



AFHS College Night 2025

Preparing for College Applications
April 22, 2025

Welcome!



- Introduction
- College Application Overview
- Financial Aid Overview
- College Panel
- Closing

What is next? Post-High School Options



University Transfer



- Seamless transfer pathways with 50+ NC public and private institutions.
 - Associate in Arts
 - Associate in Sciences
- 2+2 programs for Associate in Applied Science program graduate
- Associate in Engineering transfer pathway partners:
 - East Carolina University
 - NC A&T State University
 - NC State University
 - UNC Charlotte
 - Western Carolina University
- Associate in Fine Arts transfer pathway partners:
 - Appalachian State University
 - East Carolina University
 - UNC Asheville
 - UNC Chapel Hill
 - UNC Charlotte
 - UNC Greensboro
 - Western Carolina University
 - Savannah College of Art & Design

Find out more at transfer.waketech.edu

Common App – Getting started...



CFNC Application Info




ESPAÑOL EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS FAFSA TOOLS ABOUT US CONTACT US [LOG IN](#)

[Plan Your Future](#) [Apply to College](#) [Pay for College](#) [Save for College](#) [Search](#)

College Application Resources


You are welcome to use the free CFNC college application resources included in the pages below.


[Application Hub](#)
[HS Spring Career and College Steps](#)
[NC Countdown to College](#)
[Adult Learners and Nontraditional Students](#)
[Residency Determination](#)
[Get Recruited](#)
College Application Resources
[Practice Application](#)
[Schools That Provide e-Transcripts](#)
[Admissions Essay Tips](#)
[College Application FAQ](#)
[Apply to College: Contact](#)



Practice Application

Take advantage of our practice application to help prepare for when you apply.


Start Today! 



Admissions Deadlines

Don't miss the date to apply for the school of your choice!

Know Your Deadlines!



Admissions Essay Tips

Avoid the pitfalls when writing your admissions essay.

Get Tips On Writing Your Best Essay!

Factors Considered in College Admissions

What is the potential for success in the college classroom?

Academic Performance

- Academic Rigor
- GPA/Class Rank
- Test Scores

Personal Characteristics

- Essays
- Extracurricular Activities
- Letters of Recommendation

Academic Performance

Next **SAT**: June 7
([5/22 registration deadline](#))

Next **ACT**: June 14
([5/9 registration deadline](#))

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

- ❖ **For UNC System schools, students applying for the 2026-2027 academic year and beyond**, students with a weighted GPA of 2.8 or above (on a 4.0 scale) are not required to submit a test score. Students with a weighted GPA below 2.8 (on a 4.0 scale) are required to submit either an ACT score of 17 or higher or an SAT score of 930 or higher.
- ❖ Students are encouraged to test

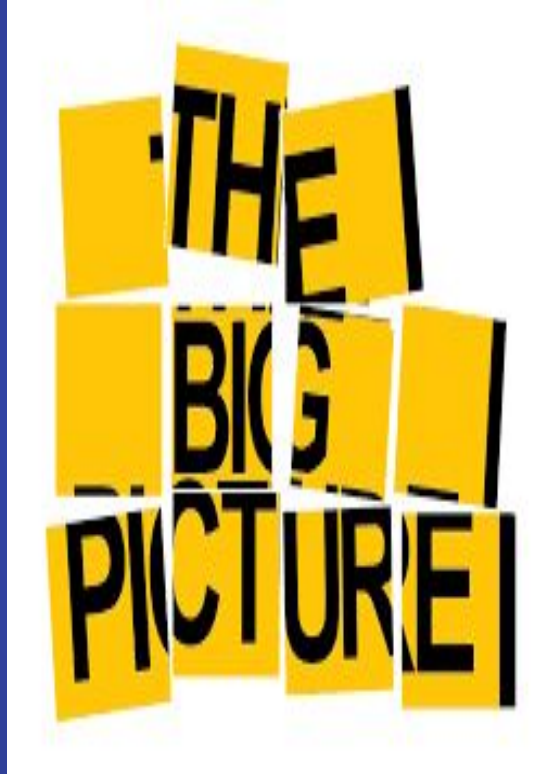
Showcasing Personal Characteristics

Who are you
and how will
you contribute
to a campus
community?

