



# College Night: Navigating the Years Ahead

Uwharrie Charter Academy  
High School  
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# Introduction



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College and Career Advisor

- College/Career Planning

- Registration for RCC courses

Previously worked as the Associate Director of Admissions at High Point University for 5 years

[High School Student Services Webpage](#)



# Preparing to Apply to College

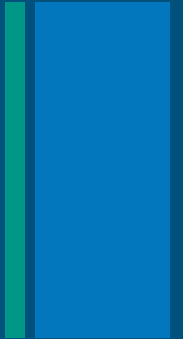
# + Your College Search

- Start your search early
- Look at college profiles - average SAT/ACT scores, average GPA, acceptance rate
  - Available on [CFNC.org](https://www.cfnc.org) for all NC Colleges
- Browse individual school's websites
- Review list of academic majors offered at each school; explore those that sound interesting to you



# Your College Search

- Think about what type of environment you need to be successful in college
  - Large vs. small school atmosphere
  - Close to home or far away
  - Extracurricular opportunities (sports, clubs, etc)
  - How many students live on campus vs. commute?





# Touring Colleges

- Many schools host Preview Days, Open Houses, or other prospective student days throughout the year
- Some schools will consider demonstrated interest in the admission process
- We offer 2 excused absences for juniors and seniors to tour a school
  - Must have school approval one week prior
  - Make sure you get a note signed from the college/university and turn it into the front office
- Some schools will offer interviews - take advantage of these opportunities!





# Deciding Where to Apply

## Reach Schools

Schools where your academic credentials fall below the school's range for the freshman class. Apply to 1-2.

## Match Schools

Schools where your academic credentials fall within the school's range for the freshman class. Apply to 2-3.

## Safety Schools

Schools where your academic credentials fall above the school's range for the freshman class. Apply to at least 1.



# Factors for College Admissions





# Factors for College Admissions

Grade Point  
Average

SAT/ACT Scores

Rigor of Classes

Essays

Demonstrated  
Interest

Extracurricular  
Activities/Sports

Letters of  
Recommendation



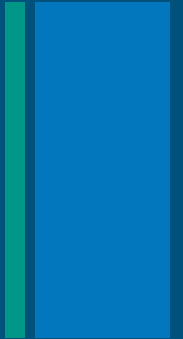
# High School Transcripts

- Colleges are looking at your class selection
  - Difficulty of your classes and how well you performed (Rigor/GPA)
- If you are applying to schools' early deadlines (Oct/Nov), the GPA that colleges will see will be calculated at the end of Junior year (includes Freshman-Junior year courses)
- Colleges will see your senior year class schedule
- Be sure to ask each school how the GPA is calculated and if they look at your **weighted** or **unweighted** GPA. Some schools only consider core classes in the calculation of your GPA.



# SAT/ACT

- All UCA Juniors will take the ACT on campus during their spring semester (Mar 1., 2022)
- Upcoming SAT dates/ACT Dates: linked [here](#)
- Be sure to ask your colleges if they superscore!
- Colleges and universities only accept official SAT/ACT scores directly from the testing agency. Be sure to have your scores sent via their website.
- Students facing financial hardship may qualify for a fee waiver allowing you to register and send scores for free. See Mrs. Rabb if you think you may qualify.





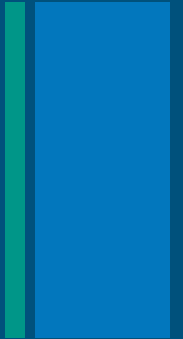
# Extracurricular Activities



- Better to be involved at a high level in fewer clubs/sports than to simply be a member of every club at your school
- Colleges/Universities are looking for leadership, initiative, drive, and commitment in your extracurricular involvement
- Think about activities you are doing that other students your age are not!
- Include *everything* on your application



# College Essays



- Your essay should not tell a story about anything other than you!
- Should be personal and unique to you
- Try to avoid slang, conversational language, abbreviations, etc.
- Have someone proofread for you!
- Colleges are trying to gain a better understanding of who you are and what kind of student you would be on their campus through your essay



# Letters of Recommendation

- Not required by all colleges
- If required, look to see if they want the recommendation from a teacher, counselor or “other”
- Choose someone that knows you, has seen your growth here at UCA, and who can speak on behalf of your character





# Letters of Recommendation

- Ask AT LEAST 2 weeks before you need it completed!
- It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to keep track of deadlines and follow up with your recommender
  - Follow up a week or so before the deadline to ensure the letter was sent
- When given the option, *waive your right* to view your letter of recommendation
- Thank you notes go a long way!





# Admissions Criteria-UNC

## Minimum Requirements



- 2.5 GPA (weighted)
- 17 on the ACT or 880 on the SAT
- Course requirements:
  - 4 units of English
  - 4 units of Math
  - 3 units of Science
  - 2 units of History
  - 2 units of Foreign Language



# UNC School System

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Appalachian State  
University

East Carolina University

Elizabeth City State

University\*

Fayetteville State University

North Carolina A&T

University

North Carolina Central

University

North Carolina State

University

UNC-Asheville

UNC-Chapel Hill

UNC-Charlotte

UNC Greensboro

UNC-Pembroke\*

UNC-Wilmington

UNC School of the Arts

Western Carolina

University\*

Winston-Salem State

University



# If you don't meet those requirements, consider...



- Private Colleges
- Community/Technical Colleges
  - 2 years with the option of transferring to a 4-year school for the last 2 years
- Out-of-State Colleges (depending on their minimum requirement criteria)



