

2025-2026

Graduation Planning Guide



Wake County Schools

2025-2026

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Graduation Planning Guide

Students,

This planning guide should be used as your resource for information on options after you graduate. Our goal at SCORE Academy is to help all students earn their diploma and to have a plan upon graduating, whether that is enrolling in college, gaining employment, or enlisting in the military. Should you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact your school counselor. All the information in this guide is also posted on the SCORE Academy website.

Please visit the website to view:

- Graduation Requirements
- Career Exploration Information
- Scholarship Information
- Testing Information

We wish you all the best!

STUDENT SERVICES CONTACT INFORMATION		
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SCORE GRADUATION & PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

Future Ready Core	Graduation Requirements for Students entering high school in 2020-2021 or later
English	4 credits: English I, II, III, IV
Math	4 credits: Math I, II and two additional math courses which align with the student's post high school plans. (To meet minimum admission requirements for the UNC system, the 4th math must be one of the following: Math 4, Discrete Math, Pre-Calculus, AP Statistics or AP Calculus) In the rare instance a principal exempts a student from the FRC math sequence, the student would be required to pass Common Core Math I and II and two other application-based math courses. *N.C.G.S. 115C-81(b) allows exceptions for students who have an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) that identifies them as Learning Disabled in math and states that the disability will prevent them from mastering Common Core Math I and above.
Science	3 credits: A Physical Science course (Physical Science, Chemistry or Physics), Biology, Earth/Environmental Science
Social Studies	4 credits: World History, Civic Literacy, American History, and Economics & Personal Finance
Health & Physical Ed.	1 credit: Health/Physical Education or Healthful Living 1
Electives	6 Credits total: 2 Elective credits of any combination from either: • Career and Technical Education (CTE) • Arts Education • World Languages • 2 Core subjects (English, Math, Science, Social Studies) * 4 Elective credits strongly recommended (four course concentration) from one of the following: • Career and Technical Education (CTE) • JROTC • Arts Education (e.g. dance, music, theater arts, visual arts) • Any other subject area (e.g. mathematics, science, social studies, English, World Language or cross-disciplinary)
Other Electives (Optional)	<i>*For Students applying for admission to UNC System Colleges/Universities only:</i> Must have 2 academic courses from English, Math, Science, Social Studies, World Languages, or Computer Science (2 world language courses are recommended, but not required) Note: Chosen courses should align with the student's academic and career objectives.
Total Credits	22 required credits

Promotion to Grade 10 is based on the successful completion of at least 4 credits: English I, two credits; (in the areas of mathematics, social studies, or science), and one additional credit.

Promotion to Grade 11 is based on the successful completion of at least 8 credits: Grade 9 requirements plus English II, one credit in mathematics, one in social studies, and one in science.

Promotion to Grade 12 is based on the successful completion of at least 14 credits: Grade 10 requirements plus English III and two additional credits. In addition, a senior must be enrolled in all remaining courses required for graduation.

TRANSCRIPTS/TEST SCORES/COMMON APP

Transcripts for Schools *IN* North Carolina that do not use Common Application

1. Go to www.cfnc.org
2. You will need to create a CFNC account or retrieve your account.
3. Click on *Apply to College*.
4. Click on *Application Hub*.
5. Click on *Request High School Transcripts*.
6. Follow the Prompts.
7. CFNC transcripts are free.

Note: Be sure to include your Student ID in your profile!

Transcripts for Schools *OUTSIDE OF* North Carolina that do not use Common Application and ALL final transcripts

1. Go to <https://wcpss.scribborder.com/>
2. Click the option for Current Students.
3. Follow the Prompts.
4. You will need to know the mailing address for the admissions office of the college to which you are applying.
5. The first three requests are free. After your third request, there is a small fee.

