

AFHS SENIOR YEAR 2023-2024



Objectives for Today

- Review who your counselor is and how to make an appointment with her
- Understand WCPSS Graduation Requirements
- Consider Post-Secondary options
- Important Calendar Dates for your Senior Year
- The College Admission process (applications, admissions testing, expectations, etc.)
- How to request your High School Transcript
- The basics of Financial Aid and Scholarships
- And much, much more!



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS



* Students unable to achieve a higher level of Math past Math III will be considered for a Math Substitution Process. Ask your counselor for more information if you think this might be you.

Students applying directly to a 4 year college or university **MUST have taken a minimum of 2 levels of a World Language before graduating.

Curriculum	Units	Courses
English	4	English I, II, III, and IV
Math	4	Math 1, Math 2, Math 3, and 4th course beyond Math 3*
Science	3	Earth Science/ AP Environmental Science, Biology, and Physical Science/Chemistry/ Physics
Social Studies	4	World History, Civic Literacy, American History/ AP US History), and Economics & Personal Finance
Health & PE	1	Healthful Living
Requisite Electives	2	2 electives of any combination from either CTE, Arts Education, or Second Language**
Additional Electives	8	<p>▶ 8 elective courses from any area</p> <p>▶ 4 electives <i>strongly recommended</i> to concentrate in one area (CTE, Arts, or any other subject area)</p> <p>▶ You may select CTE courses that complete a Career Cluster</p>
Total	26	MINIMUM required to graduate

Important People to Know!

*Dean of Students - Ms. Carter

*10th-12th Grade Counselors

- A-Co - Ms. Butler
- Cr-He - Ms. Amalfitano
- Hi-Mc - Ms. Muir
- Me-R - Ms. Conley
- S-Z - Ms. Stiers**

*SAP Counselor- Ms. Burden



Other Student Services Staff:

*Registrar - Mrs. Wall

*Receptionist - Mrs. Connors

*Career Development

*Coordinator- Mrs. Guinn

*Financial Aid Advisor - Ms.
Brannan

What's Next for You?

2yr Community
College

4 yr College/University

Military Career/Trade



Navy:

919-460-0457



U.S. ARMY

Army:

919-467-2500



Coast Guard

919-878-4303



Marine Corps:

919-460-0090

Military

- **Meet with a branch recruiter to explore opportunities and requirements for enlisting.**
- **There is a wide variety of career and educational opportunities within each branch**
- **Take the ASVAB- Students may sign up to take the ASVAB, the military entrance exam on Oct 18th**



U.S. AIR FORCE

Air Force:

919-380-7242



**United States
Space Force**

910-599-8132

Explore Careers

- Begin to consider short-term vs. long-term job opportunities
- Even without a college degree, you could be eligible for an assemblage of full-time roles.
- Help with career assessments, resumes, interview skills, and leads on job opportunities.
- Major Clarity, Internship & Job Shadowing opportunities
- A job fair will be offered in the Spring for Seniors wanting to pursue full-time employment directly after graduation.

Contact our **Career Development Coordinator** to schedule an appointment: **Mrs. Guinn: tguinn@wcpss.net**

Two-Year College

College Transfer/Associates Degree/Certificate

- Community colleges offer various post-secondary programs including short term certificates, Associates Degrees and college transfer pathways.
- The North Carolina Community College System has an open enrollment policy-- **all high school graduates** are admitted.
- We encourage you to apply by early Spring semester to ensure you are able to enroll in your preferred courses, as well as to secure the best financial aid package.
- Explore Wake Tech's numerous degree and certificate programs here:
<https://www.waketech.edu/programs-courses>

Planning to be a college transfer student? Meet with an admissions advisor to review course and credit requirements, along with your timeline for transferring.

Bachelor Degree

(4 yr college/university)

How do you know it's for you?

- Plan ahead- does your future profession require a Bachelor Degree?
- Do you enjoy learning and the idea of the academic life?
- Are you torn between a few interests and the direction of your career path?
- Are you interested in gaining more networking opportunities in the field you would like to pursue?
- Are you excited to be immersed in the college traditions like football, greek life, and living on campus for example.