# Admissions Criteria for 2-year colleges



- You must have a high school diploma to enroll
- ACT/SAT scores are not required for admission
  - Placement testing may be required
- No minimum GPA requirement
- Many 2-year programs are still competitive to get in to; check admissions requirements for the program you are interested in



# The College Application Process



# Application Plans

## Early Decision

Binding; can only apply ED to 1 school; can apply Early Action or Regular Decision to other schools

## Early Action

Non-binding; usually the deadline for priority scholarship consideration

## Regular Decision

Deadline often falls between Jan and March; may be the best option if your test scores or GPA need improvement

## Rolling Admission

Open admission; no specific deadline



# Early Decision vs. Early Action

- Apply early (October/November) Find out early (December/January)
  - Early Action– the benefit of applying early simply to find out earlier
  - Early Decision–you can only apply Early Decision to 1 school. You are telling the school “If you accept me, I **contractually promise** to attend your school!”
    - BINDING- If you are accepted, you must withdraw all other applications
    - Usually the acceptance rate increases for students applying Early Decision



# How to Apply to College



- Two application websites that most NC schools use: [CFNC](#) and [Common Application](#)
- CFNC
  - Set up an account at CFNC.ORG
  - You can apply to multiple NC Colleges using 1 set of demographic information
    - If colleges do not accept applications through CFNC it will link you to their preferred application portal
  - You can send transcripts electronically



# How to Apply to College



- **Common Application**
  - You can make an account now at [apply.commonapp.org](https://apply.commonapp.org)
  - more than 800 Member colleges (nationwide & international) and only one application. Includes public, private, large, small, secular, and religious colleges.
  - Transcripts and letters of recommendations will be electronically uploaded
    - You must put your counselor's email and at least one teacher's email address for this recommendation process





# How to Apply to College

- Most 2-year or community colleges will use CFNC for their application.
- If your college does not participate in either the Common App or CFNC application portals, then use the application that you are directed to on the College's website
- Complete the Residency Determination Service if you are applying to public schools in NC to determine in-state tuition/state financial aid:  
**[ncresidency.cfnc.org/](http://ncresidency.cfnc.org/)**



# Paying for College



# Scholarships/Financial Aid



- There are 2 types of financial aid awards
  - Merit-aid: awarded to students based on GPA, test scores, leadership, community service, and/or other characteristics specified by the institution
  - Need-based aid: awarded to students based on the financial need of the family (FAFSA must be submitted to qualify)



# FAFSA

- **Submit your FAFSA!** The FAFSA opens up October 1st every year. <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>
  - FAFSA will have you submit financial information from two years ago (referred to as the prior-prior year)
- The purpose of the FAFSA is to generate your EFC- Expected Family Contribution
  - This number is sent to up to 10 colleges (that you designate). Schools use the EFC to determine your federal student aid eligibility and financial aid award
- Cost of attendance – Expected Family Contribution = Financial Need





# FAFSA

- What's considered in the formula to determine EFC?
  - Your family's taxed and untaxed income assets, and benefits
  - Family size and the number of family members who will attend college during the year.
- "Your EFC is **not** the amount of money your family will have to pay for college **nor** is it the amount of federal student aid you will receive. It is a number used by your school to calculate the amount of federal student aid you are eligible to receive."



# Financial Aid



- Your financial aid package could contain:
  - Grants
    - Do NOT have to pay back
  - Institutional Scholarships
    - Do NOT have to pay back
  - Loans
    - limit of \$5,500 freshman year
    - Subsidized vs. unsubsidized
    - DO have to pay back beginning 6 months after schooling ends



# Scholarships



- Scholarships are awarded in 2 ways:
  - Through the institutions where you are applying
  - Through outside scholarship opportunities such as local businesses, community programs, etc.
- Review each college's website for information on how to apply for their scholarships
  - Some may require an additional application, others allow your application for admission to also serve as your scholarship application



# Applying for Outside Scholarships



- Applying for scholarships is very similar to applying for a job
  - Research the opportunities, see which ones you qualify for, and apply!
- Helpful scholarship search websites:
- <https://www.fastweb.com/>
- [https://www.cfnc.org/paying/schol/all\\_schols.jsp](https://www.cfnc.org/paying/schol/all_schols.jsp)
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>





# Opportunities to Learn More



- **College Fair @ UCA**
  - Tuesday, November 2nd
  - More than 70 post-secondary options represented - 4-year colleges/universities, military branches, and community/technical colleges
- **College Application Week**
  - October 18-22
  - Many schools will WAIVE the application fee during this week!



# What now?! Step-by-Step

1. Research schools and decide where you want to apply.
2. Determine the application deadlines and where to submit your application (CFNC, CommonApp, school's website)
3. Complete the [Residency Determination Service](#) for in-state tuition
4. Submit your application for admission
5. Have your test scores sent from SAT or ACT. **UCA CEEB code is 340114**
6. Invite teacher/counselor recommenders
7. Request your transcript
8. Submit the FAFSA after Oct. 1
9. Track your application!
10. Apply for scholarships

# What now?!

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- DO NOT STRESS!! We are in this together. I am here for you if you have questions and to explore different plans.
- Start doing your research! What are things that are important to you? How will these things position you for success?
- Go visit your schools! Ask questions!
- Contact me anytime
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  - 336-610-0813 ext.107