Common Application and Transcripts

- Many colleges and universities, both public and private, utilize the Common Application Program. If you are applying via the Common App, your transcript will be uploaded by your counselor, and you will not need to request it.
- Schools in NC that use the Common Application Program are:
 - Appalachian State, Barton, Belmont Abbey, Brevard, Campbell, Catawba, Chowan, Davidson, Duke, East Carolina, Elizabeth City State, Elon, Gardner-Webb, Greensboro, Guilford, High Point, Johnson & Wales, Lees-McRae, Lenior-Rhyne, Meredith, Methodist, Montreat, NC A&T, NC Central, NC State, Pfeiffer, Queens, Salem, Shaw, St. Andrews, UNC-Asheville, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC- Charlotte, UNC-Greensboro, UNC Pembroke, UNC-Wilmington, Wake Forest, Warren Wilson, Western Carolina, William Peace, Wingate, Winston-Salem

Sending Test Scores

- Colleges and universities must receive SAT and ACT scores directly from www.collegeboard.org or www.act.org. The Student Services Office does not send any test scores to colleges or universities.
- SCORE Academy's CEEB code: 340168

COLLEGE INFORMATION

VERY IMPORTANT: All students planning to apply to colleges in North Carolina **MUST** complete the NC Residency Determination process found at this link: <https://ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyInfo/>
*this includes Community colleges

- 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 Program to Apply for College

- Many colleges now offer students the option of using the Common Application. The Common Application allows the student to complete one application online which then submits the same information to all the schools the student designates. Some colleges may require supplemental information in addition to the Common Application.
- For the Common Application website, go to www.commonapp.org.
- After the student completes their part of the application, the counselor will receive an email requesting that a counselor statement be completed and a transcript attached.
- Allow two weeks for the request to be processed and submitted electronically.
- An Authorization for Release of Records form is not required for the Common Application program.
- Students may also use the HBCU Common Application to apply to various HBCU's. Visit commonblackcollegeapp.com for more information.

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 15 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 candidates maintain 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.

STANDARDIZED TESTING INFORMATION

- The **SAT** measures critical reading, mathematics and writing ability and predicts college performance. Colleges select the best critical reasoning, math and writing score for admission criteria. To register for the SAT go to www.collegeboard.org
- 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
- The **Test of English as a Foreign Language** (TOEFL) is an admissions test administered by computer that focuses on listening, structure, reading, and writing. It is for students whose native language is not English. This includes English as Second Language (ESL) students and non-English speaking students who have been living in the United States for less than five years. To register for the TOEFL go to www.toefl.org
- **UNC system schools admissions:** Students with a weighted GPA of 2.5-2.8 are required to submit a standardized test score of at least a 17 on the ACT or 930 on the SAT

ACT/SAT Test Dates

<u>ACT 2025-2026</u>		<u>SAT 2025-2026</u>	
<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
<u>October 18</u>	<u>September 12</u>	<u>October 4</u>	<u>September 19</u>
<u>December 13</u>	<u>November 7</u>	<u>November 8</u>	<u>October 24</u>
<u>February 14</u>	<u>January 9</u>	<u>December 6</u>	<u>November 21</u>
<u>April 11</u>	<u>March 6</u>	<u>March 14</u>	<u>February 27</u>
<u>June 13</u>	<u>May 8</u>	<u>May 2</u>	<u>April 17</u>
<u>July 11</u>	<u>June 5</u>	<u>June 6</u>	<u>May 22</u>

- Students will register on-line. 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.
- Student Services does not send test scores.
- **SCORE Academy's test code or CEEB code is 340168- When searching, use SCORE Academy.**

Fee Waivers

- SAT and ACT fee waivers are available for economically disadvantaged students. Students on free/reduced lunch and/or other economic criteria may qualify. Students may receive two SAT and ACT waivers a lifetime.
- Students using a fee waiver for the SAT or ACT may also qualify for College Application Fee Waivers and NCAA Eligibility Waivers.
- If you believe you are eligible for waivers, please see/email your counselor

RECOMMENDATIONS

Resumes/activity list

- A resume or activity list can often help your teacher or counselor write a letter of recommendation. Items you might include: sports, clubs, jobs, community service, leadership, awards, etc.

