

# College applications and application components 101

Senior Connection Night  
CHS Counseling Department



# WELCOME

**Dr. Schroeder**



# Graduation Information

- Commencement: June 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am
- Location: Winthrop University  
(Rock Hill, SC)

# Guidance Counselors

Alphabet	Counselor	E-mail Address
A – G	Mrs. Roth	Cindi.Roth@ucps.k12.nc.us
Gm – O	Mrs. Hawkins	Hillary.Hawkins@ucps.k12.nc.us
P – Z	Mrs. Brown	Tonya.Brown@ucps.k12.nc.us
Support Services Counselor	Mrs. Whitecar	Kym.Whitecar@ucps.k12.nc.us

# College Applications

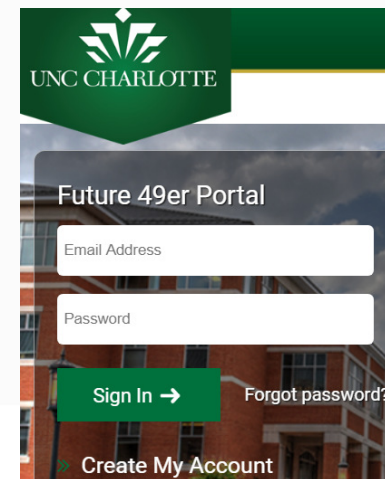
**Ms. Whitecar**

# How to Apply to College:

- There are three ways to apply to colleges:
  - Common Application
  - CFNC
  - College Website

THE COMMON  
APPLICATION

College   
Foundation  
of North Carolina



UNC CHARLOTTE

Future 49er Portal

Email Address

Password

Sign In → [Forgot password?](#)

[Create My Account](#)

# Common App



- What is Common App?
  - an undergraduate college admission application that applicants may use to apply to more than 600 member colleges and universities in the United States
- Advantage?
  - One application with other supplementary components for each school.
  - You don't have to enter demographic and academic info for every application.
  - Transcripts uploaded through Common App by counselor
  - Recommendations completed and submitted online

# Common App FAQ

- Do I still need to mail a transcript?
  - NO! Your counselor will upload it for you.
- Do I need to complete the counselor recommendation packet if I use Common App?
  - YES! The counselor will use the packet to complete the evaluation and recommendation.
- What needs to be completed on the Common App?
  - Common Application Section – Includes your profile with demographic and academic information.
  - “My Colleges” – Questions specifically for each school.
- When should I submit my Common Application?
  - As soon as possible. Please make sure you send any counselor recommendation requests 20 business days prior to the deadline.

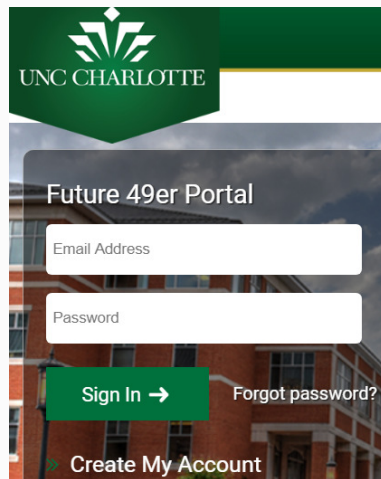


# CFNC

- Why use CFNC?
  - CFNC will also repopulate your personal data for applications.
- There are some “linked schools” that will have links to their preferred application. (You cannot apply to these schools directly through CFNC)
  - Some examples are: Davidson, UNC Chapel Hill, NC State, Duke, Wake Forest, Campbell, High Point, Warren Wilson.

# Using College Portals to Apply

- Some schools have their own portal for you to apply. This portal is accessed through the individual website for each school.



The screenshot shows the UNC Charlotte Future 49er Portal. At the top, there is a green banner with the UNC Charlotte logo and the text "UNC CHARLOTTE". Below the banner, the text "Future 49er Portal" is displayed. There are two input fields: "Email Address" and "Password". A green "Sign In →" button is located below the password field, and a link "Forgot password?" is to its right. At the bottom, there is a link "Create My Account".



The screenshot shows the University of South Carolina Office of Undergraduate Admissions registration page. At the top, there is a red banner with the University of South Carolina logo and the text "UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA". Below the banner, the text "Office of Undergraduate Admissions" is displayed. There is a breadcrumb trail: "SC.edu » About » Offices and Divisions » Office of Undergraduate Admissions". The main heading is "Register". Below the heading, there is a sub-heading: "To register for an account, please enter the information requested b". There are four input fields: "Email Address", "First Name", "Last Name", and "Birthdate". The "Birthdate" field has three dropdown menus. A "Continue" button is located at the bottom.

