



# **LEADERSHIP ACADEMIES COLLEGE & CAREER PLANNING: STEPPING INTO SENIOR YEAR!**

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# WHERE ARE WE NOW?

This is a great time to reflect on our progress with:

- Graduation Requirements
- Standardized Testing
- College and Career Exploration



# 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



# WHAT'S NEXT? BIG ROCKS TO PLAN FOR:

- Am I staying for a 5<sup>th</sup> year?
- Creating your senior year timeline
- What are my plans after graduation?
  - 2 or 4 year college, military or career
- Narrowing down college selections:  
Campus Tour Time!



## SUMMER “TO DO’S”

- Clean up your resume: This will help in preparing you to complete applications, and you will need to give your teachers and counselor a copy for recommendations.
- College campus visits
- Narrow down college application choices
- Create your senior year timeline, to include application deadlines, remaining ACT/SAT dates and scholarship search/financial aid applications.
- Organization is key!



## 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?



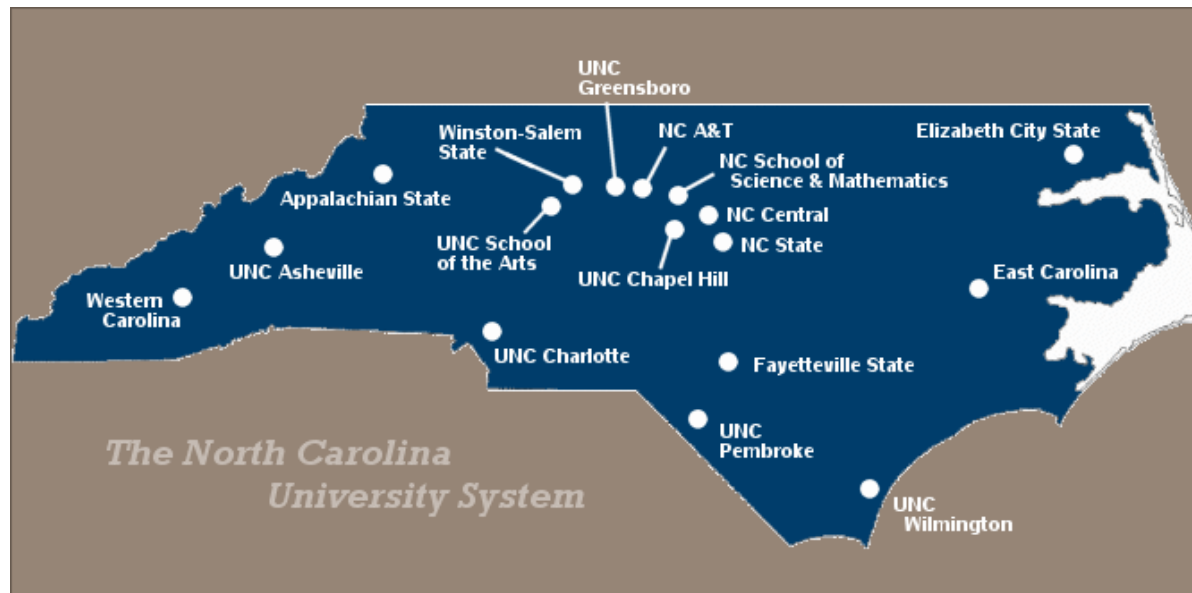
# WHEN CAN I START APPLYING?

- Hang Tight: You cannot send in a college application or transcript until we have run our official fall semester class rank.
- WCPSS determines the exact day that each school can run rank. Typically, the early colleges run rank in early September. We will have an exact date this summer.



# 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 800 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



# HOW DO I APPLY?

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



## 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



# TRANSCRIPT NUTS & BOLTS

- What is on a student's transcript?
  - History of final grades in high school and college courses
  - Weighted and unweighted GPA
  - Class rank
  - EOG & EOC scores
  
- What is **not** on a student's transcript?
  - Extracurricular activities
  - Service hours
  - PSAT, SAT & ACT scores



# TRANSCRIPT NUTS & BOLTS CONT.

- Where do I send my student's transcript?
  - To any school, including community colleges, that students apply to
  - Summer opportunities and scholarships may require a transcript.
  - Final transcripts must be sent to the college that student decides to attend.
- How do I request a transcript?
  - Seniors will need to request a transcript to be sent from both WYWLA and SAU. These transcripts will need to be sent with all college and scholarship applications.
  - WCPSS is developing a new online process for requesting transcripts. More details to come as soon as school begins in August!
  - Students will request SAU transcripts through the SAU registrar's office.



# 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.



# SENIOR YEAR REFERENCE

## COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS IN 13 STEPS

1. Narrow College choices to 5-8 schools.
2. Visit School Counselor and list schools to which you are applying. (Be sure to tell your School Counselor if you are using the Common Application for any colleges).
3. Check College application Deadlines.
4. Complete Teacher Letter of Recommendation request forms and ask two teachers for letters.
5. Go to colleges' websites, click on Admissions/Undergraduate Admissions and complete applications on-line.
6. Request official scores from Collegeboard and/or ACTstudent.
7. When you have finished applications, tell your School Counselor to send your transcript and letters of rec.
8. Go to FAFSA.ed.gov and create a PIN number.
9. Go back after Jan 1 and complete your FAFSA.
10. Wait for notification from colleges.
11. If colleges send emails or letters saying items are missing, call the admissions offices to double check.
12. Receive admission or denial letters from colleges.
13. Send in "Intent to Register" notification to colleges by May 1 along with housing deposit.



# CREATING A COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM TIMELINE (REVIEW)

- **Keeping the end in mind:** Ideal to complete all standardized testing by November/December of senior year – by October for competitive scholarships and early admissions deadlines.
- All NC juniors will take the ACT in March.
- Recommendation for Juniors:
  - PSAT: October
  - SAT: December or January date – January date will allow for reflection on PSAT scores
  - ACT: Take for free in March! ☺
  - May/June: Take either the SAT or ACT
  - Fall of senior year: Take either the SAT or ACT





# HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE SAT

- Register online at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- Cost: \$52.50 – Fee waivers available if your student receives free and reduced lunch.
- Select a testing site that is most convenient to you & be mindful of registration deadlines.
- Carefully review identification requirements & calculator restrictions.
- Select 4 colleges to report scores to – Additional score reports are \$9 each. Colleges that your students apply to MUST receive official scores directly from CollegeBoard.
- SAT Dates (2015-16)
  - October 3
  - November 7
  - December 5
  - January 23
  - March 5
  - May 4
  - June 4



# HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE ACT

- Register online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)
- Cost of exam: ACT PLUS Writing: \$54.50 – Fee waivers available.
- Be mindful of registration deadlines.
- Select 4 colleges to send scores to – Colleges that your students apply to MUST receive official scores directly from ACT.
- Carefully review identification requirements & calculator restrictions.
- ACT dates (2015-16)
  - September 12
  - October 24
  - December 12
  - February 6
  - April 9
  - June 11



# 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](http://www.cfnc.org)

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

[www.scholarshipplus.com/wake](http://www.scholarshipplus.com/wake)

[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)

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 January 1<sup>st</sup> 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! 😊



# REFERENCES & RESOURCES

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