4-Year College - Building Your List

- How many schools should a student apply to?
 - 4-8
 - Reaches vs. Targets vs. Definites
 - Be mindful of application fees
- Do your research to narrow your choices?
 - Understand the school's profile
 - Go on Campus Visits
 - Talk to admissions reps at college fairs
 - We will be having a college fair in the media center 9/20/23
 - Consider what you want to get out of your college experience?
- Colleges and Universities visiting AFHS



Parts of the Application

- Application
- Essay
- High School Transcript
- Test Scores
- Application Fees
- Interviews and/or Auditions
- Counselor School Report/ Teacher and Counselor Letter(s) of Recommendation

College Application To Do List



AFHS College Application To Do List

- ☐ **Keep your grades up!** Your GPA is a major factor considered for college admissions and scholarships
- ☐ **See the [AFHS College Application Summer To Do List](#)** for information on
 - ☐ Building a college list
 - ☐ Writing college essays
 - ☐ The ACT and SAT
 - ☐ Activity Lists/ Resumes
 - ☐ Recommendation letters
- ☐ **If you need a counselor recommendation letter** please complete the [Senior Info sheet for counselors](#). Note, not all schools require a counselor recommendation letter.
- ☐ **Establish your NC residency** [www.ncresidency.org](#)
 - ☐ Residency determines if students should have in-state or out of state tuition
 - ☐ You will need to complete and get an RCN to apply to any schools in NC
 - ☐ You will use your CFNC account login to complete this application
- ☐ **Know your CFNC log in or create an account** if you do not have one
 - ☐ <https://www.cfnc.org/>
 - ☐ You will can CFNC to send your official transcripts to North Carolina colleges and to apply to NC colleges and universities
 - ☐ CFNC also has a free application week in October. Select schools waive their college application fees if you apply through CFNC between October 16-20. The [list of participating schools will be available here October 1st](#).
- ☐ **Common App**
 - ☐ You can apply to [most colleges](#) using [Common App](#)
 - ☐ If you plan to use Common App, create an account
 - ☐ Keep your college list up to date in your Common App account so your recommenders can keep up with deadlines for materials.
 - ☐ [Helpful Common App resource](#)
 - ☐ Common answers for Common App Grades Questions- The approximated graduating class size is 649. Class Rank reporting is **Exact**. We are on a **4 Weighted** GPA scale
- ☐ **Sending Test Scores-** Most schools ask you to self-report test scores during the application process. After you are admitted, the school you choose to attend will ask for an official score report. If you need to send colleges your ACT or SAT scores, do so through [ACT.org](#) or [CollegeBoard.org](#).

- ☐ **Sending Official Transcripts**
 - ☐ Send NC colleges your transcripts through [CFNC.org](#)
 - ☐ For colleges outside of NC, send your transcripts through <https://wcpss.scriborder.com/>
 - ☐ Colleges that you apply to through Common App will receive your official transcript when counselors submit your Common App School Report (this will start to happen after rank is recalculated in late September).
- ☐ **Complete the FAFSA (*FREE Application for Federal Student Aid*)**
 - ☐ The application opens December 2023- [fafsa.gov](#)
 - ☐ You will need to [create an FSA ID](#) first
 - ☐ All students should fill out the FAFSA -[Types of Financial Aid](#)
 - ☐ Some schools (ex. Duke, UNC-CH, WFU, Elon) require a [CSS Profile](#) to complete the financial aid process
 - ☐ Contact [AFHS Financial Aid Advisor](#) (Lbrannan@wcpss.net) if you need help or see a [quick FAFSA tutorial](#)
- ☐ **Know your deadlines** for submitting all materials: [Deadlines for NC colleges and universities](#)
- ☐ **Search for scholarships**
 - ☐ **Local** -Check out the AFHS [scholarships page](#)
 - ☐ **State-based**- CFNC has a list of [state-based scholarships](#)
 - ☐ **Institutional**- visits the websites of the schools you are interested in to see what scholarships their freshmen can apply for. Sometimes, you do not have access to a school's scholarship portal until you have been accepted.
 - ☐ **National**- here are some websites for national scholarship searches:
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
 - <https://www.unigo.com/scholarships>
 - <https://www.fastweb.com/>
 - <https://www.collegegreenlight.com/>
 - <https://www.cappex.com/>
 - U.S. Department of Labor's [FREE scholarship search tool](#)
- ☐ Email or [meet with your counselor](#) when you need help 😊

NC Residency Determination Service

- What is Residency?
- RDS Policies
 - All North Carolina Students must complete this form for NC Colleges and Universities
 - Students must provide a unique identification number such as a Social Security Number, Taxpayer ID Number, Alien Registration Number, or US Citizenship and Immigration Service Number.
 - Students may also be required to submit supplemental documentation.
- 3 Ways to access the RDS Form:
 - The RDS website (<https://ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyInfo/>)
 - CFNC.org Application Hub through student's account
 - Student Application Portal on respective colleges' websites

- **Early Decision vs. Early Action**

- Early Decision is binding- can only apply to 1
- You may only apply to one school as Early Decision
- No restriction on the number of schools you may apply to as Early Action



- **Out-of-State Schools - Things to Consider:**

- Financial Cost of the School + Fees
- Travel Costs
- Healthcare Costs (i.e. Insurance acceptance)
- Clothing Cost (Regional differences)
- Financial Aid (often less)

SENDING TRANSCRIPTS

- Counselors will include an official transcript in the fall and midyear on Common App applications.
- Means for students sending transcripts:
 - CFNC (cfnc.org) - Used for all NC schools
 - Scribder (<http://wcpss.scribder.com>) - All out-of-state schools

FINAL Transcripts - Students are responsible for requesting through CFNC for IN-STATE schools and Scribder for OUT-of-STATE.