# Early Decision vs. Early Action

- **Early Action plans are *nonbinding***-students receive an early response to their application but do not have to commit to the college until spring.
- **Early Decision (ED) plans are *binding***-students who are accepted as an ED applicant must attend that college. Under this plan students submit their credentials early and declare that the university is their top choice.

# Who should apply early?

- A student who has researched colleges extensively (visited campuses) and are absolutely sure that College X is their first choice (Early Decision Only)
- A student who is willing to withdraw ALL other college applications upon acceptance from College X (Early Decision Only).
- A student must meet or exceed the admissions profile of students at College X. This deadline is very selective!
- A student who has completed their SAT/ACT exams by October of his/her senior year. Some colleges, will accept November test scores if the scores are rushed to the admissions office.
- Contact the individual college(s) with specific questions.



# Other Application Components

**Ms. Roth**

# Transcript Procedure

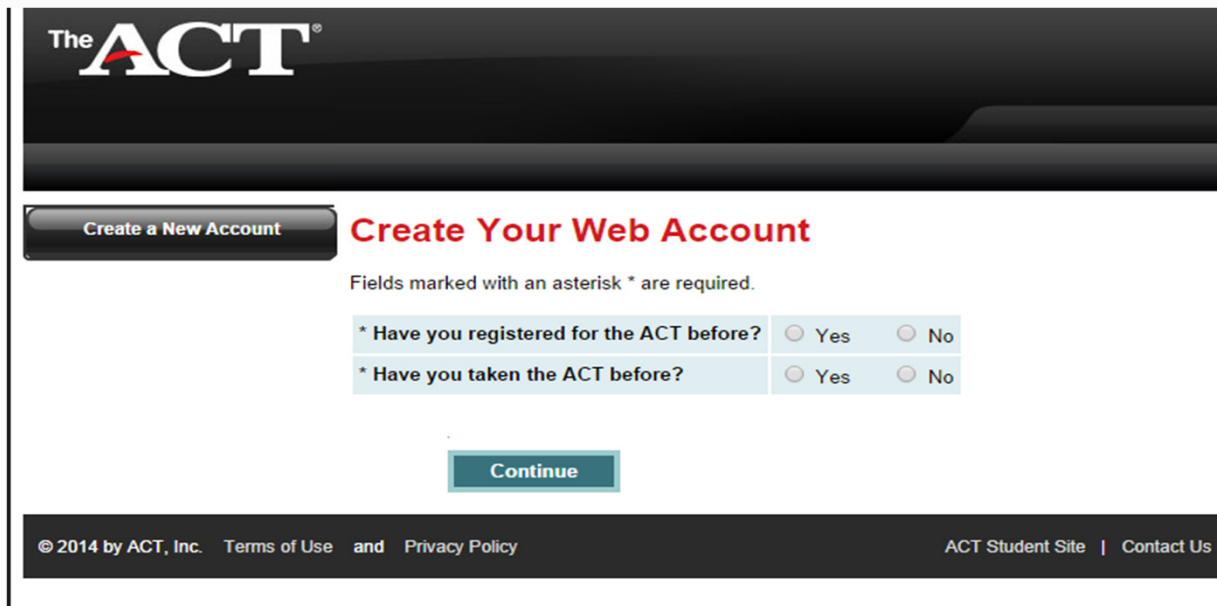
- In-state (public or private) – transcripts can be sent through CFNC. Directions are available on the School Counseling Website.
  - [www.CFNC.org](http://www.CFNC.org) CFNC transcripts can take up to two weeks to process.
- Common App/Send Edu/etc. – counselor will upload the transcript.
- Out-of-State (if not on Common App or other electronic portal) – Please complete the CHS transcript request form (available online and in Guidance). The cost is \$3 per transcript. Students must pick up their transcript(s) and send them.

# Sending ACT and SAT Scores

- ACT and SAT scores are not part of your high school transcript and will not be sent by us.
- There are two ways you can send your ACT/SAT test scores:
  - Bubble in the school code when you take the test to send scores immediately for free.
  - Send your SAT/ACT scores to the universities electronically, after the test date, through [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org) and/or [actstudent.org](http://actstudent.org). There is a fee to send your scores.
- Please see the websites for more details.