Counselor Statements

- Some college applications require the submission of a counselor statement. It is the student's responsibility to provide this information for the counselor.
- Students should make certain that all sections of the form are completed with correct identifying information at the top of the page as well as the names and addresses of the schools that need the counselor statement.
- Students should make sure to complete all of the student section on the Counselor Statement before submitting the form.
- Submit the Authorization for Release of Records form and counselor statements to the Student Services Office.
- **Allow at least two weeks for the counselor to complete the form or letter.**

Teacher Recommendations

- Choose a teacher, coach, club sponsor etc. who knows you well and can supply specific details about what makes you unique.
- Don't choose a teacher just because you made an A in his or her class.

- **Allow at least two weeks for the teacher to write the letter.**
- Provide the teacher with a copy of your resume, and any other information she or he needs to write a comprehensive letter for you.
- Make sure you communicate to the teacher how they are to process the letter once it is completed. Do they give it back to you to mail? Do they mail it directly to the school?
- Often during the completion of your application, you will supply the college with a teacher's email address and the college will then email the teacher for their recommendation online. In these cases make sure you ask the teacher first if this is okay and then give them your resume and profile as mentioned above.
- Follow up with the teacher who wrote the recommendation to make sure it has been completed and mailed in order to meet all deadlines. The teacher may want to keep a copy.
- Thank them for their time and for their support!

COMMUNITY/JUNIOR COLLEGE INFORMATION

Some students decide to begin your postsecondary education at a community college. Community colleges provide excellent opportunities for students to excel in a variety of careers. Community colleges have also established relationships with several universities for students who wish to transfer after receiving an Associate's degree or the required number of credit hours for transfer. Additionally, for students who successfully complete the transfer program, they are guaranteed admissions into one of NC's 16 UNC colleges/universities. (Transfer Assured Admissions Policy) There are 58 community colleges in North Carolina. Local community colleges include Wake Technical, Johnston, Wilson, Vance-Granville, and Durham Technical College. Information for all 58 community colleges can be accessed at: www.ncccs.cc.nc.us

Wake Technical Community College

Wake Technical Community College (WTCC) has an Open Door Policy. This policy provides for the admission of any person who has reached the age of 18 or has graduated from high school. WTCC offers programs for all educational levels. There are Certificate Programs, Diploma Programs, and the Associate Degree Programs. More information on WTCC can be accessed at: www.waketech.edu or by contacting our WTCC representative, Ms. Janelle Bright by email (jbright3@waketech.edu) or phone (919-866-5434). Additionally, WTCC does onsite visits throughout the year. You can find the schedule of the yearly visits on our website under student resources. Please speak with your counselor for more information.

The College Transfer Program

- Two degrees are offered: Associate in Arts (A.A.) and Associate in Science (A.S.)
- By enrolling in this program, you may complete course work equivalent to the general education requirements (freshman and sophomore years) for the bachelor's degree at a four-year school.
- The A.A. or A.S. is awarded upon successful completion of 64 semester credit hours, including the minimum in each of the areas indicated on the specific curriculum outlines.

SPECIAL COLLEGE ADMISSIONS/TUITION PROGRAMS

Direct Admission Program

Students with a weighted 2.8 or higher GPA are eligible to apply for a more immediate acceptance into 26 of the NC private colleges and universities. Students can complete their free application at www.ncicu.org. See your counselor for more information on this program.

NC Promise Program

The following UNC Systems universities participate in the NC Promise Program, where student tuition is reduced to \$500 per semester: Elizabeth City State, Fayetteville State, UNC-Pembroke, Western Carolina.

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

FINANCIAL AID

There are several types of financial aid students and parents can pursue in order to pay for college. These include scholarships, grants, loans, work-study, entitlement programs, and employment. All types of financial aid come from various sources including the federal government, local clubs, civic organizations, as well as colleges and universities.