Essays

Thoughtful reflection

- Who are you?
- What's your story?
- Why this major?
- Why this college?



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.

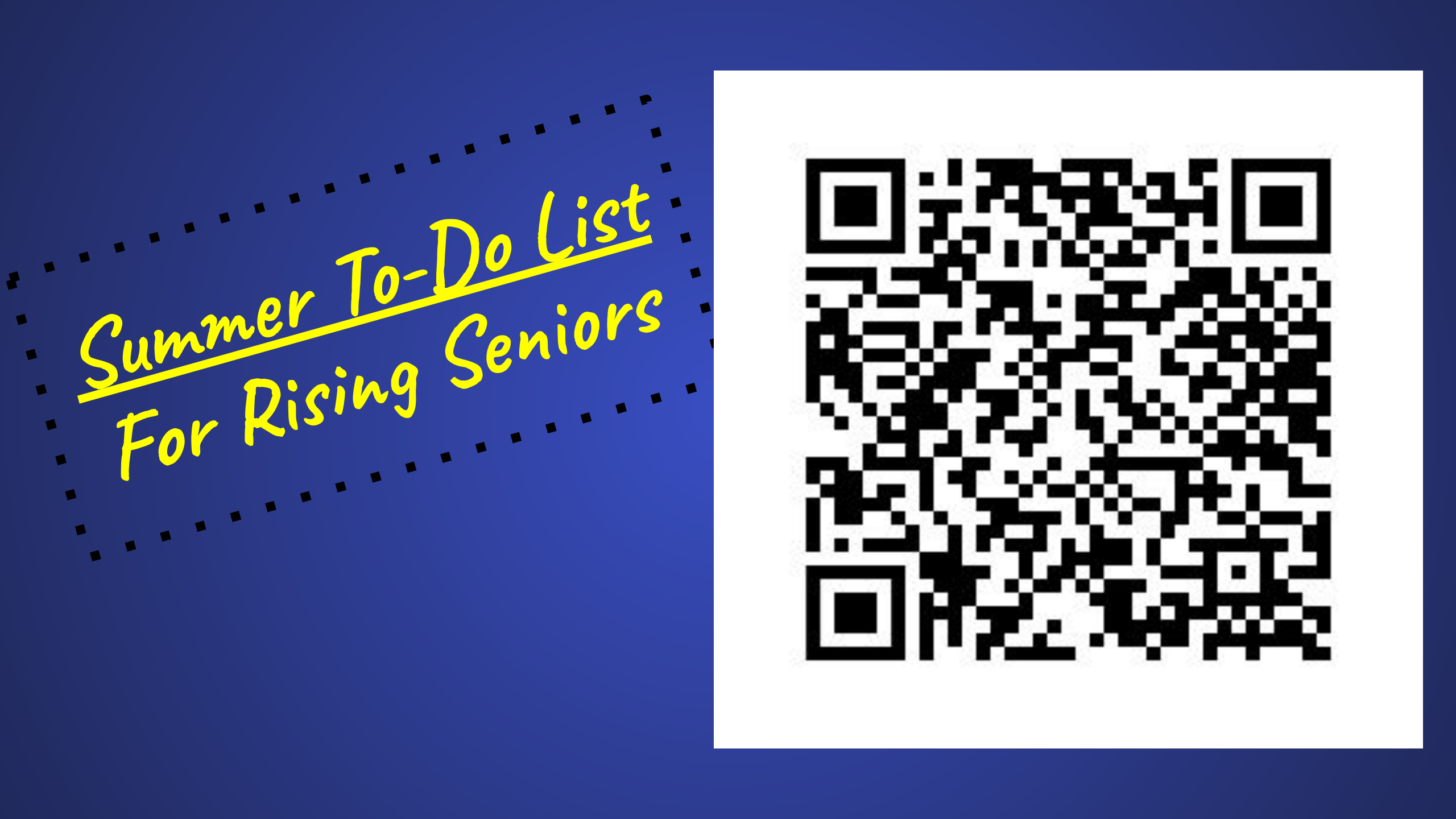
vs

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.....



