

Heritage Seniors! Steps to Senior Success

August 15, 2024

Welcome Class of 2025!

Whether you are returning or new to us this year, I want to welcome you to your best year yet. Senior year can be a blur as you keep one foot in the present and begin to stake the other very firmly into the future. You have a great deal of information to take-in. Throughout the year, be sure to

- **Take care of one another-** there is potential for a lot of senselessness between here and June. Many seniors make mistakes that they never could have imagined. Steer yourself and your classmates steadily. Talk with parents. Get help from an adult. Don't carry burdens in isolation or try to solve problems too big for you to handle.
- **Tend to your goals-** all of you have mandatory courses towards graduation. Take care of these every day. Procrastination and senioritis have extended too many of your classmates' high school careers. Please support each other as fellow Huskies so you will all graduate together in June.
- **Keep your ears and eyes open-** opportunities and timelines can come pretty quickly. Be ready for them. Have your resume and a draft scholarship essay on-hand.
- **Leave your legacy-** what impact will you leave on Heritage High School? How will we be better, how will the community be kinder, because you were here?

Best of luck for this year. You can do this- and we are here to help!

Jo Ellen Newhouse, Principal

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Senior Support Contact List

Name	Assignment	Phone 570-5600	E-Mail
Toria Greene	Students in grades 10-12 with last names A-Ge	Ext. 20658	tgreene@wcpss.net
Brandy Lyons	Students in grades 10-12 with last names Gf-Ng	Ext. 20696	blyons@wcpss.net
Colleen Santos	Students in grades 10-12 with last names Nh-Z	Ext. 20647	cmsantos@wcpss.net
Theresa Tate, EdD	Husky Academy (Freshman Academy)	Ext. 20697	ttate@wcpss.net
Lauren Weaver	Early Graduates, Dean of Students	Ext. 20687	lweaver2@wcpss.net
Yvonne Corcho	Student Assistance Program Counselor (SAP)	Ext. 20649	ycorcho@wcpss.net
Sharon Yosef	Intervention Coordinator	Ext. 20690	syosef@wcpss.net
Dawn Beaster	Career Development Coordinator	Ext. 20654	dbeaster@wcpss.net
Susan Waldrum	Financial Aid Access Counselor	Ext. 20701	swaldrum@wcpss.net
Blaire Savage	Student Services Technician	Ext. 20701	bbsavage@wcpss.net
Pat Jenks	Registrar/Records	Ext. 20646	pjenks@wcpss.net
Kim O'Hara	Data Manager	Ext. 20699	kohara@wcpss.net

How to Stay Informed

Both Parents and Students are invited to sign up for Remind to receive text messages about important info and opportunities:

HOW STUDENTS JOIN REMIND SENIORS - CLASS OF 2025

Text the code corresponding to your current grade level & last name to 81010

Student's LAST NAME	Current 12th Graders Class of 2025
A-Ek	@hhs25a-ek
El-K	@hhs25el-k
L-Q	@hhs25l-q
R-Z	@hhs25r-z

Additional Info & Announcements:

- Check out the [Senior Page](#) often. We'll share copies of handouts, presentations and upcoming events.
- Follow us on Instagram @heritagehsstudentservices and on "X" @huskycounselors. You can also follow Heritage HS at @HHS_Huskies.
- Check the calendar of events on the [Student Services homepage](#)
- Students: Listen for important announcements, check your email, take advantage of Pack Day opportunities.
- Parents: Make sure you are signed up to receive Mrs. Newhouse's [Principal Weekly Messages](#) through [SchoolMessenger](#). We share important information through these messages as well. We ask that you please check your student's attendance and grades through Parent PowerSchool. (If you need help with your account, please contact Ms. O'Hara at kohara@wcpss.net.)

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Steps to Graduation

Graduation Requirements: Students who entered 9th in 2021-2022 must follow course, credit and testing requirements outlined by the Future Ready Core:

English: 4 Credits I, II, III, IV
Mathematics: 4 Credits NC Math 1, NC Math 2, NC Math 3, and a 4th Math Course to be aligned with the students' post high school plans. <i>In the rare instance a principal exempts a student from the FRC math sequence, the student would be required to pass NC Math 1 and NC Math 2 and two other application-based math courses.</i>
Science: 3 Credits A Physical Science course, Biology, Earth/ Environmental Science
Social Studies: 4 Credits Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy; Economics and Personal Finance; American History, World History
Health/Physical Education: 1 Credit Successful Completion of CPR requirement outlined in NCGS 115C-81
Electives: 6 Credits required 2 Elective credits of any combination from either: Career and Technical Education (CTE), Arts Education, or World Languages 4 Elective credits strongly recommended (four course concentration) from one of the following: Career and Technical Education (CTE), JROTC, Arts Education (e.g. dance, music, theater arts, visual arts), or any other subject area or cross-disciplinary courses (e.g., mathematics, science, social studies, English, and dual enrollment courses)
Total Required Number of Credits: 26 to graduate
Additional Requirement for Graduation: Meet exit standards for the following subjects: English II, Algebra I/Math I, and Biology
World Language: Not required for graduation. For minimum admission requirements for UNC system schools, students need “two additional academic courses from English, mathematics, science, social studies, world languages, or computer science. (Note: these courses should be selected in alignment with a student’s academic and career objectives. Completion of two sequential world language courses is recommended.)

***N.C.G.S. 115C-81(b) allows exceptions for students who have an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) that identifies them as Learning Disabled in math and states that the disability will prevent them from mastering Algebra I and above.

The Senior Conference

During the month of September, all counselors will conduct individual meetings with senior students. The purpose of the senior conference is to verify appropriate senior courses that will lead to a high school diploma, post high school planning support and answer specific questions. This is a brief “let’s get started” meeting and seniors are expected to schedule follow up meetings with their counselors as needed. What should a senior do prior to the Senior Meeting?

