

# WYWLA Senior Night

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Thursday, August 24, 2015

# WCPSS College Fair: Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm

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- What: Wake County Schools College Fair – Over 100 colleges and universities will be represented at the fair.
- When: Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 – 4:00 pm
- Where: McKimmon Center at NC State's campus
- How to Register: Visit [www.gotocollegefairs.com](http://www.gotocollegefairs.com) to register.



# Agenda

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- Fifth Year: To Stay, or Not to Stay?
- Graduation: Cap and Gown Orders
- College Admissions and Applications
- Standardized Testing: SAT and ACT
- Letters of Recommendation
- Scholarships and Financial Aid

# Staying for a Fifth Year

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- Who is a good candidate for staying for a fifth year?
- Class rank and graduation
- High school course requirements and internships
- Decision Deadline: September 16<sup>th</sup>



# WYWLA: Cap and Gown Orders

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- Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>: At 7:30 AM, Herff Jones will present to Women and Men's Academy students on class ring and cap and gown orders in SAU Robinson Library. Students and parents can either order and pay online or complete order forms and pay on October 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>: At 7:30 AM, Herff Jones representatives will collect order forms and payment in the SAU Robinson Library.

# Senior Conferences

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- Mrs. di Carlo will meet with each senior and her parent to discuss the fifth year option, review transcripts, graduation requirements, standardized testing and your unique college admissions pathway.
- Please schedule a time with Mrs. di Carlo to meet for your senior conference! Email Mrs. di Carlo at [kdicarlo@wcpss.net](mailto:kdicarlo@wcpss.net) or call at 919-508-9086 to schedule your conference!



# Graduation Requirements

COURSES	CREDITS
ENGLISH English I, II, III & IV	4 credits
MATHEMATICS CC Math I, II, III & IV	4 credits
SOCIAL STUDIES World History, Civics & American History I & II	4 credits
SCIENCE Earth Science, Biology & Chemistry	3 credits
HEALTHFUL LIVING	1 credit
6 ELECTIVE CREDITS – for application to a 4-year college, 2 of these credits must be foreign language	6 credits
TOTAL	22 credits

# College Courses that Fulfill Graduation Requirements

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- English III and IV = ENGL 131, 132, 245 and 331 – Must take complete sequence of courses!
- Foreign Language I and II = Elementary Spanish, French or Chinese I and II (same language)
- Healthful Living = PE 120 (Total Wellness) AND a PE Activity Course
- 4<sup>th</sup> Humanities Credit (if taking AP US History) = SAU Humanities elective (check with Mrs. di Carlo) or Conversations in Diversity



# Transcript Nuts and Bolts

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- What is on a student's transcript?
  - Final grades in all high school and college courses worth at least 3 credit hours
  - Weighted and unweighted GPA
  - Class rank
  - EOG & EOC scores
- What is **not** on a student's transcript?
  - Extracurricular activities
  - Service hours
  - PSAT, SAT & ACT scores

# Transcript nuts & bolts cont.

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- Where do I send my student's transcript?
  - To any school, including community colleges, that students apply to
  - Summer opportunities and scholarships may require a transcript.
  - Final transcripts must be sent to the college that student decides to attend.
- How do I request a transcript?
  - Reference handout.
  - Important to request from both high school and SAU!



# The Do's and Don't Lists of Applying to College

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- Students complete applications.
- Pay attention to deadlines! Listed deadlines are for the student application – students will not be penalized if a piece that they are not directly responsible for is late (i.e. recommendation).
- When listing extracurricular activities, go for quality over quantity!
- Grammar and punctuation count, even in the demographics section!

## College admissions options: Keeping the end in mind.

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- Early Action
- Early Decision (Most binding option!)
- Regular Admission
- Rolling Admission
- How does which deadline you select affect which grades are included in your transcripts?