Summer To-Do List
For Rising Seniors



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.



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!

Know your deadlines and what they mean!

Early Action/ Regular Decision

- Non Binding
- Apply to multiple schools
- Not obligated to attend
- Early Action - Typically due mid-October through November depending on the school
- Regular Decision - Typically due November through March

Early Decision

- Binding contract to attend the school if they accept you
 - Must withdraw any other applications if student is accepted*
- *The student need not withdraw other applications until the student has received notification about financial aid.

Rolling Admissions

- Colleges Review applications as they are completed
- Get responses back quickly
- Apply early - once the spots are taken, they're full!

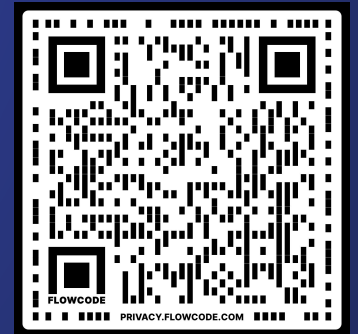
Want more info? Check out this resource:

<https://www.collegeessayguy.com/blog/early-action-early-decision-colleges>



Financial Aid- FAFSA

- FAFSA Presentation with Mrs. Brannan.... Fall 2025 TBD
- Current Juniors - '26-'27 FAFSA opens October 1st!
 - Both '25-'26 and '26-'27 will be open, so choose carefully!
- '26-'27 FAFSA will require 2024 Tax information
- Linda Brannan is our Financial Aid Representative for AFHS. She can help you and your family with **FAFSA** questions.
- April 25th is Mrs. Brannan's last day for appointments until next school year.
She is resource that is available for evening appointments.
- Mrs. Brannan: lbrannan@wcpss.net
- [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://www.wcpss.net/Page/53592>
- 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.





Class of 2026 **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: afhs-student-svcs@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 2025-26 school year.

