

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!**