

FOUR YEAR COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE

9th Grade Year
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Meet with your high school counselor to discuss your future plans.▪ Create your five year high school plan – know which classes you need to assist you with your future.▪ Start exploring careers and colleges – identify your interests, likes and dislikes.▪ Develop good study habits and work hard in all courses, set a high GPA 9th grade year.▪ Participate in extracurricular activities – explore your interests through clubs, volunteering and organizations.▪ Save for college! It's not too early to start putting money aside, every bit helps!▪ Create your CFNC account and record your extracurricular activities.
10th Grade Year
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Meet with your high school counselor and college liaison to discuss your five year plan.▪ Stay involved in extracurricular activities and update your record of involvement.▪ Take the PLAN and/or PSAT assessments – practice for the ACT and SAT college entrance exams.▪ Continue doing well in all courses – make the college and high school GPA count.▪ Attend college fairs – start exploring colleges to learn what they have to offer.▪ Explore summer enrichment activities – participate in college activities, camps, internships, jobs and other programs that will help you explore your interests.
11th Grade Year
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Meet with your high school counselor and college liaison to make sure you're still on track with your plan.▪ Look at college class requirements for your interested major – this will help with planning your course schedule.▪ Continue to do well in your college and high school courses - monitor your GPA.▪ Stay involved in extracurricular activities – continued involvement and leadership roles are good for colleges.▪ Take the PSAT in October in order to qualify for National Merit & Achievement Programs▪ Take the state-wide ACT test in March – this test score can be sent to colleges, so do your best!▪ Begin learning about the college admissions process – what is required to get admitted to a college.▪ Research summer pre-college programs, enrichment programs or summer employment.▪ Tour college campuses over the summer – this helps you learn what you want and don't want in a college.

12th Grade Year

- Register on your own for the SAT and ACT – it is suggested that you take college entrance exams 3 times before starting to apply for colleges.
- Stay on track with your five year college and high school plan – make sure you are taking the needed courses for your future plans.
- Research and make a list of five colleges you would like to attend.
- Organize your college information – keep a file for college information.
- Visit college campuses and network with college admission representatives.
- Submit a high school Brag Sheet – a record of all high school extracurricular activities and future plans.
- Review your high school and college transcript – this is the last year before submitting your transcripts to colleges for admission.
- Research sources of financial aid such as scholarships, grants and loans.
- Stay involved in extra-curricular activities – continue to take on leadership positions.

13th Grade Year

- Meet with your counselor to get help with your plans after high school – college plans and non-college plans.
- Continue giving your top effort in college and high school courses – final transcripts are submitted to colleges at the end of the school year.
- Retake the SAT and/or ACT if needed – retest before the December test dates.
- Update and resubmit a high school Brag Sheet – this will be evaluated for college scholarships.
- Keep track of deadlines – there are a lot of deadlines that you cannot miss.
- Stay organized – there's a lot of information!
- Complete and submit college applications.
- Send high school and college transcripts to all colleges where you are applying – transcripts can be mailed or sent through CFNC.
- Send all SAT and ACT test scores to all colleges where you are applying – the official scores are sent from the SAT and ACT websites.
- Search and apply for institutional and private scholarships.
- Attend financial aid workshops – there is a lot of great information to learn about paying for college.
- Complete and submit the FAFSA as close to Jan 1 as possible – this is required for all colleges to issue financial aid.
- Compare acceptance letters for financial aid and scholarship offers.
- Decide which school you will attend by May and send in your acceptance deposit.
- Submit a request for your final high school and college transcripts to be sent to your school.