

Welcome to Senior Year!

August 17, 2017

Big Rocks for Senior Year

- Fifth Year: To Stay, or Not to Stay?
- Fulfilling graduation requirements
- Navigating the college application process
- Standardized Testing: SAT and ACT
- Letters of Recommendation
- Scholarships and Financial Aid

Staying for a Fifth Year

- Who is a good candidate for staying for a fifth year?
- Class rank and graduation
- High school course requirements
- Decision Deadline: October 1st

WYWLA & WYMLA Cap and Gown Orders

- Tuesday, September 19th: Herff Jones representatives will visit WYWLA dining hall at 5:30 pm. They will present graduation products options and take orders. You can view the catalog now at www.highschool.herffjones.com .

Senior Conferences

- Mrs. di Carlo and Mr. Citrini will meet with each senior to review graduation requirements, the college application process and testing information. Parents are invited to attend these conferences.

Graduation Requirements

COURSES	CREDITS
ENGLISH English I, II, III & IV	4 credits
MATHETMATICS CC Math I, II, III & IV	4 credits
SOCIAL STUDIES World History, Civics & American History I & II	4 credits
SCIENCE Earth Science, Biology & Chemistry	3 credits
HEALTHFUL LIVING	1 credit
6 ELECTIVE CREDITS – for application to a 4-year college, 2 of these credits must be foreign language	6 credits
TOTAL	22 credits

College Courses Fulfilling Graduation Requirements

- It takes the entire sequence of ENGL 131, 132, 245 and 331 to fulfill your English III and IV graduation requirements.
- If you do not have a Healthful Living credit, you must take PE 120 (Total Wellness) and an activity course.
- If you did not take and pass high school Spanish I and II, you must take college foreign language classes to fulfill this requirement.

When can I start applying?

- Hang Tight: You cannot send in a college application or transcript until we have run our official fall semester class rank and entered in your college classes. We are working to update transcripts.
- WCPSS determines the exact day that each school can run rank. Early colleges are scheduled to run rank in early September. PLEASE do not request transcripts before this date! Mrs. di Carlo and Mr. Citrini will announce when transcripts are ready to request.

Transcripts

- WYWLA: Reference “Transcript Request Instructions” at www.wywlacounselor.weebly.com
- Remember to wait for the “go ahead” from us before requesting high school transcripts.
- WYMLA: Please refer to instructions of Mr. Citrini’s email newsletter and/or your handout tonight.
- For each school that you apply to, you must send a SAU transcript.

College admissions options: Keeping the end in mind.

- Early Action
- Early Decision (Most binding option!)
- Regular Admission
- Rolling Admission
- How does which deadline you select affect which grades are included in your transcripts?

Fall Standardized Testing and Admissions Deadlines

- If you are considering an early application deadline and still plan to take the SAT or ACT, research which dates colleges will still accept scores. For example-
 - UNC-Wilmington: November 1st deadline
 - Will accept through October ACT and SAT
 - UNC-Chapel Hill: October 15th deadline
 - Will accept through November SAT and ACT
 - NC State University: October 15th deadline
 - Will accept September ACT and SAT and October SAT

How do I apply? **IMPORTANT:** You will apply as a **FIRST YEAR STUDENT** (not as a transfer student)

- Electronically: Hard copies of applications are either not available or are being phased out.
- Undergraduate admissions websites - First point of reference!
- CFNC: NC colleges
- Common Application - www.commonapp.org
- You are responsible for keeping track of each application piece: Requesting transcripts, recommendations, sending SAT/ACT scores, submitting the actual application by the deadline.

How Can I Get Organized?

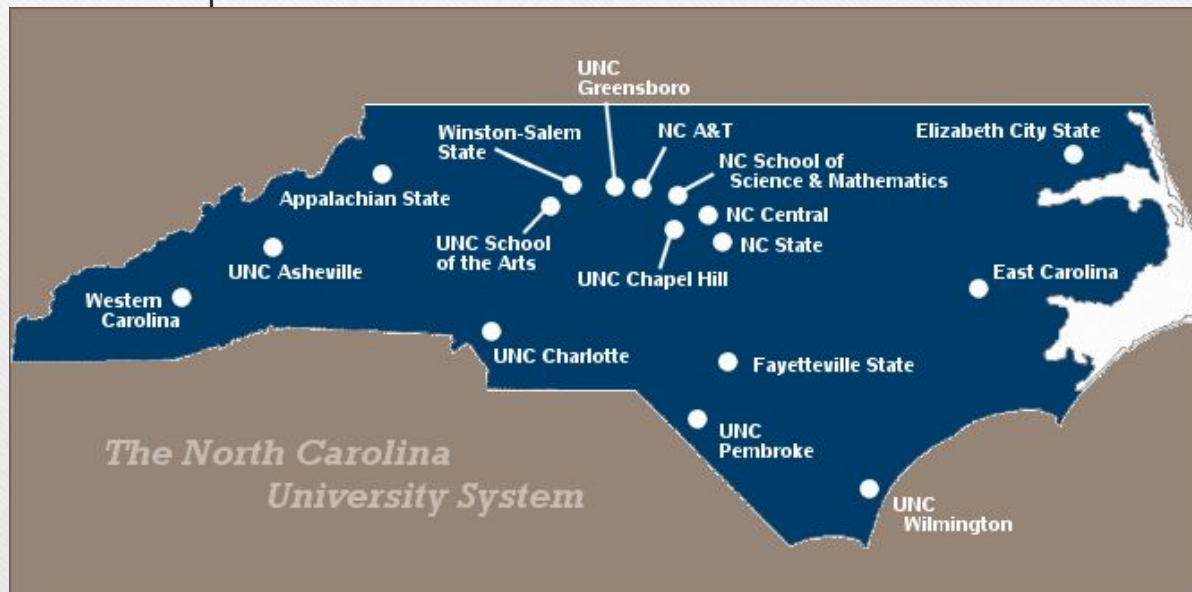
- Create a spreadsheet and include the following tabs for each college/university:
 - Method of Application (i.e. Common App)
 - Early and Regular Decision Deadlines
 - Teacher Recommendations?
 - Essays? If so, what type and how many?
 - Counselor Recommendation?
 - Application Fee