College Panel



Sam Lugo
North Carolina State
University



Fredrick Evans
Elon University



Maria Lofton
University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill



Whitney Belk
East Carolina University



Sam Cady
University of North Carolina
Charlotte

Quick Facts

6,300 Students

24% In-State

5 Schools, 70+ Majors

Notable Programs

Engineering

Nursing

Financial Technology

Neuroscience

Admissions Recommendations

3.4 - 4.4 GPA

Test Optional, except Nursing

Demonstrated Interest



Fredrick
fevans2@elon.edu



SERVICE LEARNING



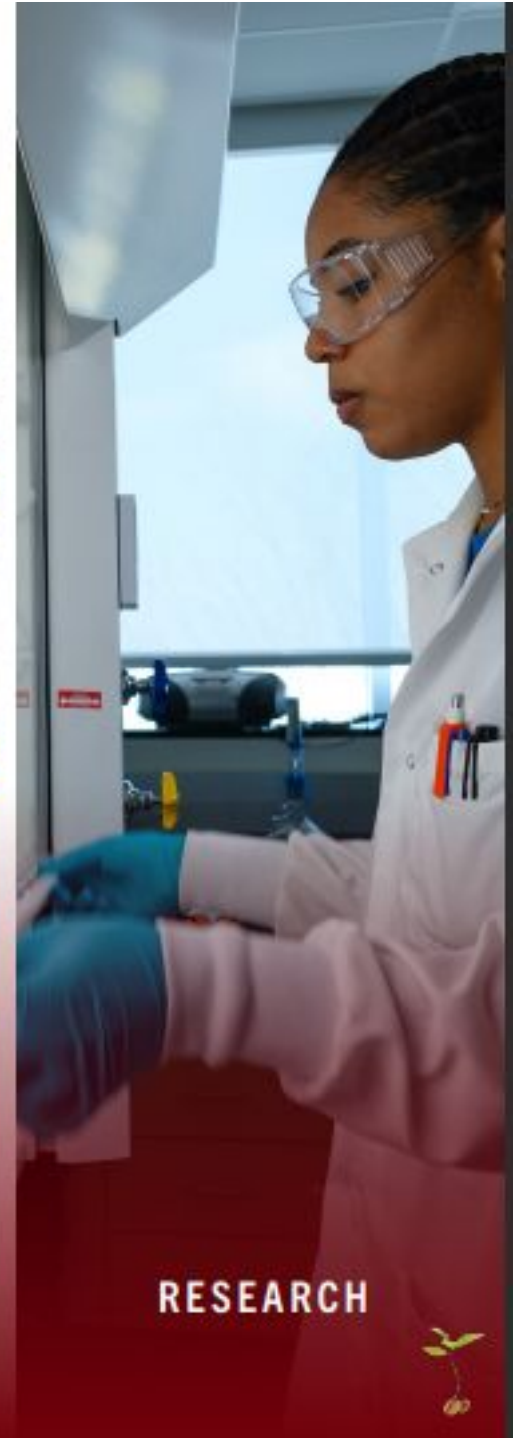
INTERNSHIPS



GLOBAL STUDY



LEADERSHIP



RESEARCH

ELON EXPERIENCES





**WELCOME TO
NC STATE**

27,000+

**UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS**

**NC STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**DIVISION I
ATHLETICS
ATLANTIC COAST
CONFERENCE**



**PUBLIC
RESEARCH I
INSTITUTION**



**100+
MAJORS**

**AVERAGE
CLASS
SIZE**

35+

15:1

**STUDENT TO
FACULTY
RATIO**

HOW TO BE A **COMPETITIVE APPLICANT?**



APPLY THROUGH **COMMON APP** OR **COALITION** ON SCOIR

Meet the Staff

WHITNEY BELK

Admissions Counselor

CONNECT

belkw22@ecu.edu

(252) 328-1710



Whitney Belk presents:
EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

FACTS



TOP UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS

Undergraduate majors are offered through 8 of our 12 colleges and schools.



3,941 
first-time
first-year students

31% of ECU students
are from racially and
ethnically underrepresented
populations

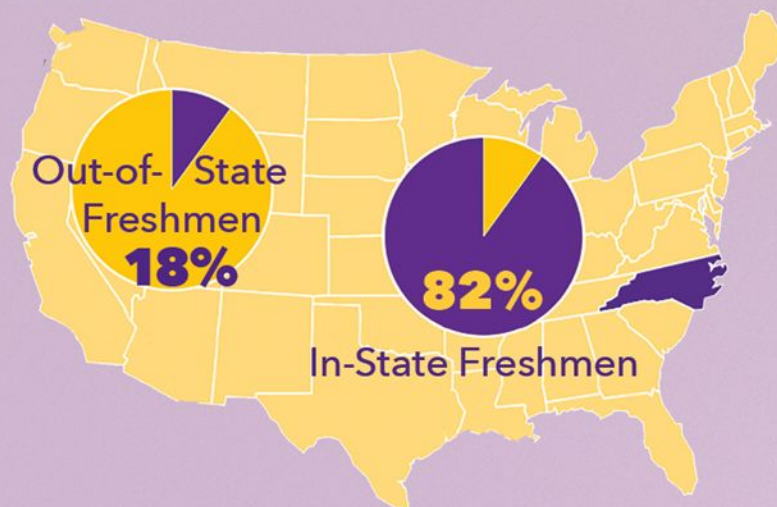
Our students come from:

- All 100 NC counties
- 47 states plus DC
- 69 countries



CONNECT

admissions@ecu.edu
(252) 328-1710



Honors College application deadline
will be announced for mid-late October 2024

December 15, 2024: Application
deadline for eligibility for university merit-
based scholarships

April 1, 2025: Application Deadline

ECU

HONORS COLLEGE

Apply by October 15 to be eligible.