Residency Determination Service (RDS) - All students planning to apply to colleges in North Carolina MUST complete the RDS. This service will determine eligibility for in-state tuition and state grant awards. To learn more about RDS, and how it relates to the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), read the [Navigating RDS and the FAFSA tip sheet](#). After you complete this process, RDS will assign you a Residency Certification Number (RCN) that you will report to the NC colleges that you are applying to.

- Complete the RDS at ncresidency.org.
- Students will use their CFNC login. Do not create a new account. You will need to recover your username/password.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) - must be completed by all students wishing to be considered for any federal financial aid. **The FAFSA form is the gateway to all federal money.** The FAFSA is a confidential document used to collect information for determining a student's need for financial aid. The 2025-2026 FAFSA will open on October 1, 2025. While you can submit the FAFSA up until June 30th of the year you will enroll in school, the priority deadline for many schools is either February 15th or March 1st. In addition, some schools require the CSS Profile (www.cssprofile.org) for institutional need-based aid. Check each college/university for its requirements and to ensure you file on time.

- Complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov

- A Social Security number is required to complete the FAFSA and obtain federal aid. Students without a SSN may be eligible for other types of financial aid/scholarships. Please reach out to the institution you are applying to for assistance. Additionally, please visit <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/undocumented-students> for more information.
- For assistance with the FAFSA, please contact our Financial Aid Advisor, Mrs. Moore. She is available for virtual meetings via Google Meet on Wednesdays 9:30a-2p. You can schedule a meeting with her using this link: <https://calendar.app.google/SiieCvwJSTPPrV1y8>. Additionally, you can email her at wmoore@wcpss.net for questions or to arrange a meeting outside of Wednesdays.

Types of Federal Aid:

- **Stafford Loan:** Stafford Loans are available to undergraduates on the basis of demonstrated financial need. Interest rates continue to be favorable and interest is paid by the federal government for the first six months after graduation. A program called the “Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan Program” is available to undergraduates who do not demonstrate financial need. Students must file the FAFSA for the regular Stafford Loan first and if not eligible, will automatically be considered for the unsubsidized program. Although borrowing limits and interest rates are identical to the regular Stafford Loan, interest will not be subsidized while the undergraduate is attending college. Students have the option of either paying interest on the loan as it accrues or capitalizing the interest and paying it off along with the principal following graduation. Even though the government does not pay interest, this option is attractive because of the very favorable interest rate.
- **Pell Grants and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants:** Pell Grants and SEOG’s are distributed to students based solely on need as determined by the FAFSA. The college financial aid office determines the amount received through a SEOG.
- **Work-Study:** Work-Study is a federally funded program that allows students to work on campus to help defray the costs of education. This program is organized by the school’s financial aid office.
- **Perkins Loan:** The Perkins Loan provides funds for students who demonstrate need as determined by the FAFSA. Colleges have a restricted amount of funds available for Perkins Loans and allocate it accordingly. Repayment begins six months after graduation.
- **Parents Loan For Undergraduate Students (PLUS):** Through this program, parents may borrow the entire cost of their students’ education, minus awarded financial aid. Repayment of PLUS loans must begin within 60 days of disbursement. Bank approval of a PLUS loan hinges on examination of the family’s credit history. The low interest rates on PLUS loans make these an attractive option for families who plan to finance educational costs.

Scholarships

Private sources make up a small slice of the total financial aid pie. Nonetheless, there are a number of scholarship opportunities—the trick is finding which ones are applicable to your individual situation. Be forewarned—the application process for scholarships is often as detailed as applying for college and sometimes the rewards are not large. Scholarships have varying release dates and deadlines. Check for scholarships frequently throughout the year. **Warning: Never pay for a scholarship or for scholarship information.**

Examples of Scholarship Criteria: Academic merit or good grades, Leadership activities, Community Service, Extracurricular activities/athletics, Work experience, Honors and achievements, financial need, Personal Statement, Overcoming adversity.