- Complete [Heritage HS Senior Info Sheet](#) - mandatory for all Seniors
- Update your resume to give to your counselor (See resources on [Career Development Services](#) page)
- Prepare to talk specifics about what you’ve done this summer to prepare yourself for the senior year and the transition to post high school, as well as their plans for after high school graduation
- Write out questions you need to ask your counselor, including those about college applications or post-graduation planning. Bring them with you to the meeting.

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Class Ranking

There will be periodic compilations of class rankings in high school for the purpose of making an individual student's class rank available to the student, his/her parents, and to other institutions, such as colleges/universities for the purpose of college/university admission and/or scholarships. Beginning in 2018-19, WCPSS designated Senior Honors in lieu of naming a valedictorian or salutatorian. To determine class rank, each high school uses final course grades, dividing the total number of quality points earned by the total number of units of credit attempted. The results are rounded to the fourth decimal place. Advanced Placement (AP) courses carry one extra quality point, and honors (HN) courses carry one-half (.5) extra quality points. This program guide designates courses with weighted credit with an "AP" or "HN." To obtain information about which courses carry weighted credit, as well as general information about class rank, students should consult with their counselor. [See detailed info on GPA calculation here.](#)

Senior ranking will be compiled four times during 2024-2025:

- ❖ Late September: Initial senior class ranking date. Students can begin to request official transcripts to be sent to colleges after this date. Do not request transcripts prior to this date/announcement.
- ❖ Mid February: Mid-year senior class ranking date. Students may request mid-year transcripts to be sent to colleges after this date.
- ❖ April: Senior honors ranking date. Students graduating with certain honors will be verified after this date.
- ❖ June 2024: Final senior class ranking and GPA will be available LATE June. Final transcripts will be sent to colleges after this final ranking process. It is a student's responsibility to send their final transcript to their selected college using instructions found [here](#).

Senior Honors

*Any senior who believes their FINAL Spring semester grades will improve their overall GPA should contact their counselor to ask for their projected GPA to be calculated based on their **2ND SEMESTER** final grade.*

- ❖ Students with a 3.75 - 3.99 weighted grade point average shall receive the distinction of **cum laude**
- ❖ Students with a 4.0 - 4.249 weighted grade point average shall receive the distinction of **magna cum laude**
- ❖ Students with a 4.25 or higher weighted grade point average shall receive the distinction of **summa cum laude**

NC Academic Scholars – Students who complete the requirements for this academically challenging high school program are named North Carolina Academic Scholars and receive special recognition, including as a seal attached to their diplomas. Students must:

- Complete all the requirements of the NC Academic Scholars Program (see table).
- Have an overall four-year un-weighted grade point average of 3.500.
- Complete all requirements for a North Carolina high school diploma.

Credits	
4	English I, II, III, IV
4	Mathematics (should include Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and a higher level math course with Algebra II as prerequisite OR Integrated Mathematics I, II, III, and a higher level mathematics course with Integrated Mathematics III as prerequisite)
3	Science (Physics or Chemistry course, Biology, and an Earth/Environmental Science course)
4	Social Studies (World History, Civics/Economics, American History or AP US History, Economics & Personal Finance)

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1	Health and Physical Education
6	Two (2) elective credits in a second language.. Four (4) elective credits constituting a concentration recommended from one of the following: Career and Technical Education (CTE), JROTC, Arts Education, World Languages, any other subject area
3	Higher level courses taken during junior and/or senior years which carry 4.5 or 5 quality points such as: AP, IB, Dual or college equivalent course, Advanced CTE/CTE credentialing courses, Other honors or above designated courses
OR	
2	Higher level courses taken during junior and/or senior years which carry 4.5 or 5 quality points such as: AP, IB, Dual or college equivalent course, Advanced CTE/CTE credentialing courses, Other honors or above designated courses

- ❖ The President's Award for Educational Excellence - The President's Education Awards Program (PEAP)—sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, in partnership with NAESP and the National Association of Secondary School Principals—was developed to help principals recognize and honor students who have achieved high academic goals through hard work and dedication to learning. The President's Award for Educational Excellence award recognizes academic success in the classroom. To be eligible for the award, students must earn a grade point average of 3.5 (weighted) and obtain achievement in the 85th percentile on a Standardized Achievement Test. Seniors may use college admissions examinations such as the SAT or ACT. This correlates to a score of 640 on the SAT Math or a score of 630 on the SAT Verbal, or a composite of 27 on the ACT.
- ❖ The President's Award for Educational Achievement - The purpose of this award is to recognize students that show outstanding educational growth, improvement, commitment to or intellectual development in their academic subjects-but do not meet the criteria for the President's Award for Educational Excellence. This award should not be compared to the President's Award for Educational Excellence or be seen as a second tier award; it recognizes a very different type of academic achievement. It is meant to encourage and reward students who work hard and give their best effort in school, often in the face of special obstacles to learning. This award is given at the principal's discretion based on the criteria developed at the school.

Graduation Ceremony Information

There will be a Senior Graduation Meeting in November 2024 (mid-year graduates) and February 2025 (June graduates) for seniors and parents to share specific ceremony details and other senior activities leading up to the end of the school year. Information will also be posted on the senior page of the school website. Please keep your emails current and stay connected to text messaging updates for graduation related information.

Honoring the Occasion: While there are many occasions and events during the school year, a high school graduation is the most formal and significant activity for students, staff, family and friends. Participation in this event requires planning and thoughtfulness, especially on the part of the graduate. There is decorum and expectations, even as you celebrate the day. Students can expect to hear reminders at mandatory rehearsal regarding behaviors that may result in disciplinary action during a ceremony and even up to removal from ceremony without receiving a diploma.