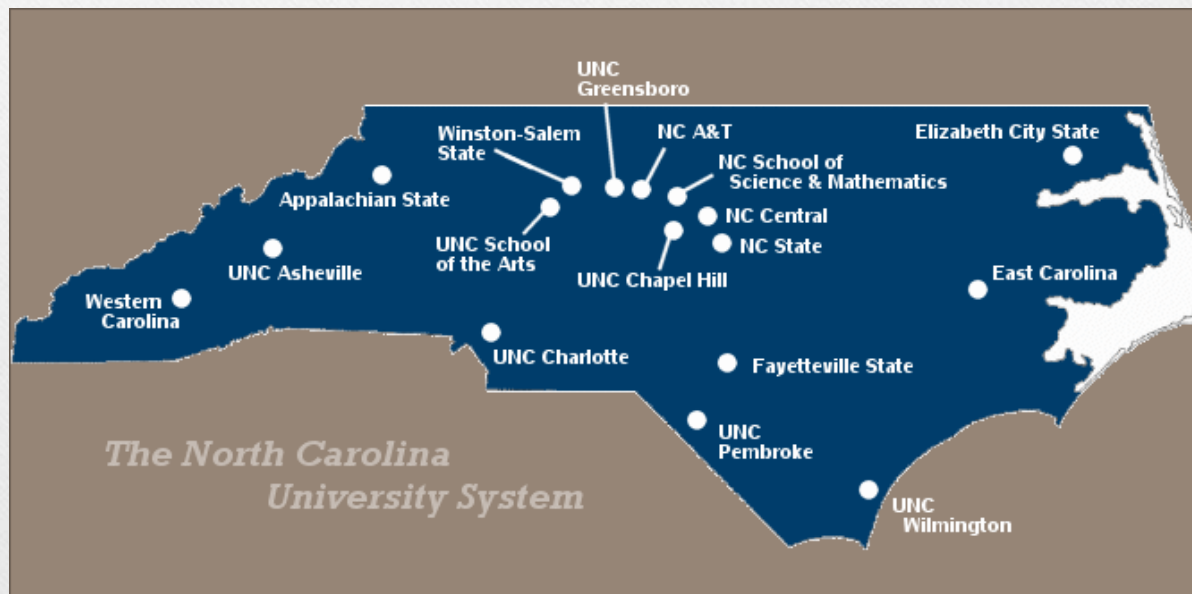
# When can I start applying?

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- Hang Tight: You cannot send in a college application or transcript until we have run our official fall semester class rank. We are working to update transcripts. WCPSS determines the exact day that each school can run rank, which is typically the 20<sup>th</sup> school day.
- We will enter your college classes on your transcript by mid to late August (as soon as schedule changes are complete!)
- If you would like to send your transcript before we have entered in your college classes, please see Mrs. di Carlo to see if this is the best fit for you.

# UNC MINIMUM ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- To submit an application to a UNC system school, an applicant must meet the following requirements:
  - Fulfill all HS graduation requirements and complete two consecutive levels of the same foreign language
  - Earn a minimum 2.5 GPA and 800 SAT (Critical Reading + Math) or 17 ACT composite score





# What is included on a college application?

- **Official transcript**
- **Standardized test scores**
- **Application form**
  - **Personal and Educational Data**
  - **Honors and Awards**
  - **Extracurricular, Personal and Volunteer Activities**
  - **Employment, Personal and Volunteer Activities**
  - **Essays**
  - **Disciplinary information**
  - **Application Fee**
  - **Signature**
  - **For certain majors, you may be required to audition, or you could be asked to submit a portfolio of your work.**
- **Counselor Recommendation Form**
- **Teacher Recommendation**

# How do I apply?

**IMPORTANT: You will apply as a FIRST YEAR STUDENT (not as a transfer student)**

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- Electronically: Hard copies of applications are either not available or are being phased out.
- Undergraduate admissions websites
- CFNC: NC colleges
- Common Application: [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org) – Check out the Collegewise Common App guide!
- You are responsible for keeping track of each application piece: Requesting transcripts, recommendations, sending SAT/ACT scores, submitting the actual application by the deadline.



# Recommendations

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- Many (but not all) colleges and scholarships require teacher and/or counselor recommendations.
- Who should I ask?
- When should I ask?
- How should I ask?
- Electronic vs. hard copy recommendations
- Counselor Statements

# Factors in the admissions process

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- Rigor of course work
- Grades (Weighted & unweighted GPA)
- Class rank
- SAT and/or ACT scores
- Extracurricular activities – Quality over Quantity!
- Part-time work experience
- Recommendations
- Essays
- Recommendations & essays particularly come into play when determining honors college placement and scholarship opportunities based on undergraduate application only.



