AFHS College Night 2022

Preparing for College Applications

Welcome!

- Introduction

- College Panel

- Affording College

- Competitive college applications

- Preparing for the application process

- Social-emotional health

UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON

QUICK FACTS

Total Enrollment: 18,031
Undergraduate Enrollment: 14,489

Bachelor's Degree Programs: 58
Student to Faculty Ratio: 18:1
Average Class Size: 27

Middle 50% GPA: 3.9 - 4.4 weighted
Middle 50% SAT: 1210 -1330
Middle 50% ACT: 24 - 28
test-optional through Fall 2024

Early Action deadline: November 1
Regular Decision deadline: February 1

common app · UNCW · College Foundation of North Carolina

POINTS OF PRIDE

- New programs include **Coastal Engineering**, **Cybersecurity**, and **IS Engineering**
- UNCW is **one of three** UNC schools in U.S. News & World Report's **Top 100 Best Public National Universities**.

TOP MAJORS

Nursing
Business
Marine Biology
Psychology
Communication Studies

APPLIED LEARNING

- **300+** Student Clubs & Organizations

- Education Abroad offers **1,000+ study abroad programs** in 50+ countries

- Extensive **Honors College** opportunities in research, service, and scholarship

Paul Willeboordse

UNCW Office of Admissions
(910) 962-3243
admissions@uncw.edu

WHEREVER YOU'RE GOING IN LIFE, GO STRONG.

NATIONALLY RANKED & GOING STRONG.
ONE OF AMERICA'S BEST COLLEGES
PRINCETON REVIEW | U.S. NEWS | FORBES

MEREDITH COLLEGE

GOING STRONG

meredith.edu | Raleigh, North Carolina

90 + Academic Programs

Application Deadlines:
Early Decision: Nov. 1
Early Action: Dec. 1
Regular Decision: Feb.15 (priority)

Merit Scholarships:
$20,000-26,000, awarded at time of admission, renew annually

Visit
meredith.edu/admissions/visit
Personalized on-campus & virtual visits with admission counselors and professors

Shery Boyles, Director of Admission | admissions@meredith.edu | Phone: 919-760-8581 | Text: 919-948-1388

3800 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh NC 27612

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

#1
Best Public College for
Your Money in NC
(*Money*)

#6
Best Value Public
Institution in the U.S.
(*U.S. News & World Report*)

Connect With Us
go.ncsu.edu/interest-form

Justin Richardson
undergrad-admissions@ncsu.edu

Wolfpack at a Glance

36,000+ Total number of students
25,000+ Undergraduate students
35 Average class size
15:1 Student to faculty ratio
84% Proportion of classes with fewer than 50 students
94% First-year retention rate

700+ Student organizations
230+ Study-abroad opportunities
23 Varsity sports in NCAA Division I athletics
49 Fraternities and sororities
3 Air Force, Army and Navy ROTC

Top Majors

Engineering First-Year
Exploratory Studies
Business
Life Sciences First-Year
Animal Science
Psychology
Chemistry
Fashion and Textile Management
Political Science
Environmental Sciences

Dates and Deadlines

Early Action
November 1 - application deadline
January 30 - notification date

Regular Decision
January 15 - application deadline
March 30 - notification date

FAQs for College Panel

Paul Willeboordse

Shery Boyles

Justin Richardson

Linda Brannan
WCPSS Financial Aid Advisor Program
Lbrannan@wcpss.net

Just Do It!

- College costs money – Lots of $$$$
- FAFSA & CSS Profile applications – **"Gateway to Financial Aid"**
- Colleges have *"priority deadlines"* for financial aid – *some as early as 11/1, so be sure to check colleges' websites*
- *FAFSA opens 10/1 each year – complete it early!*
- *Lastly…don't procrastinate…getting started early can pay dividends later on!*

Get All $$$ You Can Get – Complete the applications before the deadlines!