Attire: A formal occasion means formal attire for both young men and women. The following is required:

- All graduates must have a cap, gown and tassel in order to participate in the graduation ceremony (as well as other designated senior celebration events). Decorations may not be added to the gown or cap. Only cords representing approved Heritage High academic organizations or academic honor may be worn with caps and gowns. *****No tennis shoes, boots, sandals, flip flops, purses, handbags or cameras**
- Women: Lightweight dress under robe not to exceed length of gown or dark dress pants, dark shoes, minimal jewelry
- Men: White dress shirt with collar and dark solid tie, dark dress slacks, dark dress shoes and socks
- *Students who are financially unable to obtain any of the above can seek assistance from their counselor*

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Senior Year Specifics

Exam Exemptions

Seniors enrolled in courses not requiring a state mandated exam may be exempt from final exams if the Senior has an overall B average in the course and no more than 10 cumulative absences (TOTAL excused and unexcused).

College Days

In general, students who are away from school for educational reasons are granted excused absences. Seniors whose educational absence is college-related, can have the absences deemed a “college day” if proper attendance procedures are followed, and paperwork is submitted prior to the date of absence. When planning college visits, colleges and universities offer many different dates and times. Make efforts to avoid missing school days, as much as possible.

[Request for Excused Absence for Educational Reason form](#) ([en Espanol](#))

College Representative, Military Reps, and Employer Visits at Heritage High

Seniors are encouraged to dialogue with admissions representatives who may offer virtual or face to face meetings with students. Most visits will occur during 3rd period and take place in the cafeteria at the Counselor Corner. Check the calendar on the [Student Services homepage](#) frequently & listen for important announcements during Advisory meetings.

Selective Service Registration

All young men in the U.S. (with very few exceptions*) are required to register with Selective Service within 30 days of turning 18. Registration is Federal law. It is also required to stay eligible for many Federal and state benefits, including student financial aid, job training, and jobs in the Executive Branch of the Federal government, such as jobs with the U.S. Postal Service. Registering with Selective Service is simple and possible online at: <http://www.sss.gov>. With access to the Internet, any young man can register by clicking on the "Register On-line Now" icon at the Selective Service website (www.sss.gov). He then enters in some basic information and within 30 seconds, he'll receive a Selective Service number. Within about two weeks, he will receive an acknowledgment card in the mail.

**Registration forms are also available at any U.S. Post Office.

- **Verification** - Since SSS registration is required for many Federal and state benefits, such as student financial aid, job training, and Federal and state jobs, officials administering monies for these programs can now verify a young man's registration by simply clicking on the "Check a Registration" icon at the Agency's home page (www.sss.gov).
- **The Law** - Registering with Selective Service is the law. Failure to register is a felony, punishable by a fine of up to \$250,000 and/or five years in jail. *All male U.S. citizens and male aliens, residing in the U.S. between the ages of 18 and 26 are required to register. A man is exempt while serving on Active Duty in the Armed Forces or if he is a cadet at a service academy. Lawfully admitted nonimmigrant aliens holding valid student visas or member of diplomatic or trade mission and their families are not required to register.
- For more information, contact the Selective Service System. www.sss.gov or 703-605-4100

Steps to Senior Testing

The **SAT Reasoning Test** (Scholastic Aptitude Test) measures evidence-based reading and writing, mathematics and writing ability and predicts college performance. Colleges select the best evidenced-based reading and writing, math and writing score for admission criteria. The **SAT Subject test** measures performance in specific subjects. Some highly competitive colleges require SAT Subject tests for placement, and even admission into certain programs. **To register for a test go to www.collegeboard.org.**

The **ACT** (American College Test) measures educational achievement in English, math, reading, science, and writing. Colleges select the best scores from each area for admissions criteria. The ACT also predicts performance of the freshman year in college. **To register for a test go to www.actstudent.org.**

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The **Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)** is an admissions test administered by computer that focuses on listening, structure, reading, and writing. It is for students whose native language is not English. This includes English as Second Language (ESL) students and non-English speaking students who have been living in the United States for less than five years. **To register for a test go to www.toefl.org.**

Check with colleges to see which test they prefer. **Scores can be automatically sent to four colleges that you indicate when registering for the test. If you decide to send scores to a college after the test date, you must notify the testing service to make the request, and pay their respective fee.** All scores to be sent directly from the College Board (SAT) or ACT. HHS Student Services office is unable to send test scores. Testing accommodations for disabilities may be available and are requested through the testing center website.

Fee Waivers

- SAT and ACT fee waivers are available for students with financial need. Students who qualify for free/reduced lunch qualify for these waivers. See your counselor or the [College Board website for details and guidelines](#). Students must complete form in Student Services to receive waiver code.
- Students using fee waivers must meet regular registration deadlines. Fee waivers cannot be used for late test registration.
- Students using a fee waiver for the SAT or ACT may also qualify for College Application Fee Waivers and NAA Eligibility Fee Waivers. See your counselor for details and guidelines.

The Heritage High School **test code** or **CEEB code** is **344118**.

SAT 2024-2025		ACT 2024-2025	
Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline (Late Fees After)	Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline (Late Fees After)
August 24, 2024	August 9	September 14, 2024	August 9
October 5, 2024	September 20	October 26, 2024	September 20
November 2, 2024	October 18	December 14, 2024	November 8
December 7, 2024	November 22	February 8, 2025	January 3
March 8, 2025	February 1	April 5, 2025	February 28
May 3, 2025	April 18	June 14, 2025	May 9
June 7, 2025	May 22	July 12, 2025	June 6

- **SAT Testing Resource** - Visit Khan Academy for Test Taking Strategies and study prep.
<https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat/new-sat-tips-planning>
- **ACT Testing Resource** – <https://academy.act.org/>
 - o Also: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation.html>
 - o Also: <https://blog.prepscholar.com/how-to-prepare-for-the-act>
- **CFNC - College Foundation of NC** (click PLAN for College, then College Test Prep link - or <https://www.cfnc.org/plan-your-future/planning-resources/test-preparation/>)
- **March 2 Success** - <https://www.march2success.com/>

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Advanced Placement (AP)

(AP) Exams are administered annually in May and students have potential to earn college credit, depending on the institution's AP policy. AP exam scores are not used for college admissions, but rather tests the student's knowledge of the specific course subject matter for which the student is attempting to earn credit. Students enrolled in AP courses at Heritage HS are expected to take the corresponding AP test. North Carolina pays the AP test fee for students; students who do not opt out of AP exam with Student Services before the deadline will incur a \$40 unused test fee. AP Test Dates are listed below. *Note: Students take the exam on the below date regardless of whether they take the course in the Fall or Spring.*

The 2025 AP Exams will be administered over two weeks in May: May 5–9 and May 12–16. AP coordinators are responsible for notifying students when and where to report for the exams. Early testing or testing at times other than those published by College Board is not permitted under any circumstances.