How do I find out about scholarships?

- Students will primarily need to do their own research to find scholarships for which they are eligible.
- Check the financial aid section on the website for scholarship resources.
- Ask your counselor if they are aware of any scholarships you may be eligible to apply for or that fit your interests.

SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITES & SEARCH ENGINES

American Indian College Fund: www.collegefund.org	College Board: www.collegeboard.org	Sallie Mae: www.salliemae.com
Asian and Pacific Islander American: www.apiasf.org	Fast Web: www.fastweb.com	Scholarships.com: www.scholarships.com
Big Future: www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org	FinAid: www.finaid.org	Student Scholarships: www.studentscholarships.org
Broke Scholar: www.brokescholar.com	Hispanic Scholarship Fund: www.hsf.net	United Negro College Fund: uncf.org/scholarships
Cappex/College Greenlight: www.cappex.com	NC State Edu Assistance Authority: www.ncseaa.edu	U.S. Department of Education: www.ed.gov
College Foundation of NC: www.cfnc.org	Petersons: www.petersons.com	WCPSS Scholarship Plus: Scholarshipplus.com/wake

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Career Planning/Exploration

- The goal is to help students make informed and thoughtful decisions about themselves and their future.
- The planning process includes helping students develop and implement an individual career plan.
- **CFNC** and **Major Clarity** are valuable websites that offer career and interest inventories that assess a student's interests, preferences, values, abilities, and talents to identify either general or specific careers.
- We invite representatives from various industries to speak to students during our SCORE UP sessions. More information on SCORE UP sessions, including the industries and schedule, can be found on our website, under Student Resources.

Entering the Workforce

If you have decided to get a job immediately after high school, you will need to:

- Find out what kinds of jobs are currently available.
- Develop some very necessary job-finding and job-keeping skills.
- Adapt your resume to reflect the needs of the potential job. Identify skills you possess that the company has in the job posting.

INTERVIEWING TIPS

Before the Interview

- Focus on the employer's/college's needs and what you can do for the organization/college
- Consider how you will fill the role they have available
- Consider your interest in the job/ career field/ college major
- Research and become knowledgeable of the company/college
- Practice interviewing

During the Interview

- Be enthusiastic, but sincere
- Listen carefully to the interviewer
- Think about how you can set yourself apart from others
- Keep the interviewer's attention
- Don't place blame or be negative about past employers/ your high school
- Plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before the interview
- Bring a pen and notebook with you
- Greet your interviewer by name, with a firm handshake and a smile
- Do not chew gum
- Maintain good body posture
- If the interviewer asks if you have any questions or if you would like to add anything else- Ask a question or tell them something about yourself that they did not ask!
- Close the interview on a positive note
- Ask about any needed follow-up and when you can expect to next hear from the company/college
- Thank the interviewer for his or her time
- Be sure to get the interviewer's business card, or at least the proper spelling of their name, their title, and their address and phone number.

After the Interview

- Evaluate it – how do you think you responded to the questions?
- Send a thank you letter to the interviewer.
- Make a follow-up phone call to indicate interest in the position/college and ask if there are any additional questions.

What to Wear

- Wear a professional-looking outfit from head to toe
- Make sure your hair is well-groomed and neat
- Don't overdo the perfume, cologne, makeup, or aftershave. Limit your jewelry.
- Try on your outfit BEFORE the day of the interview

Sample Interview Questions

- Tell me a little about yourself.
- What have you been involved in while in high school?
- What supervisory or leadership roles have you held?
- Where do you see yourself in 5 or 10 years?
- Describe one or two achievements that have given you the most satisfaction.
- In what ways would you contribute to our organization/college?
- Tell me about a time when you worked effectively under pressure.
- Tell me about a time when you had to adapt to a difficult situation.

RESUME INFORMATION

The development of your student resume is an important step in planning for your future. You will use your student resume for many pursuits, including, but not limited to: after-school and summer employment, volunteer work, job shadowing and internships, college applications, and scholarship applications. Your counselor, teachers, and other adults may use your resume during your senior year to write recommendations and to help you with the scholarship process. See a sample resume in the appendix.