The Do's and Don't Lists of Applying to College

- Students complete applications.
- Pay attention to deadlines! Listed deadlines are for the student application – students will not be penalized if a piece that they are not directly responsible for is late (i.e. recommendation).
- When listing extracurricular activities, go for quality over quantity!
- Grammar and punctuation count, even in the demographics section!

UNC MINIMUM ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- To submit an application to a UNC system school, an applicant must meet the following requirements:
 - Fulfill all HS graduation requirements and complete two consecutive levels of the same foreign language
 - Earn a minimum 2.5 GPA and 880 SAT (Critical Reading + Math) or 17 ACT composite score



What is included on a college application?

- Official transcript
- Standardized test scores
- Application form
 - Personal and Educational Data
 - Honors and Awards
 - Extracurricular, Personal and Volunteer Activities
 - Employment, Personal and Volunteer Activities
 - Essays
 - Disciplinary information
 - Application Fee
 - Signature
 - For certain majors, you may be required to audition, or you could be asked to submit a portfolio of your work.
- Counselor Recommendation Form
- Teacher Recommendation

Recommendations

- Many (but not all) colleges and scholarships require teacher and/or counselor recommendations.
- Who should I ask?
- When should I ask?
- How should I ask?
- Electronic vs. hard copy recommendations
- Counselor Statements

Factors in the admissions process

- Rigor of course work
- Grades (Weighted & unweighted GPA)
- Class rank
- SAT and/or ACT scores
- Extracurricular activities – Quality over Quantity!
- Part-time work experience
- Recommendations
- Essays
- Recommendations & essays particularly come into play when determining honors college placement and scholarship opportunities based on undergraduate application only.

Decisions, Decisions!

- Accepted: You're in!
- Deferred: Student's application is moved to the next deadline. Student may be asked to submit further information, such as 1st semester grades.
- Denied: It's ok, there is a better fit for you!
- Waitlisted: If space becomes available, you will be notified.
- If you are either denied or waitlisted, you may want to consider entering the CFNC Redirection Pool in late spring.

Now that my child is in, how do we pay?

- FAFSA: File after October 1st. Visit www.fafsa.edu.gov for more information.
- CSS/Financial Aid Profile
- Financial Aid Counselor – will work with us from October – April
- Merit and need-based scholarships
- Financial Aid Night - Tuesday, September 19th at 6:30 pm

Scholarships & financial aid

- Where to begin?
 - Financial aid/scholarship pages of the colleges you are interested in
 - Monthly scholarship bulletin created by your counselors
 - Your church, local community organizations, parents' places of work – all are excellent sources of potential scholarship opportunities!
 - Scholarship search engines such as
 - www.cfnc.org
 - www.scholarshipplus.com/wake
 - www.studentaid.ed.gov
 - www.fastweb.com
 - You have a better chance at college specific and local/state scholarships than big national competitions.

Scholarships & financial aid cont.

- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid):
More information to come in the fall! You and your families can complete this application beginning October 1st of your senior year.
- Merit vs. Need Based Scholarships
- Beware of scholarship scams! Never pay money for help with a scholarship search. That's what we are here for! ☺

Wake County College Fair

- Will be held on Sunday, September 17th from 2:00-4:30 at the McKimmon Center at NCSU.
- Representatives from over 100 colleges, universities, community colleges and all military institutions will be available to answer questions from parents and students.
- Attend free sessions on financial aid and college planning.

References & resources

- CollegeBoard: www.collegeboard.org
- College Foundation of NC: www.cfnc.org
- College Week Live: www.collegeweeklive.com
- College View: www.collegeview.com
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):
<http://fafsa.ed.gov>