Date	8AM Subject	12PM Subject
Monday May 5, 2025	Biology Latin	European History Microeconomics
Tuesday May 6, 2025	Chemistry Human Geography	United States Government and Politics
Wednesday May 7, 2025	English Literature & Composition	Comparative Government & Politics Computer Science A
Thursday May 8, 2025	African American Studies Statistics	Japanese Language and Culture World History: Modern
Friday May 9, 2025	Italian Language and Culture United States History	Chinese Language and Culture Macroeconomics
Art and Design: Friday, May 9, 2025 (8 p.m. ET), is the deadline for AP Art and Design students to submit their three portfolio components as final in the AP Digital Portfolio.		
Monday May 12, 2025	Calculus AB Calculus BC	Music Theory Seminar
Tuesday May 13, 2025	French Language and Culture Precalculus	Environmental Science Physics 2: Algebra-Based
Wednesday May 14, 2025	English Language and Composition German Language and Culture	Physics C: Mechanics
Thursday May 15, 2025	Art History Spanish Language and Culture	Computer Science Principles Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
Friday May 16, 2025	Physics 1: Algebra-Based Spanish Literature and Culture	Psychology

- For more information regarding AP exams, go to apcentral.collegeboard.org.
- **AP Test Preparation/Taking Tips** can be found in the student's AP Central account
- Please view the Heritage HS AP Testing site [here](#) and monitor emails for important information

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The 3 E's: Enrolled, Enlisted, Employed

Begin with the end in mind. It is our sincerest hope that each student who walks across the stage at graduation is excited about their next steps. We fully support each student's goal of becoming Enrolled, Enlisted or Employed. The following pages provide resources and information for each of these three post-graduation pathways.

ENROLLED: COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Senior Year College Planning Calendar

August/September

- Attend Senior Orientation in August
- Prepare for and meet individually with your counselor for your Senior Conference. Please send your counselor your completed [Senior Info Sheet](#) and resume prior to your meeting. It is also helpful to provide these two documents to any teachers you are asking to write you a recommendation letter.
- Register for Fall [SAT/ACT](#) exams, if applicable.
- Continue reviewing information about scholarships, including monthly Scholarship Bulletins [here](#)
- Get prepared to complete the FAFSA as early as October by creating an FSA ID [here](#)
- Be aware of deadlines for competitive scholarships (NCSU Park, UNC Morehead-Cain, Cheatham-White, etc.)
- Call college admissions offices, visit their websites or go to www.cfnc.org for Open House dates and schedule tours. Seniors are allowed two college visitation days and should return to school the next day with a letter on letterhead from the college admission office verifying the visit. ([required form](#) due prior to absence.)
- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center (applies to athletes only) and request a transcript to be sent there.
- Complete the North Carolina Residency Determination Service (RDS) - To be eligible for in-state tuition, state grants, and certain financial aid, you must show that you are a resident of North Carolina. It is best to sign in through your CFNC account [here](#). If you don't remember your login information, click [here](#) to recover your username or password. If you're unsure if you have an account, please try to recover your account prior to creating a new one. Check both your personal and school email addresses.
- Compile a list of colleges you will apply to and make a note of their application deadlines. Note: Common App and other application portals typically open around August 1 - this means you will then have access to essays prompts, etc.

Early Fall (September/October)

- Attend the Senior Roundup - choose breakout sessions relevant to your needs and interests
- Gather application materials and begin applications online.
- Ask teachers and counselors for letters of recommendations as needed (must be requested minimum of 2 weeks prior to deadline - request as soon as possible)
- Look for Secondary Report Forms/ Counselor Statement forms in the application and give forms to your counselor. If electronic, enter the correct staff email addresses. (allow 2-3 weeks)
- To summarize: Know **where** you will apply (UNC system, NC Private, other), **how** you will apply (Common App, CFNC, Coalition, Institution website, etc.), and **when** (Deadlines)

Mid Fall (October/ November/December)

- Send college applications (keep a copy for your records)
- [Countdown to College](#) is the entire month of October - all help sessions offered at HHS and outside of HHS will be posted on the calendar on the [Student Services homepage](#). College Application Week will be in mid-October and is a time when many NC colleges and universities waive their application fees. (Look for other college application events during the entire month of October). Counselors will be available the entire week for help!
- Start Financial Aid Process (Complete the FAFSA & CSS Profile) - **The FAFSA will open December 1, 2024**
- Schedule appointment with HHS Financial Aid Counselor (570-5600 ext 20712)

Winter (January/February) – College Decisions start arriving!

- Check for midyear college application deadlines
- If applicable, request your midyear transcript to be sent via Common App, CFNC, or WCPSS Scriborder

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Spring

- If you made any changes to your Spring semester after submitting your college applications, you must notify those colleges.
- Keep working hard- Senior year grades and attendance count!
- Look for exam info and take [AP Exams](#), if applicable
- Compare Financial Aid Award letters received from all colleges
- Make college decisions (Typically notify colleges by May 1 for regular decision - but check deadlines!)
- Complete NCAA requirements (applies to future college athletes only)
- Complete the mandatory senior survey and indicate where your final transcript will need to go. A paper copy will be mailed before the end of June.
- You are responsible for requesting a final transcript be sent to NC colleges through your CFNC account or Scribder. Specific instructions will be shared through Advisory meetings in May
- Pay/Clear any outstanding fees/fines in the media center and main office to be cleared for graduation (can be viewed through PowerSchool).
- Make sure to pay your Senior Fee
- All young men aged 18 or older must register for Selective Service (see page 7 for more details)

Not Sure Where You Want to Go? Need some extra info on the College Application Process? Check out the [Continuing Education](#) section of our website

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS OPTIONS (When to Apply)

EARLY ACTION: is an admissions procedure to notify students of early admissions to the college. Students do not need to accept the college's offer of admissions but may file other applications (used by UNC, NCSU, Georgetown, Yale, etc.). *Points to remember* are that early action candidates can be rejected, financial awards are made in April, and candidates must have superior records because the process is highly selective.