# Creating a college entrance exam timeline (Review)

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- **Keeping the end in mind:** Ideal to complete all standardized testing by November/December of senior year – by October for competitive scholarships and early admissions deadlines.
- **All NC juniors will take the ACT in March.**
- **Recommendation for Juniors:**
  - **PSAT: October**
  - **SAT: December or January date – January date will allow for reflection on PSAT scores**
  - **ACT: Take for free in March! ☺**
  - **May/June: Take either the SAT or ACT**
  - **Fall of senior year: Take either the SAT or ACT**

# HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE SAT

- Register online at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- Cost: \$54.50 – Fee waivers available if your student receives free and reduced lunch.
- Select a testing site that is most convenient to you & be mindful of registration deadlines.
- Carefully review identification requirements & calculator restrictions.
- Select 4 colleges to report scores to – Additional score reports are \$9 each. Colleges that your students apply to **MUST** receive official scores directly from CollegeBoard.
- **SAT Dates: Reference handout.**



# HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE ACT

- Register online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)
- Cost of exam: ACT PLUS Writing: \$56.50 – Fee waivers available.
- Be mindful of registration deadlines.
- Select 4 colleges to send scores to – Colleges that your students apply to **MUST** receive official scores directly from ACT.
- Carefully review identification requirements & calculator restrictions
- **ACT dates: Reference handout.**

# Fall Standardized Testing and Admissions Deadlines

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- If you are considering an early application deadline and still plan to take the SAT or ACT, research which dates colleges will still accept scores. For example-
  - UNC-Wilmington: November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline
    - Will accept through October ACT and SAT
  - UNC-Chapel Hill: October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline
    - Will accept through November SAT and ACT
  - NC State University: October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline
    - Will accept September ACT and SAT and October SAT



# Decisions, Decisions!

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- Accepted: You're in!
- Deferred: Student's application is moved to the next deadline. Student may be asked to submit further information, such as 1<sup>st</sup> semester grades.
- Denied: It's ok, there is a better fit for you!
- Waitlisted: If space becomes available, you will be notified.
- If you are either denied or waitlisted, you may want to consider entering the CFNC Redirection Pool in late spring.

# Now that my child is in, how do we pay?

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- FAFSA: File after October 1<sup>st</sup>. Visit [www.fafsa.edu.gov](http://www.fafsa.edu.gov) for more information.
- CSS/Financial Aid Profile
  - NC Colleges: Elon, Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill, Davidson, Wake Forest
- Financial Aid Counselor – will work with us from September – April
- Merit and need-based scholarships



# Scholarships & financial aid

- Where to begin?
  - Financial aid/scholarship pages of the colleges you are interested in
  - Monthly scholarship bulletin created by your counselors
  - Your church, local community organizations, parents' places of work – all are excellent sources of potential scholarship opportunities!
  - Scholarship search engines such as
    - [www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org)
    - [www.scholarshipplus.com/wake](http://www.scholarshipplus.com/wake)
    - [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)
    - [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
  - You have a better chance at college specific and local/state scholarships than big national competitions.

# Scholarships & financial aid cont.

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- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid): You can begin filling this out on October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Financial Aid Night: September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm
- Financial Aid Counselor: Amy Malasky
- Merit vs. Need Based Scholarships
- Beware of scholarship scams! Never pay money for help with a scholarship search. That's what we are here for! 😊



# WYWLA References & Resources

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- Our Senior Blog is updated regularly with scholarship announcements and college visit dates:  
<http://www.wcpss.net/domain/6021>
- WYWLA's Counseling Website includes grade level resources, transcript request instructions, archived scholarship bulletins and a number of other resources:  
[www.wywlacounselor.weebly.com](http://www.wywlacounselor.weebly.com) .

# References & resources

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- CollegeBoard: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- College Foundation of NC: [www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org)
- College Week Live: [www.collegeweeklive.com](http://www.collegeweeklive.com)
- College View: [www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com)
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):  
<http://fafsa.ed.gov>