# Viewing / Sending ACT Scores online

- To access the ACT test scores that you received from the February CHS administration, please create an ACT account and answer the following questions correctly:



The screenshot shows the ACT website's account creation interface. At the top left is the 'The ACT' logo. Below it is a dark navigation bar with a 'Create a New Account' button. The main heading is 'Create Your Web Account' in red. A note states 'Fields marked with an asterisk \* are required.' There are two required questions, each with 'Yes' and 'No' radio button options:

- \* Have you registered for the ACT before?  Yes  No
- \* Have you taken the ACT before?  Yes  No

Below the questions is a teal 'Continue' button. The footer contains copyright information: '© 2014 by ACT, Inc. Terms of Use and Privacy Policy' and links for 'ACT Student Site' and 'Contact Us'.

- If you have any problems linking your account, please contact **the testing center directly.**



# SAT/ACT/Application Fee Waivers

- If you qualify for free/reduced lunch, you can qualify for an SAT/ACT fee waiver.
- Student who use SAT/ACT fee waivers also qualify for a limited number of application fee waivers.
- If you need further information about waivers, please see your counselor.

# Senior Recommendation Packet

All seniors who are asking counselors to complete a recommendation must complete the Counselor Recommendation Packet online.

## **Senior Packet Includes:**

- Student Resume
- Student Short Answer Questions
- Parent Questionnaire
- Recommendation Request Form

# Recommendation Advice

## 1) Who do you want to ask for recommendations?

- The best letters are those that:
  - provides an interesting or touching story
  - presents growth and accomplishment

## 2) What do you need to give them?

- Provide a resume as it will allow recommenders to provide more concise and consistent content.
- If there are specific instructions for the recommender, include them on a small slip of paper attached to resume and envelopes.
- If letters cannot be sent electronically, make sure you provide addressed and stamped envelopes.

# Recommendation Advice (cont.)

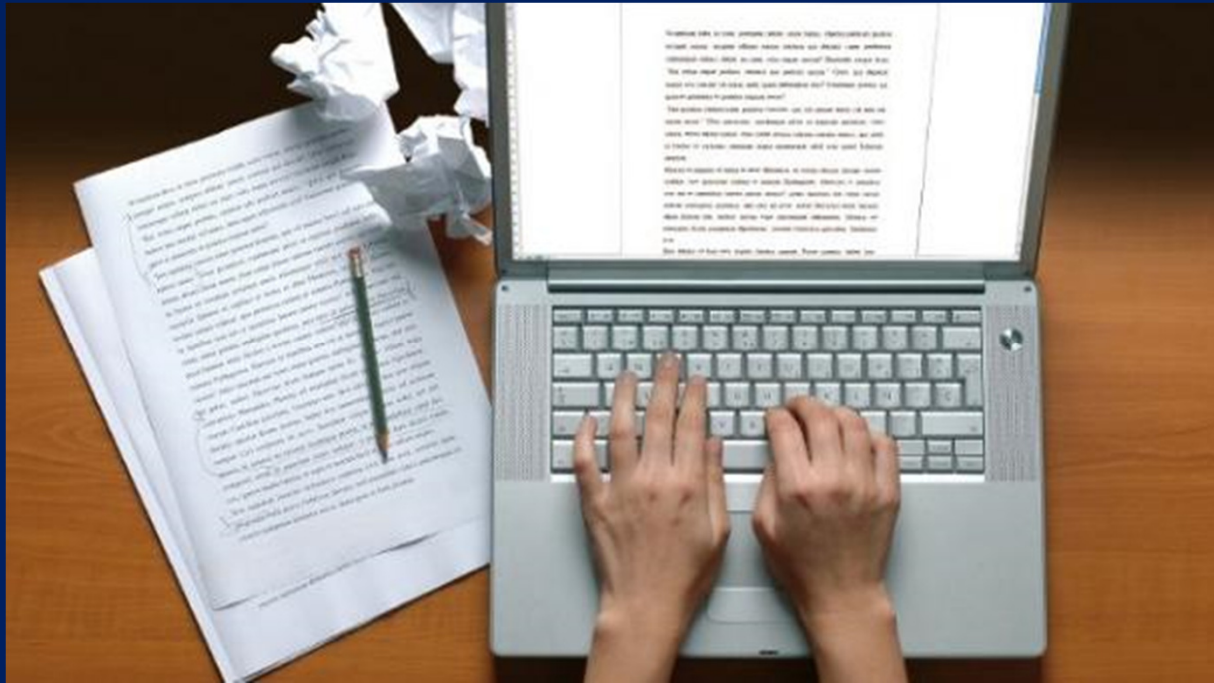
## **3) Always waive your right to access the recommendation letter.**

- It raises a red flag that you may be worried about them finding something out about you

## **6) Provide ample time for the recommender to complete the letter.**

- Teachers, counselors, and staff are extremely busy!
- More time equates to a more thought-out and planned recommendation.
- Less time equates to a general recommendation that has no personality.
- Always send a thank you note.