BEWARE of Scholarship SCAMS

Beware of Scholarship Scams (cappex.com)

Beware of Scholarship Scams and Financial Aid Fraud

RISING SENIORS...*IT'S GO TIME!*

- Complete your final financial aid planning
- Start looking for scholarships
  - Scholarship Search Resources
  - AFHS Scholarship Document (list of scholarships updated throughout the year)
- Explore all Options for Financing College
- FAFSA/CSS Profile application tax year is **2 years** prior to your college entrance date
  - Ex: College entrance is 2023 --> FAFSA/CSS Profile application information is based on 2021 tax year

7 Tips for a Successful Financial Aid Season

FSA ID	Get FSA ID for your FAFSA application - student & 1 parent
CSS Profile	Verify that your school doesn't need the CSS Profile - 5 schools in NC require it in addition to the FAFSA
Meet Deadlines	Get all financial aid done at least 1 week before the school's Priority deadline -if possible, have it ready by October 1st - FAFSA Application opens
EFC Calculator	Use the EFC Calculator to calculate how much aid you might receive
Apply	Always apply for aid, even if you don't think you'll get any - colleges want to see you've exhausted all federal aid prior to considering you for institutional aid. Don't forget about Scholarship applications too
Verify	Verify your FAFSA SAR against your EFC predictions - double check your FAFSA application carefully
Check email & College Portals	Students need to set up usernames & passwords with college portals - to check admission status and financial aid status with the individual colleges

How to Contact Linda Brannan

- Sign-Up Genius for appointments – opens in September each year
  - "Make an Appointment" (AFHS Student Services website)
- Fall semester: mainly graduating students
- Spring semester: both graduating students and Juniors (rising seniors)

- Work Schedule: September – April each year
- Part-time: 2-3 days per week
- Serve 3 High Schools: Apex Friendship, Apex & Green Hope
- Meetings are virtual through Google Meet unless arranged otherwise

- Best way to communicate is via email – Lbrannan@wcpss.net

Factors Considered in College Admissions
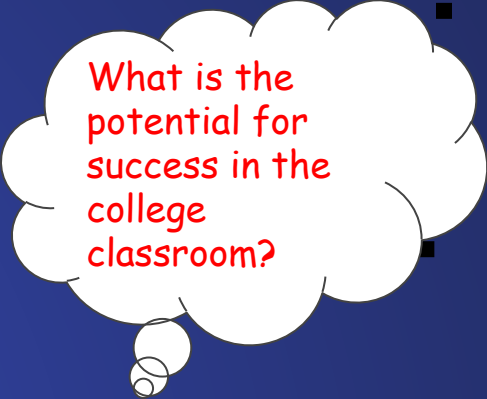
Academic Performance

- Academic Rigor

- GPA/ Class Rank

- Test Scores

Personal Characteristics

- Essays

- Extra curricular activities

- Letters of recommendation

Academic Performance

What is the potential for success in the college classroom?

Transcript

- ❖ Do course selections and class performance demonstrate
  - ➢ Preparation for college level work?
  - ➢ Student took advantage of available rigor/ choose to challenge themselves?
- ❖ Level of academic rigor looked for depends on the college/program
- ❖ Senior schedule

Test Scores

- ❖ UNC System schools test-optional through Fall 2024
- ❖ For test-optional schools, scores can only enhance application
- ❖ Students are encouraged to test
- ❖ Not all schools are test optional

June 4 next **SAT** (5/5 registration deadline)

June 11 next **ACT** (5/6 registration deadline)

Showcasing Personal Characteristics

Essays

Thoughtful reflection

Who are you?

What's your story?

Why this major?

Why this college?

THE BIG PICTURE

Student Resume

Activity List

Honors/Awards

Experiences, skills, talents

Interests

Letters of Recommendation

Provides additional context

Teacher vs. Counselor LOR

Anecdotes are helpful-- provide specifics

College / Scholarship Essays - Helpful Hints

Every summer, I volunteer with Habitat for Humanity building homes. I am an assistant to a site supervisor, help with site clean up, and serve as a runner for materials.

VS

As a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, I learned the value of teamwork and what it means to come together for your community. I recall one weekend where everything seemed to go wrong with the construction project. I had to step into several roles in which I had no experience. However, I was up for the challenge and was able to demonstrate.....

The person I admire the most is my father. My father had a difficult childhood. He has worked hard his whole life and is now a successful business owner. My father is kind to everyone he meets and he is my biggest hero.

VS

The person I admire the most is my father. He instilled in me a strong work ethic which I apply to my school work, athletics, and part-time job. At my part-time job, my manager noticed that I would pick up extra shifts and would often assist newer staff members. I was offered a promotion because of.....

When and How Will You Apply?

