

Parent Checklist for Senior Year

- ☐ Log in or create your free **CFNC.org** account and encourage your student to do the same.
- ☐ Have your student complete free career assessments on **CFNC.org** (located under “Plan Your Future”) to find the career they are interested in pursuing.
- ☐ Use the College Search tool on **CFNC.org** to help your student find colleges that match their interest, goals, and budget.
- ☐ Write down the application and financial aid deadlines. There is a master list on **CFNC.org** (Select “Apply to College”) that contains a list of important deadlines from most of the NC colleges.
- ☐ Attend a local college fair with your student.
- ☐ Visit campuses (in person or through virtual tours) at colleges your student is seriously considering.
- ☐ Have your student meet with the school counselor to make sure they are on track to graduate.
- ☐ Make sure your student has created a professional email address (i.e. JSmith2026@gmail, @hotmail, @icloud) before completing college applications.
- ☐ Help your student complete the NC Residency Determination Service (RDS) to see if they qualify for in-state tuition and/or state grant funds. For more information, visit **NCResidency.org**.
- ☐ Encourage your student to complete college applications and to take advantage of College Application Week (CAW) in October, when many NC institutions waive application fees. Visit **CFNC.org /C2C** for more information.
- ☐ Encourage your student to consistently check their email and college application portals to ensure they aren’t missing any requirements for their applications.
- ☐ Ensure that your student requests their official high school transcript be sent to each college to which they apply. Transcripts can be requested on **CFNC.org**.
- ☐ Visit **CFNC.org/Scholarships** to help your student find and apply for scholarships.
- ☐ Gather important financial information, such as tax returns and W-2s, to help you complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- ☐ Have your student check the colleges they are interested in on **CollegeScorecard.ed.gov** to view things like graduation rates, student debt payoffs, and average earnings of graduates.
- ☐ Fill out the FAFSA together at **StudentAid.gov/FAFSA** (application opens Oct. 1). The FAFSA allows eligible students to access federal, state, and college-based financial aid, like the Next NC Scholarship and Need-Based Scholarship for Private College Students.
- ☐ Ensure that your student includes every college or university on their list to receive the FAFSA results. They can add up to 20 colleges on the FAFSA.
- ☐ Review financial aid offer letters together, compare the costs and aid from each college, and discuss the possible family contributions to costs not covered by financial aid. Most offer letters arrive around late February through March.
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- ☐ Help your student confirm their enrollment with their chosen college by the college’s deadlines. Make sure all required forms are completed.
- ☐ Be sure to submit any enrollment, housing, and meal plan deposits on time.
- ☐ Celebrate your student’s decision on or before College Decision Day on May 1!