# COLLEGE ESSAY TIPS



**Ms. Hawkins**

# Top 5 Essay Tips

## 1) BE PREPARED!

- Before you read your first essay prompt, sit down and generate thoughts about significant life experiences or events that you can potentially write about and distinguish yourself from the majority of the pack.

## 2) BE YOURSELF!

- You know yourself better than trying to emulate what you think admissions would like you to be.
- Do not embellish achievements, events, or stories in your essay.
- Do not plagiarize a good essay found on the internet.

# Top 5 Essay Tips (cont.)

## 3) BE CONCISE!

- More is not better; admissions have hundreds to thousands of essays to review and evaluate.
- Be sure to stay under the word limit if the school requests one.
- If there is no limit, stay under 700-800 words per essay.

## 4) BE WILLING TO TAKE A RISK!

- Do not take the safe route in your response; universities enjoy an open-minded and well thought out idea expressed on paper.
- The danger lies not in writing a bad essay but instead writing a common essay.
- Ask what your friends are writing and DO NOT write about that!

# Top 5 Essay Tips (cont.)

## 5) **BE OPEN TO WRITING and REWRITING!**

- Proofread your essays by reading it out loud and have someone you trust read it to offer advice.
- Some essays have more punch when the introduction and conclusion paragraphs are taken out- if there is a repetitive theme and the essay seems redundant, get to the point!
- If you find your essay to be boring, it will be magnified ten-fold by an individual who has read two dozen essays that day!

**Above all else...Show, Don't Tell!**




# Deadlines!

- All applications components must be submitted for your application to be complete. All parts must be in by deadline!
  - Application
  - Application Fee
  - Transcript
  - Test Scores
  - Essays



It is the student's responsibility to make sure all parts have been received.



# **SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**Ms. Brown**

# Popular School-Specific Scholarships

- **The Moorhead-Cain Scholarship**
- Full tuition, room and board to UNC Chapel Hill
- CHS endorses 3 students however students not endorsed by CHS may apply on their own (self-nominate).
- Please email Ms. Brown your resume and personal statement by **Monday, Sept. 18th at 3:00 pm**. More details are available in the School Counseling office.



- **The Belk Scholarship**
- Full tuition to Davidson College and study stipends.
- For more information, please visit the CHS website and click on the scholarship link.



# Popular School-Specific Scholarships (cont.)

- **The Levine Scholarship**

- Full tuition, room and board to UNCC.

- Please email Mrs. Brown by **Wednesday, Oct. 4th at 3:00 pm** if you would like to be nominated for this scholarship. Please put in the subject line LEVINE SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATION.

- To be considered for the Levine Scholarship or any other UNCC Scholarship, you must go through this process.



- **The Park Scholarship**

- Applicants must be applying during NC State's fall admissions Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>.

- Cuthbertson High School will be able to endorse 2 students. We will select the 2 students who will be most competitive on a national level.

- Please email Mrs. Brown your resume and personal statement by **Monday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm**



# General Scholarship Info.

- School-Specific vs. Non-School Specific Scholarships
- National vs. Local Scholarships
  - Local scholarship information received will be posted on the CHS website
  - National scholarship information is available via several search engines; some of which are listed at the bottom of our scholarship page.
- Scholarship opportunities are located on the Counseling Department's page of the CHS website.

# CHS Private College Visits

- We have many college admissions reps coming to our campus!
- Juniors and Seniors only
- Sign up online from the [CHS School Counseling Website](#)
- Must sign up for each school
- 30 minute presentations
- Responsible for work you miss while at the presentation
- Check back weekly for newly added colleges

# Upcoming Senior Connection



**October 5th @ 6:00**

Financial Aid Information

Guest speaker from Davidson College Financial  
Aid Office

Please join us to learn about different types of  
financial aid available and be prepared to  
submit your FAFSA application.