RESUME WRITING TIPS

Why do I need a Resume?

It provides a clear breakdown of high school activities for college admissions representatives and can be included with your application. It offers recommendation writers a review of your accomplishments.

What do I include?

- Awards and honors
- Extracurricular activities (ones offered in high school such as Sports, Honor Societies, Theater, etc.)
- Community Service/Volunteerism

- Leadership
- Work Experience

What order do I put activities in and what format should I use?

- Enter activities from most recent to least recent
- Do not include middle school
- Indicate if you have held an office position or elected position

Overall Tips

- Use Times Roman or Arial Font
- Use 12 point size, no smaller than 9
- Use professional-looking bullets (not hearts, stars)
- Spell out acronyms (NHS= National Honor Society)
- Keep it to one page if possible

For more information and tips on obtaining employment, please visit the Student Resources section on the SCORE Academy website.

ENLISTMENT IN THE MILITARY

Students who are interested in enlisting in one of the branches of the military, should directly contact the specific branch representative in their Raleigh Offices:

Air Force	872-7692	www.airforce.com
Army	562-4936	www.goarmy.com
Army Reserve	562-4936	www.goarmy.com/reserve
Coast Guard	878-4008	www.gocoastguard.com
Marines	872-9955	www.marines.com
Navy	1-866-628-7327	www.navy.com
Naval Reserve	1-866-628-7327	www.navyreserve.com
N.C. National Guard	368-6418	ww.nationalguard.com

The military branches **require** potential enlistees to take the **Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery** (ASVAB) for entrance into the military. The ASVAB is an aptitude test that helps identify your natural abilities, which will assist you in making informed career choices. The Military Entrance Processing Service Center offers the ASVAB on a weekly basis. Contact your military recruiter to schedule an appointment.

Academies and Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Programs: If you are interested in enlisting in the military as well as going to college, be sure to ask about ROTC scholarships that are available. Deadlines are usually from October to December, so early planning is advised. See websites below for more information.

Army Academy and ROTC Programs	www.usma.edu www.goarmy.com/rotc.htm
Air Force Academy and ROTC Programs	www.usafa.af.mil www.afrotc.com www.afas.org
Navy/Marine Corps Academy and ROTC Programs	www.rotc.navy.mil www.nmcrcs.org
Coast Guard Academy	www.cgmahq.org www.uscg.mil

For information on all branches of the military and all ROTC programs, go to www.todaysmilitary.com

Appendix



Financial Aid Terms

Award letter: A document notifying admitted students of the financial aid being offered by the college. The award letter provides information on the types and amounts of aid offered, as well as the students' responsibilities and the conditions governing the awards.

Cost of attendance: The combined expenses of attending college, including tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation, and living expenses. The cost of attendance is compared with the student's expected family contribution to determine the student's need for financial aid.

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE: A Web-based financial aid application provided by the College Board and used by some colleges and private scholarships to award their private financial aid funds.

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid): The form that must be completed by everyone applying for federal financial aid. It can be completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Financial aid package: The total financial aid offered to a student by a college, including all loans, grants, scholarships and work-study opportunities.

Financial need: The difference between the total cost of attending a college and a student's expected family contribution (EFC).

Grant: A monetary aid award given to a student that does not have to be paid back. The terms "grant" and "scholarship" are often used interchangeably, but grants tend to be awarded solely on the basis of financial need, while scholarships may require the student to demonstrate merit.

Independent Student: Students that are either age 24 or older, married, a veteran, an orphan, or have legal dependents. Independent students do not need to provide parental information to be considered for federal financial aid programs. However, private institutions may require independent students to provide parental information in order to be considered for nonfederal funding.

Merit aid: Financial aid awarded on the basis of academic qualifications, artistic or athletic talent, leadership qualities, or similar attributes. Most merit aid comes in the form of scholarships.