****If you need a transcript for a scholarship or for personal use, either request via Scribder or contact our Registrar, Mrs. Wall, in Student Services.

Student's Roles & Responsibilities

- Keep up with deadlines
- Make good decisions (personally, socially, academically)
- Research college/universities and admissions requirements
- **Requesting teacher recommendations and counselor reports**
 - Includes filling out Senior Google Form for Counselors
 - Students should have requested a recommendation at least 3 weeks prior to the college deadline
 - Verifying recommenders and counselor's email address before submitting on your college recommendation.
 - Giving resume to teacher
 - Requesting test scores from College Board and ACT
 - Requesting transcripts
 - Completing applications including writing essays

Counselor Recommendation Letter

If you are applying to a school that requires a counselor recommendation **in addition** to the general School Report, please complete the form below.

[Senior Brag Sheet for Counselors](#)

FYI: Counselors' deadlines for submission vary from students deadlines (1-2 weeks after students' deadline)

Invite Your Counselor on Common App

The screenshot shows the Common App interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Dashboard, My Colleges, Common App, College Search, and Financial Aid. The 'Common App' tab is active. On the left, a sidebar under 'My Colleges' lists various universities, with 'Appalachian State University' selected. The main content area is titled 'Recommendations and FERPA'. It includes a section for 'FERPA Release Authorization' with a green checkmark and a 'View Details' link. Below this is the 'Invite recommenders' section, which explains the process and includes an 'Invite Recommenders' button. The 'Counselor' section, marked with a yellow warning icon, states that a school counselor must complete the School Report and includes an 'Invite Counselor' button. The 'Teachers' section, marked with a green checkmark, instructs users to select and assign teachers and includes an 'Invite Teacher' button. At the bottom of the sidebar, a list of universities is visible: Brown University, Duke University, East Carolina University, Elon University, Hampton University, High Point University, Howard University, and New York University.

*If you are applying Early Action through Common App, please invite your counselor by 9/25

*You do not need to ask your counselor for permission to invite them

*You should ask teachers before you invite them

*Always practice good etiquette when requesting a letter of recommendation



NC Countdown to College **Free** Application Week

- Apply to select NC colleges and universities for free during the week of Oct. 16th - 20th 2023
- Must complete and submit college application via CFNC.org's Application Hub
- Application must be submitted by 5:00 pm Oct. 20th to qualify for waived fee
- See list of participating schools on CFNC.org in Oct.

CFNC

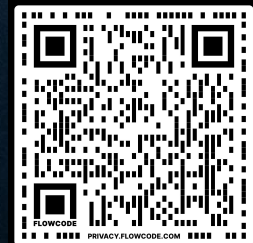
College
Foundation
of North Carolina

Financial Aid (FAFSA and CSS Profile)

- **ALL** Financial Aid starts with the submission of the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) studentaid.gov
- The FAFSA 2024-2025 application open date has been **delayed from October 1st to sometime in December**. First come first serve! (**Do not submit prior to this date.**)
- You will use the most current year's 1040 income tax information (2023).
- Will receive confirmation that your FAFSA has been processed.
- Confirmation tells you your **eligibility** for grants, loans, etc.
- Award letters typically arrive in the early to late Spring from colleges.
 - Some colleges require you indicate that you will attend before they will send an award letter.
- Select institutions require the CSS Profile in addition to the FAFSA. The CSS Profile is not free to complete and send. The initial report and submission to one college is \$25, submission to additional colleges is \$16 each, but the College Board does offer fee waivers to those who qualify.

Financial Aid- FAFSA

- FAFSA Presentation....Oct 2023 date TBD
- Linda Brannan is our Financial Aid Representative for AFHS. She can help you and your family with **FAFSA** questions.
- Ms. Brannan is available via email at lbrannan@wcpss.net.
- Mrs. Brannan is available for virtual appointments
- [Make an Financial Aid appointment](#)



Other Types of Financial Aid

- **Grants**- a financial award usually given by a company, foundation, or the government
- **Loan**- Money that is borrowed and expected to be paid back with interest
- **Work Study**- part-time employment while in school. It is allowed for students that qualify for financial aid.
- **Scholarships**-are financial aid awards designed to help students pay for an undergraduate degree. Sometimes a scholarship is a one-time check. Other school scholarships are renewable and provide money for students each semester or school year. These awards differ from student loans in that they don't have to be repaid.