Early Action, Early Decision, Regular Decision

CFNC.org
All common information saved and applied to each application
Free application week in October
Create an Account - RDS, send transcripts to NC schools

Common App
All common information saved and applied to each application
Can create an account any time, complete demographic info
August 1st: start working on college specific questions
Great tool to organize a college list, including application requirements

Common App Requirements Grid

Common App

apply.commonapp.org/requirements?myColleges=true

Application requirements

Scroll for more information

Download requirements grid

Search

○ My Colleges Only
○ All Colleges

College name ↑	Institution Type	Deadlines ED	EDII	EA	EAII	REA	RD/Rolling	App fees US	Int'l	Common App PE	C&G	Supplements Portfolio	WS	Minimum standard test required Test policy	SAT/ACT tests used	Int'l	Recommendations TE	OE	MR	CR	Saves forms
Appalachian State University	Coed			11/1/2021			7/26/2022	$65	$65	✓				Always required	SAT without Essay or ACT without Essay	See website	0	0			✓
Brown University	Coed	11/1/2021					1/5/2022	$75	$75	✓		SR		Never required	See website	See website	2	0	✓	✓	✓
Duke University	Coed	11/1/2021					1/4/2022	$85	$85	✓		SR	✓	Never required	See website	None	2	0	✓	✓	✓
East Carolina University	Coed						3/1/2022	$75	$75	✓				Ignored	See website	See website	0	0			✓
Elon University	Coed	11/1/2021		11/1/2021			1/10/2022	$60	$60	✓				Sometimes required	SAT without Essay or ACT without Essay	IELTS or TOEFL or Duolingo	0	0		✓	
Hampton University	Coed			11/15/2021			3/1/2022	$50	$50	✓				Sometimes required	SAT without Essay or ACT without Essay	IELTS or TOEFL	0	0		✓	✓
High Point University	Coed	11/1/2021	2/1/2022	11/15/2021			3/1/2022	$50	$50	✓				Sometimes required	SAT without Essay or ACT without Essay	IELTS or TOEFL	0	0		✓	✓
Howard University	Coed	11/1/2021		11/1/2021			2/15/2022	$45	$45	✓			✓	Never required	See website	IELTS or TOEFL	1	0		✓	✓
New York University	Coed	11/1/2021	1/1/2022				1/5/2022	$80	$80	✓		SR		Never required	See website	See website	1	0	✓	✓	
North Carolina State University	Coed			11/1/2021			1/15/2022	$85	$100	✓		SR		Never required	SAT without Essay or ACT without Essay	IELTS or TOEFL or PTE	0	0		✓	
University of North Carolina Asheville	Coed	11/15/2021	1/15/2022				2/1/2022	$75	$75	✓				Never required	None	IELTS or TOEFL	0	0	✓	✓	✓
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Coed			10/15/2021			1/15/2022	$85	$85	✓				Never required	See website	IELTS or TOEFL	1	0	✓		✓
University of North Carolina at Charlotte	Coed			11/1/2021			6/1/2022	$75	$80	✓				Never required	SAT without Essay or ACT without Essay	IELTS or TOEFL or PTE	0	0			
University of North Carolina Greensboro	Coed			11/1/2021	12/1/2021		7/15/2022	$65	$65	✓				Never required	SAT without Essay or ACT without Essay	See website	0	0			✓

Items per page: 25   1 – 17 of 17

Summer To-Do List

AFHS College Application Summer To-Do List

☐ Narrow Down Your College List

It can be overwhelming to know where to begin, but using college search databases, like Big Future, CFNC, CollegeSimply, and College Scorecard can help you narrow down your college choices. **Consider what is important to you**- location, size, majors/programs offered, cost, activities, support services, study abroad opportunities, campus climate, research opportunities, etc.

☐ Exploring college websites and **going on college visits** can give you a feel for the college to determine if it is a good fit for you.

☐ Understanding your fit for the school is also important. Consider how your GPA and test scores compare to college acceptance ranges. **Build a college list** of 5-8 schools that includes safety, match, and reach schools.

☐ UNC System Schools' Admissions Info
☐ NC Independent Colleges

☐ Know the Admission Requirements

Some schools and programs have additional admission requirements. Make sure you know the requirements before the start of senior year in case you need to add an additional class such as an art, a fourth science, or a third foreign language. Military academies have separate requirements

☐ Understand the College Application Process

☐ You can use Common App to apply to most colleges. Common App is a great tool to organize your college list and keep up with the application requirements of different schools. **Create a Common App account**, add colleges to your college list, and begin answering questions in these seven sections: Profile, Family, Education, Testing, Activities, Writing, and Courses & Grades. You can start on college specific questions on August 1st. View the Common App YouTube channel for tutorials.