EARLY DECISION: is a plan under which you may submit your credentials early to one college, usually by mid-October of your senior year. You are notified of your status in December. As part of an early decision plan, **you are required to sign a statement agreeing to accept the college's offer of admission**. You must also withdraw your application from other colleges if accepted under Early Decision. (Used by Duke, Elon, Wake Forest, etc.) *Points to remember* are the same as listed above in Early Action.

REGULAR ADMISSION: candidates submit an application during November to February, depending on the individual applicant and specific college deadline(s). Check the deadline for each individual school.

ROLLING ADMISSION: candidates submit an application at their convenience up to a certain date. They typically receive an offer of acceptance or rejection within four to six weeks. (Used often by Community Colleges and some four-year institutions)

ONSITE ADMISSION: is when an admissions officer will come to Heritage High School and meet with students who have an interest in their university. Students will provide the admissions officer with a copy of their transcript, completed application, and SAT/ACT scores (if available) and will know "onsite" of their admissions status. Schools that have participated in the past at Heritage have been Barton College, Campbell University, William Peace, UNC- Pembroke, Wake Technical Community College, and Western Carolina. Listen/Watch for announcements of these opportunities!

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Deciding When You Will Apply

There may be several factors which will affect when you apply to college. You are often encouraged to apply in the fall of senior year, meeting early action deadlines of your institutions of interest. Advantage of applying sooner rather than later?

- You'll know an admissions decision earlier in the year.
- You can spend more time applying for scholarships. Some scholarships require applicants to apply to college by a certain date (usually the early action deadline).
- Your GPA will not change significantly from fall semester to spring semester. Many students who are not satisfied with their current GPA believe that waiting until spring will be better. Not so in most cases. With one semester, there is no significant change in the GPA unless there is a significant difference in grades (D to A, etc.). You risk missing regular admissions deadlines when you wait, as transcripts will not have fall semester final grades until the end of January. You also stand a greater risk of being waitlisted to the institution, as they might have already filled their spaces.
- You can better prepare for financial aid needs once you know where you're going.
- You can focus on the rest of your senior year and enjoy it!

How Will You Apply?

All students are encouraged to apply online. Applications can be processed quicker and most times you can check the status of your online application through accounts you set up. You should research the following options to determine how you'll apply. How you apply does not affect an admissions decision; it only reflects your preference for applying.

- **CFNC** – You can apply to most NC colleges and universities through CFNC. This allows you to save time by completing only one application. Note: some institutions will require a supplemental form to be completed in addition to CFNC. Go to www.cfnc.org and click “Apply to College” to get started.
- **Common Application and Major Clarity** – The Common Application is a nationwide college application tool that many institutions accept as an application. Go to www.commonapp.org to find out which institutions accept this document. There may be supplemental forms to complete.
- **Institution Direct** – Seniors can opt to set up a personal account directly with their institutions of choice and complete the individual online application. Students can log back into the account to check the application status and/or find out if there is any additional information needed. Note: Some colleges/universities may use other applications/programs such as SENDeDu, Common Black College Application, Coalition for College App, etc.

Transcripts

****Note: Senior Transcripts will not be updated with rank until mid-September. It is recommended that applicants wait until this time to request a transcript be sent to colleges/universities. All Seniors are responsible for sending their FINAL TRANSCRIPT through one of the below methods, depending on where you are attending.****

Transcripts for Schools IN North Carolina

1. Go to www.cfnc.org
2. You will need to create a CFNC account or retrieve your account
3. Click on “Apply to College”
4. Click on “CFNC Application Hub”

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5. Follow the prompts
6. CFNC transcripts are free

Transcripts for Schools OUTSIDE of North Carolina

1. Go to: <https://wcpss.scribborder.com/>
2. Click the option for Current Students
3. Follow the Prompts
4. For college and universities, you will need to know the email address for the admissions office of the college to which you are applying. You may also supply the mailing address if an email address is not listed by the college.
5. The first three requests are free. After your third request, there is a \$5.00 charge.

Initial and midyear transcripts for **Common App** are automatically uploaded by your counselor when you link them to your application.

In addition to the three free official transcripts, there is no charge for the following:

- Mid-year senior year transcript
- Final transcript after graduation
- Transcript for any scholarship or award

Teacher Recommendations and Counselor Statements/Forms

Follow these steps for securing teacher or counselor recommendations:

1. Determine what type of recommendation is needed and how many by previewing the application. There may be a specific teacher recommendation form or a request for a letter. Typically you will have to enter the email of the person completing the application.
2. Initially ask a teacher in person if he/she is willing to complete one on your behalf. They should hear from you before they hear from the college.
3. Follow up with an email to the teacher, giving at least a two week notice. Include a copy of your resume, your [Senior Info Sheet](#), and be specific regarding what information the school is requesting, what information you are hoping to have highlighted, and the deadline
4. Provide a stamped, addressed envelope for the teacher if not an online recommendation. If there is a specific form, complete any required portion by the student prior to handing it over to the teacher.
5. Follow up with the teacher in person a few days before the deadline to make sure that the recommendation is being prepared.
6. Write a thank you note to the teacher who wrote a recommendation for you.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS DECISIONS

- **OFFER OF CONDITIONAL ADMITTANCE** is acceptance to a college provided you maintain your academic performance throughout the year. A college can withdraw its offer if your grades fall significantly, if your course rigor changes after admission, or if you are involved in an activity that results in disciplinary action by the school or law enforcement.
- **DENIAL** is a final decision by the college to not offer admission. Students who are denied can apply again after completing at least a semester of college coursework elsewhere.
- **DEFERMENT** is a delay of admissions decision until a later time. Many competitive schools will defer fall applications to the spring in order to receive additional grades and other information.
- **WAITLISTING** occurs after the regular admissions process is complete. There is no guarantee a college will go to the waitlist or where an applicant will rank on the waitlist. Students on a waitlist for one college should plan to attend another college and then reconsider if later offered admission.