Brinkley-Lane Scholars

Fully funded education +

**All Honors College students
receive a four-year scholarship**

Applying to the Honors College

Application to the Honors College is by invitation only. To receive an invitation to apply to the Honors College, you must meet the following criteria:

- Submit the ECU freshman application (including transcripts) on or before the October 15 deadline.
- Have a minimum 3.7 unweighted GPA or 4.0 weighted GPA, or a qualifying test score (minimum 1330 SAT or minimum 29 ACT score) in the place of the minimum GPA





Sam Cady

Assistant Director

scady1@charlotte.edu

704-687-5131



NINERS BY THE NUMBERS

STUDENTS ENROLLED:

30,000+

GLOBAL CAMPUS

109

Countries

50

States

41%

Minority

1,000
Acres of Main Campus

19:1
Student-to-Faculty

35
Average Class Size

MILES
to the city

9

LIGHTRAIL
min ride to the city

22

18
Residence Halls

400+
Student Organizations

70+
Countries for
Study Abroad

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Nov. 1
Early Action

Feb. 1
Regular Decision

FRESHMAN APPLICANTS

22,000+

MAJORS

171

Bachelors

66

Master's

24

Doctoral



7 ACADEMIC COLLEGES

College of Arts + Architecture
Belk College of Business
College of Computing & Informatics
Cato College of Education
William States Lee College of Engineering
College of Health & Human Services
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

TOP 10

BEST VALUE IN
NORTH
CAROLINA

NICHE.COM

FRESHMAN CLASS

4,000+

MOST POPULAR MAJORS



Engineering
Business Administration
Computer Science
Communications

Nursing
Psychology
Education
Biology

90%

of students participate in research
or other experiential learning



FALL 2026 DEADLINES & NOTIFICATIONS

EARLY ACTION

NOV. 1

RECEIVE DECISION
BY JAN. 30

REGULAR DECISION

FEB. 1

RECEIVE DECISION
BY APRIL 1

AFTER FEB. 1 – SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS

SUPPORTING MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN TWO
WEEKS AFTER THE DEADLINE TO RECEIVE A DECISION BY THE
NOTIFICATION DATE

REQUIRED

ONLINE APPLICATION

APPLICATION FEE

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

ESSAY

SAT/ACT SCORES*

OPTIONAL

RECOMMENDATION
LETTERS

PERSONAL STATEMENT


Proudly
Public



Characteristics We Consider in an Application

- Academic excellence
- Advocate for others
- Brilliant
- Building bridges across divisions
- Character
- Courage
- Creativity
- Curiosity
- Determination
- Exceptional achievement
- Impact on school or community
- Initiative or drive
- Integrity
- Intellectually adventurous
- Kindness
- Leadership
- Openness to new cultures
- Openness to new or opposing ideas
- Original thought
- Overcoming obstacles or setbacks
- Self-motivation

Thanks for Considering Carolina!



CONTACT US

unchelp@admissions.unc.edu

mlofton@admissions.unc.edu

919-966-3621



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

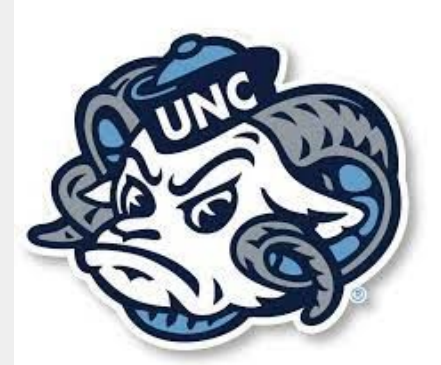
College Panel



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East Carolina University



Sam Cady
University of North Carolina
Charlotte

Questions for the Panel

What is the perspective of admissions on early release/late arrival (reduced schedule)?