Need-based aid: Financial aid given to students who have demonstrated financial need, calculated by subtracting the student's expected family contribution from a college's total cost of attendance.

Priority date: The date by which applications for financial aid must be received in order to be given the strongest possible consideration. Thereafter applications are considered on a first-come, first-served basis, and only to the extent the college still has aid money left after all the priority offers have been made.

Self-help aid: Student financial aid, such as loans and jobs that requires repayment or employment.

Subsidized loan: A need-based loan where the entity awarding the loan pays the borrower's interest while he or she is in college at least half-time, thereby subsidizing the loan.

Work-study: An arrangement by which a student combines employment and college study. The employment may be an integral part of the academic program (as in cooperative education and internships) or simply a means of paying for college.

(Source: College Counseling Sourcebook, 7th Ed.)

SAMPLE RESUME

Sally Smith
1212 My Street
Raleigh, NC 27616

sallysmith@gmail.com
(919) 555-1212

Objective: To obtain admission into University of North Carolina--Charlotte

Education: SCORE Academy
GPA: 3.7 weighted 3.4 unweighted
Rank: 100/ 400

Awards and Honors:

- ◆ North Carolina Scholar (12)
- ◆ Spanish Honor Society (11-12)
- ◆ Regional Swimmer (10-11)
- ◆ A/B Honor Roll (9-11)
- ◆ Federalist Violin Competition (9)

Extracurricular Activities:

- ◆ Junior Classical League (11-12)
- ◆ Student Government (11-12)
 - Junior Class Council Prom Committee Chair
 - Senior Class Council Vice President
- ◆ Gospel Choir (11-12)

Athletic Participation:

- ◆ Varsity Baseball (9-12)

Community Service & Leadership:

- ◆ YMCA Leaders Club (2020-2024)
- ◆ Led Wake Forest Baptist Church Youth Group (2021-2023)
- ◆ Tutored Elementary School Students (2021-2022)
- ◆ Served in Governor's Page program (2021)

Employment:

- ◆ YMCA Camp Seafarer--Camp Counselor (summer 2023)

USEFUL WEBSITES

SCORE Academy website

Check here often for important school information

<https://www.wcpss.net/scoreacademy>

The College Foundation of North Carolina

Research and apply to four and two year colleges in North Carolina, send transcripts to in-state community colleges and four year universities, learn about careers and college majors.

www.cfnc.org

The North Carolina Community College System

Research the community colleges in North Carolina.

www.nccommunitycolleges.edu

Wake Tech Community College

www.waketech.edu

Accredited Online Colleges Resources

Comprehensive and informative resources that rank each university in America by size, degrees offered, tuition costs, admission rates, graduation rates, and retention rates.

<http://www.accreditedonlinecolleges.org>
<http://www.edudemic.com/affordable-online-colleges>

The College Board

Register and prepare for the SAT, SAT subject tests, find out about college admissions, AP testing, financial aid and scholarships.

www.collegeboard.com

The American College Test

Register and prepare for the ACT.

www.act.org

Peterson's

Search colleges by GPA, tuition, sports and more.

www.petersons.com

The Princeton Review

Prepare for standardized tests, research colleges and majors.

www.princetonreview.com

The NCAA Eligibility Center

Register for Division I and Division II College athletics and monitor academic eligibility.

www.eligibilitycenter.org

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Find information on the use of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This is the primary way to find out if the family/student qualifies for grants, loans, and work study programs. The FAFSA also screens for a limited number of state-based scholarships. Only students who are US citizens should apply.

www.fafsa.ed.gov

Fast Web

Use this free, searchable scholarship database.

www.fastweb.com

Residency Determination Service (RDS)

Required to determine residency for tuition purposes at all North Carolina colleges/universities.

<https://ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyInfo/home>

Send Transcripts:

(out-of-state)
(in-state)

<http://www.wcpss.net/transcripts>
www.cfnc.org