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COMMUNITY/JUNIOR COLLEGE INFORMATION

Some of you may decide to begin your postsecondary education at a community college. Community colleges provide excellent opportunities for students to excel in a variety of careers. Community colleges have also established relationships with several universities for students who wish to transfer after receiving an Associate's degree or the required number of credit hours for transfer. There are 58 community colleges in North Carolina. Local community colleges include Wake Technical, Wilson, Vance-Granville, and Durham Technical College. An admissions representative from Wake Tech is on campus EVERY TUESDAY September through May.

WAKE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Wake Technical Community College (WTCC) has an Open Door Policy. This policy provides for the admission of any person who has reached the age of 18 or has graduated from high school. WTCC offers programs for all educational levels. There are Certificate Programs, Diploma Programs, and the Associate Degree Programs. More information on WTCC can be accessed at: www.waketech.edu. Wake Tech Admissions Reps visit HHS often. As a high school student, you may be eligible to participate in the **Career and College Promise program**. Engaging in this opportunity allows you to begin courses early, tuition free. You must register and attend a mandatory orientation session to get started. For more information about Career and College Promise, go to ccp.waketech.edu.

COLLEGE TRANSFER PROGRAM at WTCC

Two degrees are offered: Associate in Arts (A.A.) and Associate in Science (A.S.)

- By enrolling in this program, you may complete coursework equivalent to the general education requirements (freshman and sophomore years) for the bachelor's degree at a four-year school.
- The A.A. or A.S. is awarded upon successful completion of 64 semester credit hours, including the minimum in each of the areas indicated on the specific curriculum outlines.
- Any course deficiencies **MUST** be made up at Wake Tech prior to transfer to the senior institution. Earning the A.A. or A.S. degree automatically fulfills the MAR.
- To learn more, visit <https://www.waketech.edu/programs-courses/credit-transfer-choices>

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Steps to Financial Aid

There are several types of financial aid students and parents can pursue in order to pay for college. These include: scholarships, grants, loans, work-study, entitlement programs, and employment. All types of financial aid come from various sources that include the federal government, local clubs, civic organizations, as well as colleges and universities.

Note: Heritage HS is assigned a Financial Aid Advisor each year. Mrs. Waldrum will work with HHS students and families again this year. She will present a classroom guidance lesson for all seniors and is available for 1:1 appointments to offer assistance. Ms. Waldrum is available for appointments on Tuesdays. Call 919-570-5600 ext. 20712 to make an appointment starting in mid-September.

Residency Determination Service (RDS) - All students planning to apply to colleges in North Carolina **MUST** complete the **RDS**. This service will determine eligibility for in-state tuition and state grant awards. To learn more about RDS, and how it relates to the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), read the [Navigating RDS and the FAFSA tip sheet](#). After you complete this process, RDS will assign you a Residency Certification Number (RCN) that you will report to the NC colleges that you are applying to. [RDS Appeals Information \(en Espanol\)](#)

Free Application for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) must be completed by all students wishing to be considered for any federal financial aid. **The FAFSA form is the gateway to all federal money.** To initiate the financial aid process, you and your parents must submit a financial aid form. The FAFSA is a confidential document used to collect information for determining a student's need for financial aid. The FAFSA is scheduled to open this year on December 1.

An estimate of your family's financial ability to contribute to the costs of education beyond high school is computed. (Note: For families previously familiar with FAFSA, The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) transitioned to the Student Aid Index (SAI) beginning in the 2024-25 Award Year.) The SAI is an indicator of how much the government believes the family can pay each year for their student's education. This amount however does not necessarily mean that the college or university will require the family to pay the entire amount. This estimate and a copy of the appropriate form are forwarded at your request to the Pell Grant Program, to state scholarship and grant programs, and to financial aid officers at the colleges or other post-secondary institutions you specify on the form.

The decision to award financial aid rests with individual institutions and programs, which directly inform students whether or not they are eligible for financial aid. *Speak with the college or university financial aid officer directly to discuss adjustments to this financial aid package.*

Some colleges and universities require submission of both the **FAFSA** and the **CSS PROFILE** along with their own financial aid application for consideration for merit or academic scholarships. Only 5 colleges require the CSS PROFILE in North Carolina. They are: UNC Chapel Hill, Davidson, Duke, Elon, and Wake Forest. Complete the **PROFILE** at www.collegeboard.org

Complete the **FAFSA** at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

The U.S. Department of Education publishes an annual guide for high school and college students regarding financial aid. This guide explains in-depth the federal aid process. You can view this guide on-line at <https://studentaid.gov/h/understand-aid>

Types of Federal Aid

- **Stafford Loan:** Stafford Loans are available to undergraduates on the basis of demonstrated financial need. Interest rates continue to be favorable and interest is paid by the federal government for the first six months after graduation. A program called the "Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan Program," is available to undergraduates who do not demonstrate financial need. Students must file the FAFSA for the regular Stafford Loan first and if not

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eligible, will automatically be considered for the Unsubsidized program. Although borrowing limits and interest rates are identical to the regular Stafford Loan, interest will not be subsidized while the undergraduate is attending college. Students have the option of either paying interest on the loan as it accrues or capitalizing the interest and paying it off along with the principle following graduation. Even though the government does not pay interest, this option is attractive because of the very favorable interest rate.