☐ You can apply to North Carolina colleges or universities through CFNC.org. Even if you do not apply to colleges through CFNC, you will still need to **create a CFNC account** to complete your NC Residency Determination and to request final transcripts for NC colleges (more information to come on these items in the fall).

☐ Consider if you will apply Early Action, Early Decision, or Regular Decision.

☐ Start Preparing Application Materials

☐ Compile a **list of activities**, honors, awards, special experiences, and talents/*skills* and create a resume. Common App only allows 150 characters to describe an activity. See how to make the most of your Common App Activity List.

☐ To give your resume a boost, consider Summer Enrichment activities such as summer programs, employment, or an internship, or volunteer your time this summer.

☐ Start drafting your **personal statement**-who are you, what is your career goal, and what interests you about the major you plan to study? What is a story about you that you want to share with colleges? Draft that story.

☐ The **essay** is an essential element of the application. Please review the AFHS Student Services presentations, Presenting Your Best Self and College Essay Writing Clinic. Also, see the How to Approach the Common App Essay and free resources from the College Essay Guy.

☐ Not all schools require a **letter of recommendation**, but if you apply to a school that does, consider who can give a well-rounded picture of you and speak to contributions you've made to the classroom and/or to the community? A recommender may ask you for a resume or "**brag sheet.**" Be intentional about the information you provide on the brag sheet and give specific examples of the characteristics you hope your recommender will emphasize. Also, be sure to practice good etiquette when requesting recommendation letters (formally request the recommendation well in advance, supply necessary information, give friendly reminders, say thank you).

☐ Prep for the SAT and/or ACT

☐ If needed, register to take the SAT or ACT over the summer or in the fall to boost scores for college admissions or scholarship opportunities. Although some colleges are test optional next year, most colleges will still accept and consider your scores if they enhance your application. Take advantage of free SAT prep or free ACT prep before your next test.

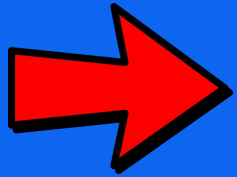Don't be so focused on the destination. That you forget to enjoy the journey.

Wake County Libraries: Level Up

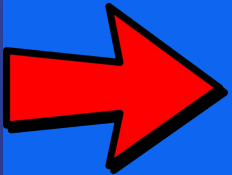Free programs and appointments to help students with test prep, college applications and financial aid.

☐ **Remember your AFHS School Counselors are here to help you!**

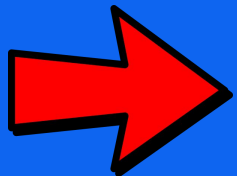# College Planning - Senior Year and Social-Emotional Health

Manage Expectations
- Dream - Match - Safe Schools → 5 - 8 schools
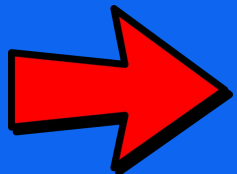- What can I get from the school?

Change the Conversation
- Enjoy the "now"
- Focus on mental health and well-being

Validate - but do not fix
- Acknowledge feelings and reassure
- Allow for the chance to build resiliency

Avoid
- Tunnel vision & catastrophic thinking
- Comparing to others

Important

Class of 2023 **ACTION REQUIRED**

As of 2020, state law mandates that ALL seniors must have their second Meningitis vaccination before they begin their senior year.

Please submit a copy of your immunizations, showing the Meningitis vaccinations, via email to: apexfriendshiphs-student-sevices@wcpss.net or you can fax to: 919-694-0525.

This proof must be received from each rising senior BEFORE the first day of the 2022-23 school year. Link to Meningitis vaccination information, K-12 Health Requirements.

THANK YOU!!

Stay Informed

★ <u>AFHS Student Services website</u>
★ Follow us on social media:
  ○ Twitter: @AFHSstudentserv
  ○ Instagram: @ afhsannouncements
★ Google Classroom
★ Weekly Email Updates for Seniors
★ Homerooms
★ Fall college presentations

Not getting messages from the school or Wake County?