UNC Charlotte - Where is the student academically already? If they are within the averages for our university they're fine, but if they're not it's confusing to me and you're missing an opportunity to take more classes and improve your averages. Could you have taken an additional honors math class instead?

NC State - Same, but it depends on what program the student is applying to. You should be taking advantage of all opportunities available to you.

Do seniors need to notify universities when they change their senior year schedule?

East Carolina U - Yes, we would love to know. We want to ensure you're still meeting minimum course requirements for the UNC System.

UNC Chapel Hill - Yes, engaging and being proactive. Admission could be contingent on grade performance.

Questions for the Panel

Talk to us about your admissions' office's perspective on students taking foreign languages in high school.

Elon - Minimum is 2, recommended to take 3. If a student does not take 3, than what other honors classes are they taking? Taking other foreign language courses can be helpful to avoid foreign language course at the college level that may be required, depending on major.

NC State - This is depending on the program that the student is interested in, humanities requires a foreign language up to 200 level as part of the college curriculum. Personally, I thought learning a new language was fun, but you would need to make sure you're meeting the UNC minimum requirements without it.

Questions for the Panel

Given the test-optional nature of the admissions process this cycle, how will standardized scores be review at your institution? If a student submits test scores to your school, will they help their application or count against them?

Elon - Elon is test optional, except for our nursing program. They don't look negatively but want to see other areas of application that stand out. If you submit and want to show off the scores they will consider them.

East Carolina U - Not harmful is it's not submitted. Depends on the program, like, if they go for Engineering, they want to see the scores and it helps with placement purposes for like Math classes. Want to see other areas make up for that in your application. It is also a way to be considered for honors college and some scholarships require it.

UNC Chapel Hill - Reach out to schools, first year and transfer students so not admit to a major. If you are confident in the score you can submit it, but not submitting doesn't discount a student from opportunities.

Questions for the Panel

What are some of the opportunities at your school you feel like students don't take advantage of?

East Carolina - 1st year welcome or organizational fairs. Don't assume you know everything - go anyways and make yourself aware of all of the support office. Be immersed in the college culture.

UNC Chapel Hill - Initiative goes a long way. Take advantage of resources like office hours, writing center, peer to peer monts, or academic bootcamp. Be proactive.

NC State - Take advantage of opportunities to be involved on campus, go to athletic events, join a club.

Questions for the Panel

Where do students hang out on campus?

UNC Charlotte - Culture Shock, having a roommate, meeting strangers - when you come to campus, be proactive to get involved and start looking for those opportunities. Everything starts at the beginning somewhere.

Elon - Try to stay on campus the first 6-9 weeks to really connect with people.

What is your favorite tradition at your school?

NC State - Krispy Kreme Challenge

Elon - Turning 21 Dinner

UNC Charlotte - Penny Toss for Good Luck

East Carolina - Bright Red, No Quarter Flags that represent not backing down.

UNC Chapel Hill - Rushing Franklin Street after a win.

Questions for the Panel

In terms of classes, how to honors, AP, DE, and academic compare?

UNC Charlotte - AP and DE comes down to your style of learning. Drawback with DE, you are starting your college transcripts, which can hurt you with certain requirements down the line if you don't do well. Example - say you take Biology and get a D, you are now not meeting the B or better requirement to get in to the nursing program. So be careful.

C's in AP classes versus As in honors classes?

East Carolina - It's about balance. How do you learn and what's best for you? Make good choices about what classes you are taking at more rigorous levels. Play to your strengths.

How does volunteering through multiple clubs vs volunteering out of school vs all through the same club compare?

UNC Chapel Hill - No preference, want to see that you're doing and involved in and what you passion is to continue to do related service work.