- **Pell Grants and Supplemental Educational Grants:** Pell Grants and SEOG's are distributed to students based solely on need as determined by the FAFSA. The college financial aid office determines the amount received through a SEOG.
- **Work-Study:** Work-Study is a federally funded program that allows students to work on campus to help defray the costs of education. This program is organized by the school's financial aid office.
- **Perkins Loan:** The Perkins Loan provides funds for students who demonstrate need as determined by the FAFSA. Colleges have a restricted amount of funds available for Perkins Loans and allocate it accordingly. Repayment begins six months after graduation.
- **Parents Loan For Undergraduate Students (PLUS):** Through this program, parents may borrow the entire cost of their students' education, minus awarded financial aid. Repayment of PLUS loans must begin within 60 days of disbursement. Bank approval of a PLUS loan hinges on examination of the family's credit history. The low interest rates on PLUS loans make these an attractive option for families who plan to finance educational costs.

The Scholarship Process

Private sources make up a small slice of the total financial aid pie. Nonetheless, there are a number of scholarship opportunities—the trick is finding which ones are applicable to your individual situation. Scholarship bulletins are available in Student Services. This is not an exhaustive list; websites are listed in this section of the planning guide to assist with other scholarship searches. Be forewarned—the application process for scholarships is often as detailed as applying for college and sometimes the rewards are not large. The most important thing to remember is to never pay for a scholarship or for scholarship information. Individual colleges and universities also offer merit-based scholarship programs which will be offered to qualified students once accepted. Check with colleges for specific information.

Examples of Scholarship Criteria: academic merit or good grades, leadership activities, community service, extracurricular activities/athletics, honors and achievements, financial need, personal statement, overcoming adversity

How do I find out about scholarships?

- A scholarship bulletin is available MONTHLY in Student Services and on the Heritage High School website (<https://sites.google.com/wcpss.net/student-services-hhs/whats-after-high-school/scholarships-financial-aid>). Here you will find scholarship resources from WCPSS sites and more. Be sure to peruse the Heritage High School Bulletin often as scholarships are added frequently. If you find a scholarship you would like to apply for, follow the instructions for applying as listed.
- Go to www.scholarshipplus.com/wake - for Heritage HS and Wake County-specific scholarship information.
- Go to www.cfnc.org for information about need based grants and scholarships, merit based scholarships, and other forms of aid. From their homepage, click on Pay for College
- See additional resources in the Appendix

ENLISTED: Steps to Military Placement

Representatives from the different branches of the military visit Heritage High School throughout the year. These visits are scheduled through Career Development Coordinator (CDC), Ms. Beaster. They will be advertised through the calendar found on the [Student Services homepage](#) and through [Ms. Beaster's Remind](#). You may find additional information, including the names and contact info for our local recruiters, on the HHS CDC site [here](#).

General information about various branches of the military may be found here:

- Air Force: www.airforce.com
- Army: www.goarmy.com
- Army Reserve: www.goarmy.com/reserve
- Coast Guard: www.gocoastguard.com
- Marines: www.marines.com
- Navy: www.navy.com
- Naval Reserve: www.navyreserve.com
- N.C. National Guard: www.nationalguard.com

ASVAB

[The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery \(ASVAB\)](#) is an aptitude test to assess an individual's natural abilities and skills. The military branches require the ASVAB for entrance into the military. Whether you are considering the military or other career options, the ASVAB is an excellent tool to help determine your own natural abilities that will assist you in making an informed career choice.

The Military Entrance Processing Service Center offers the ASVAB on a weekly basis. Contact your military recruiter to schedule an appointment. Heritage High School offers the ASVAB twice per year at no cost to the student. The ASVAB administration at Heritage is open to all Juniors and Seniors regardless of your career plans. Ms. Beaster, our Career Development Coordinator, can give you more information about the ASVAB.

Prepare for the ASVAB:

- Access practice tests for the ASVAB: <http://www.military.com/ASVAB>
- Practice math questions for the test: <http://www.4tests.com/exams/examdetail.asp?eid=67>
- Study guide for vocabulary, reading comprehension, and math: <http://www.4tests.com/training/default.asp>
- Sample Questions: www.asvabprogram.com/student-program
- Online study program: www.march2success.com/

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Military Academies

The military academies are listed below with a link to their websites. The application process for each are slightly different but all are very competitive processes. Please read all you can and plan to start this process no later than the beginning of your junior year in high school.

- United States Air Force Academy - <http://www.usafa.af.mil/>
- United States Coast Guard Academy - <http://www.cga.edu/>
- United States Military Academy - West Point - Army - <http://www.westpoint.edu>
- United States Naval Academy - <http://www.usna.edu>

College ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps)

Military Plus College? If you are interested in enlisting in the military as well as going to college, be sure to ask about ROTC scholarships that are available. Deadlines are usually from October to December, so early planning is advised. To find out which colleges offer ROTC for your branch of interest, visit:

- Army - www.goarmy.com/rotc/scholarships.html
- Air Force - <https://www.afrotc.com/about>
- Navy/Marine Corps - <http://www.nrotc.navy.mil/index.html>

EMPLOYED: Steps to Getting a Job

Student Services works in conjunction with our Career Development Coordinator (CDC), Ms. Beaster to provide assistance and to share information. Opportunities and events will be advertised through the calendar found on the [Student Services homepage](#) and through [Ms. Beaster's Remind](#). You may find additional information on the HHS CDC site [here](#).

Career Planning/Exploration

- Career planning is a process that involves students, parents, teachers, counselors, and the community.
- The goal is to help students to make informed and thoughtful decisions about themselves and their future.
- The planning process includes helping students develop and implement an individual career plan.
- [CFNC](#) and [Major Clarity](#) are valuable websites that offer career and interest inventories that assess a student's interests, preferences, values, abilities, and talents in order to identify either general or specific careers.
- In addition, students may further explore careers by participating in Web Research, Informational Interviews, Job Shadowing, Internships, Summer Programs, Part-time Jobs, and Volunteering Opportunities.