Scholarships

- Always research scholarship opportunities offered through the colleges to which you plan to apply.
- Make use of online scholarship search engines: **Fastweb**, **Big Future**, **CFNC**, and many others.
- AFHS Student Services website with listing of national and local scholarship opportunities for AFHS students:
(https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LuSqVVaC3OAtd-FeZ-IXPgKCspyiBH2EoX5J63L_41o/edit)
- APPLY TO ALL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WHICH YOU ARE ELIGIBLE.
- **Students should report all scholarship offers to Student Services even if they are not accepting them. This is important for data collection for WCPSS.**



NCAA Eligibility Center

- You must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center if you have plans to play Division I or Division II college athletics.
- First step....register at www.eligibilitycenter.org.
- Once registered AFHS will send your first six semesters, and later your final transcript, to the NCAA Clearinghouse.



- YOU must send your SAT/ACT scores to NCAA....
(Code 9999)
- Students must maintain amateur certification.
- NCAA Eligibility is based on a “Core” GPA (16 core courses) and a corresponding SAT/ACT score on a sliding scale.
- See Mr. Donatini in Student Services for any questions.

College Application Timeline

FALL

- Review High School Transcript for Accuracy (Updated transcripts will be available after Sept. 26th.)
- Apply to college(s) of your choice
- Complete a Personal Information Sheet and/or résumé, then SHARE with your counselor
- Request Transcripts to be sent to the college(s) you are applying to. Must use **CFNC** for IN State and **ScribOrder** for OUT of State
- Must fill out the ***Residency Determination Form***
- Complete the **FAFSA** (the earlier you have this filled out- the more chance you have for receiving financial aid). Opens for the 2023-2024 school year sometime in December and closes June 30th.
- Fill out the CSS Profile- ***only if required from college(s) you apply to***
- Continue to look for scholarships and APPLY for them!
- Meet ALL admissions deadlines, especially critical for early admissions (Oct 15th for some NC schools, Nov 1st for many others) ***KNOW YOUR DEADLINES***

College Application Timeline (cont'd)

END OF 1ST SEMESTER

- Request Mid-year transcripts as needed per school
- Keep your Grades up!
- Inform colleges if 2nd semester classes have changed since sending out initial transcript.
- Prepare for applications due in January- ensure that all recommendations are complete
 - Remember to have your scores sent from Test Organizations (College Board/ACT) to colleges
- **Verify** that colleges have received your application and that nothing is missing!
- Fill out the FAFSA if you have not already done so!

SPRING

- Go on final college visits to accepted schools to help solidify your college decision.
- Make final college decision by May 1st deadline
- Take AP Tests, as needed
- Request Final Transcript for out of State Colleges (CFNC automatically sends final transcripts to in-state schools)
- Complete NCAA requirements (athletes)
- KEEP YOUR GRADES UP!!!!

Senior Exam Exemption Policy 2023/2024

Per WCPSS, the following guidance for senior exam exemptions in
2023-2024 will be:

Students in grade 12 may be exempt from exams based on the following criteria:

- (1) projected final grade of B or higher; and
- (2) student must have 10 or fewer absences in the course.

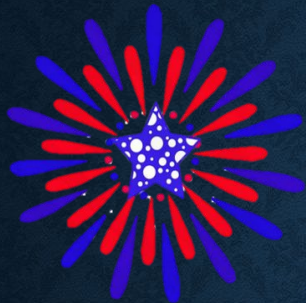
Please note the following:

- All absences will count toward the 10 total absences including excused, unexcused, educational, college visits, etc.
- At the end of the semester, students may apply to waive additional absences that are (1) outside of their control (such as documented medical absence/hospitalization; absence due to bus route not running, etc.); and (2) are well documented beyond the student / parent. This waiver will be extremely limited.
- Students cannot be exempt from state testing including field tests.

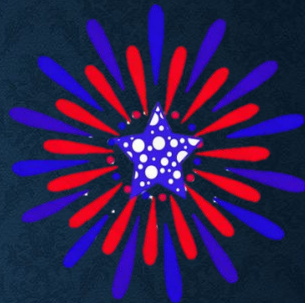
College Application Help Sessions



- **Common App** Help Session- Tips and answers to FAQs
 - *Tuesday Sept. 19th* during A & C Lunch (Cube)
 - *Thursday Sept. 21st* during A and C Lunch (Yellow Zone)
- **College Essay Tips**
 - Wednesday Sept 27th during A and C Lunch (Cube)



Graduation



MANDATORY Graduation Rehearsal:

June 4, 2024

**Students should not plan College Orientations, Vacations, or anything
else that conflicts with this date!**

Graduation Ceremony: Saturday, June 8th at 8:00 pm

***Must arrive 1 hour before Ceremony**

*****The Graduation Newsletter, with more details, will be provided in
the Spring.**