

# Your Checklist for College

## 9th Grade Set Your Sights on College

- Take courses that challenge you.
- Meet with your school counselor to discuss your educational and course options.
- Explore course options such as AP, honors, IB, CTE, and Career and College Promise.
- Create a free CFNC account to record your courses, activities, and more.
- Discover possible career interests at CFNC.org.
- Research ways to save and pay for college.

## 10th Grade Keep Your Focus

- Pursue extracurricular interests, such as dance, sports, clubs, or community service.
- Review your goals for the future with your counselor.
- Update your CFNC plan of study.
- Look on CFNC.org for free SAT and ACT test prep resources.
- Take the PSAT for practice.
- Talk with family and friends about their educational choices.
- "Tour" colleges online at CFNC.org.

## 11th Grade Investigate and Prepare

- Review your academic plan with your counselor.
- Use CFNC.org to find free practice tests for the SAT and ACT.
- Take the PSAT in October (you may qualify for National Merit Scholarships).
- Check admission requirements for colleges that interest you.
- Keep your CFNC plan of study updated.
- Attend college fairs and financial aid workshops.
- Visit colleges.
- Research scholarships, grants, and loans at CFNC.org.
- Talk with coaches about college sports and scholarship eligibility.
- Register and take SAT, ACT, and/or AP tests.
- Narrow down your list of colleges.
- Find a summer job or internship in your field of interest.

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## 12th Grade Fall Don't Let Up

- Review courses, graduation requirements, and scholarship opportunities with your counselor.
- Update your CFNC plan of study.
- Take first SAT or ACT offered this fall.
- Select at least five colleges - a reach school, a safety school, and others in between.
- Participate in College Application Week if available at your school.
- Track application and financial aid deadlines for your college choices.
- Check with college financial aid offices for school-specific scholarship information, deadlines, and forms.
- Write, edit, proofread, and rewrite your admissions essays early.
- Complete NC college and university applications online at CFNC.org before the deadlines.
- If your high school participates, use CFNC.org to send your official transcripts to your NC choices.
- If you are a student athlete, send transcripts to NCAA Clearinghouse for eligibility certification.
- Submit any other college applications.
- Ask teachers, counselors, or references to write recommendation letters to support your applications.
- Remind parents/guardians to prepare tax information soon after January 1 to use for your financial aid applications.

## 12th Grade Spring Finish Strong

- Go to [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) to get an ID to e-sign your FAFSA.
- Complete and submit FAFSA at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) as soon as possible after January 1.
- For help completing your FAFSA, sign up at CFNC.org for a February FAFSA Day near you.
- If not accepted by your college of choice, use the College Redirection module at CFNC.org to find new options.
- Compare admission acceptance letters and financial aid packages.
- Send in your enrollment deposit to hold your spot at the college you choose.
- Apply for education loans, if needed.
- Make sure your final high school transcript is sent to your college (goes automatically if sent earlier by CFNC.org).
- Send in college credit course transcripts (community college, middle college) if any.
- Take exams for any AP or college-level courses completed.
- For community college admission, check with your local campus about placement testing requirements.

For more tips on planning for college and career, take a look at "Let Me Tell You" videos on CFNC.org.



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**866.866.CFNC**

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