Questions for the Panel

Do you consider demonstrated interest?

NC State - not considered.

UNC Charlotte - not considered, but we can see when you open emails and encourage you to visit schools before you apply.

East Carolina - not considered, but reiterated that visiting is important to making an informed decision.

How to highlight opportunities that a student took advantage of like AOE?

NC State - Highlight on the activities list, how involved were you? Quality over quantity.

UNC Charlotte - Always want more information than less. You can email to admissions if you need to more fully articulate what was done.

Questions for the Panel

UNC Chapel Hill does not admit to a major, how does the process work is a student is wanting to go to a specific major?

UNC Chapel Hill - There is a special opportunities survey where students can indicate interest in specific majors (ensured enrollment into the major for certain opportunities). Admissions works with the program to select students. After 1st year for any student they apply to a specific program/ Outside of academics, dedication to the program that you want to commit to the track and why. They do this to keep cohorts at a certain size and keep internship opportunities available.

For specific majors (like nursing), how can you stand out?

UNC Charlotte - Take the classes that you feel passionate about and go from there. The application depends on what's offered what you are. What opportunities did you take advantage of?

East Carolina - The program that you apply to may involve an application later in your college years based on college GPA and courses taken (like for nursing).

Questions for the Panel

Once the student applies, how do they apply for scholarships?

UNC Chapel Hill - Automatically considered students with admissions review, small number of applicants may be required to interview. Roberts Scholars and Moore-Head Cain are the big ones that students need to apply for or be nominated for.

UNC Charlotte - Deadline 11/15 for Levine Scholarship. The honors college also gives a few scholarships, other scholarships appear in the Miner's portal and only show what you're eligible for.

NC State - Park Scholarship open to all students all majors, due on early action deadline, separate form. Good Night Scholarship for STEM, lower to middle income families. Once accepted they can log in to the portal and well see what scholarships they qualify for.

Questions for the Panel

Are interviews still held on college campuses?

NC State - Only 1 college, college of design has an interview which is to review the student's portfolio.

UNC Chapel Hill - No interviews.

Elon - Interviews are held for some scholarship programs and accelerated programs, but not for general admission.

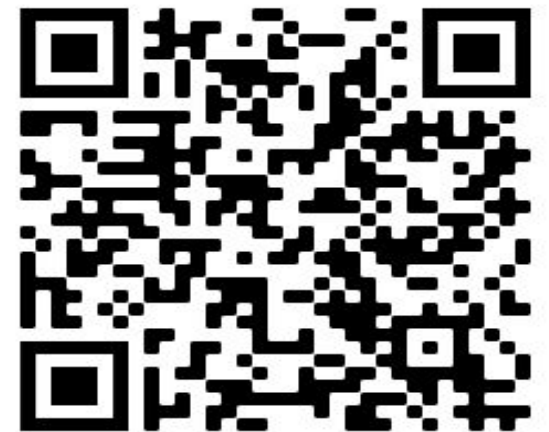
East Carolina - No interviews but will meet with students if needed (no demonstrated interest is considered).

THANK YOU!!

Stay Informed

- ★ AFHS Student Services website
- ★ Follow us on social media:
 - Twitter: @AFHSstudentserv
 - Instagram: @AFHSstudentserv
- ★ Weekly Email Updates for Seniors
- ★ Homerooms
- ★ Fall college presentations

*Not getting messages
from the school or
Wake County?*



AFHS Student Services

*Dean of Students - Ms. Carter - scarter@wcpss.net

*10th-12th Grade Counselors

- A-Co - Ms. Hernandez - khernandez@wcpss.net
- Cr-He - Ms. Amalfitano - bamalfitano@wcpss.net
- Hi-Mc - Ms. Muir - smuir@wcpss.net
- Me-R - Ms. Conley - jconley@wcpss.net
- S-Z - Mr. Greene - sgreene3@wcpss.net

*SAP Counselor- Ms. Burden - ksburden@wcpss.net