleges/universities by the student through the testing organization, either the College Board or ACT.
- Fee waivers are available for economically disadvantaged students. Students on free/reduced lunch and/or other economic criteria may qualify.

SAT		ACT	
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Test Date	Registration Deadline
Aug. 27, 2022	July 29, 2022	Sept. 10, 2022	Aug. 5, 2022
Oct. 1, 2022	Sept. 2, 2022	Oct. 22, 2022	Sept. 16, 2022
Nov. 5, 2022	Oct. 7, 2022	Dec. 10, 2022	Nov. 4, 2022
Dec. 3, 2022	Nov. 3, 2022	Feb. 11, 2023	Jan. 6, 2023
March 11, 2023	Feb. 10, 2023	April 15, 2023	March 10, 2023
May 6, 2023	April 7, 2023	June 10, 2023	May 5, 2023

NCAA Eligibility

Thinking of playing a sport in college? You must [apply online](#) with the National Collegiate Athletic Association. This site will allow schools to view your previous classes and help determine your eligibility for college sports.

- There is a **one time \$100 fee to apply**
- See Ms. White for a waiver if you are on free/reduced lunch
- NCAA [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about becoming a student athlete
- [Registration Checklist](#)
- [Information about Division I Student-Athletes](#)

College Visits

College Visits are available at Mallard Creek on specific dates. Please contact Ms. White for more information and check your student email for more information on which colleges are coming and on which dates.

Community College Information

Community colleges provide excellent opportunities for students to excel in a variety of careers and is a great pathway to begin your postsecondary education. Community colleges have established relationships with several universities for students who wish to transfer after earning an Associates degree or the required number of credit hours for transfer.

- There are 59 community colleges in North Carolina
- Local community colleges include Central Piedmont, Rowan-Cabarrus, Stanly, Gaston, South Piedmont, and Mitchell
- More information can be accessed at www.nccommunitycolleges.edu

Military Services

Representatives from the different branches of the military visit MCHS periodically throughout the year. At other times, the military representatives may be reached in their Charlotte offices.

Air Force	www.airforce.com
Army	www.goarmy.com
Army Reserve	www.goarmy.com/reserve
Coast Guard	www.gocoastguard.com
Marines	www.marines.com
Navy	www.navy.com
Naval Reserve	www.navyreserve.com
NC National Guard	www.nationalguard.com