Entering the Workforce

If you have decided to get a job immediately after high school, you will need to:

- Find out what kinds of jobs are currently available.
- Develop some very necessary job-finding and job-keeping skills.
- Talk to Ms. Beaster, our Career Development Coordinator, for more information. [Visit her CDC Website](#) to learn more about creating a resume, job training, apprenticeships, job shadowing, job opportunities, and more!
- Adapt your resume to reflect the needs of the potential job. Identify skills you possess that the company has in the job posting.

Interviewing Tips

Before the Interview

- Focus on employer's/college's needs and what you can do for the organization/college
- Consider how you will fill the role they have available
- Consider your interest in the job/ career field/ college major
- Research and become knowledgeable of the company/college
- Practice interviewing

During the Interview

- Be enthusiastic, but sincere
- Listen carefully to the interviewer
- Think about how you can set yourself apart from others
- Keep the interviewer's attention
- Don't place blame or be negative about past employers/ your high school
- Plan to arrive at least 15 minutes before the interview
- Bring a pen and notebook with you
- Greet your interviewer by name, with a firm handshake and a smile
- Do not chew gum
- Maintain good body posture
- If the interviewer asks if you have any questions or if you would like to add anything else- Ask a question or tell them something about yourself they did not ask!
- Close the interview on a positive note
- Ask about any needed follow-up and when you can expect to next hear from the company/college

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- Thank the interviewer for his or her time
- Be sure to get the interviewer's business card, or at least the proper spelling of their name, their title, and their address and phone number.

After the Interview

- Evaluate it – how do you think you responded to the questions?
- Send a thank you letter to the interviewer.
- Make a follow up phone call to indicate interest in the position/college and ask if there are any additional questions.

What to Wear

- Wear a professional looking outfit from head to toe
- Make sure your hair is well-groomed and neat
- Don't overdo the perfume, cologne, makeup, or aftershave. Limit your jewelry.
- Try on your outfit BEFORE the day of the interview

Sample Interview Questions

- Tell me a little about yourself?
- What have you been involved in while in high school?
- Tell me about your scholastic record.
- What supervisory or leadership roles have you held?
- Why should we hire/admit/select you?
- Describe briefly your philosophy of
- Where do you see yourself in 5 or 10 years?
- Do you think your grades are a good indication of your academic achievement?
- Describe one or two achievements which have given you the most satisfaction.
- In what ways would you contribute to our organization/college?
- Tell me about a time when you worked effectively under pressure.
- Tell me about a time when you persuaded team members to do things your way.
- Tell me about a time when you had to adapt to a difficult situation.

Resume Information

All Heritage High students develop their portfolio as they matriculate, being able to update important information, such as extracurricular activities, volunteerism, employment, etc. These are all elements that help to shape a student's resume. After making an update at the beginning of the senior year, students should be able to use their resume for college admissions, as well as employment endeavors.

The development of your student resume is an important step in planning for your future. You will use your student resume for many pursuits, including, but not limited to: after-school and summer employment, volunteer work, job shadowing and internships, college applications, and scholarship applications. Your counselor, teachers, and other adults may use your resume during your senior year) to write recommendations and to help you with the scholarship process. See a sample resume in the appendix.

General Resume Do's and Don'ts

Do	Don't
Be concise, accurate, positive	Lie or exaggerate
List your most recent activities or job first	Include salary history or expectations
Stress skills and accomplishment	Use pronouns, abbreviations
Research and use key words	Overdo the use of bold and italics
Make the resume attractive to read	Use small type or overcrowd margin

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Have someone proofread before submitting	Include references
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RESUME WRITING TIPS

Why do I need a Resume?

- It provides a clear breakdown of high school activities for college admissions representatives and can be included with your application.
- It offers recommendation writers a review of your accomplishments

What do I include?

- Awards and honors
- Extracurricular activities (ones offered in high school such as Sports, Honor Societies, Newspaper, Theater, etc.)
- Community Service/Volunteerism
- Leadership
- Work Experience

What order do I put activities in and what format should I use?

- Enter activities from most recent to least recent
- Do not include middle school
- Indicate if you have held an office position or elected position
- Community Service is by school year (2014, 2015...)

Overall Tips

- Use Times Roman or Arial Font
- Use 12 point size, no smaller than 9
- Use professional looking bullets (not hearts, stars)
- Spell out acronyms (NHS= National Honor Society)
- Make Headings bold
- Keep it to one page if possible

Appendix

**Future Planning Resources
Financial Aid Resources**

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Future Planning Websites

Name	How to Find
Heritage High School <i>School Counselor site</i> for grade-level information, dual enrollment, high school planning guides, info relating to post-graduation planning (enrollment, enlistment, and employment), and more! <i>Career Development site</i> run by our CDC provides information on internships, apprenticeships, college trade schools, military, finding a job (while in high school and after), and more!	https://sites.google.com/wcpss.net/studentserviceshhs/home https://www.wcpss.net/domain/21343
College Foundation of North Carolina Comprehensive site for career exploration, planning for and applying to college as well as financial aid, SAT Prep, College Matching Assistant. **All students must create an account if they are planning to attend any college in NC. Students must complete the Residency Determination Services form with parents to confirm eligibility for in-state tuition.	www.cfnc.org
Wake Tech Community College Offers more than 250 associate degree, diploma and certificate programs that prepare students for university transfer or immediate employment.	www.waketech.edu
College Board SAT registration and preparation, College Planning, Scholarship Search, AP 'classrooms' and resources **BigFuture Scholarships - Earn entries in monthly drawings for \$500 and \$40,000 scholarships by completing the six qualifying steps on BigFuture. If you don't win, your entry rolls over for the next month. Note: the 6 steps are steps any student going to college would automatically complete anyways.**	www.collegeboard.org
ACT ACT registration and preparation, College planning, Paying for college	www.actstudent.org
College Week Live College search engine that hosts virtual tours, scholarship tours, etc.	https://collegeweeklive.com/
NCAA Clearinghouse Information for potential college student athletes, initial eligibility website, and download the "Guide for the College-bound Student Athlete"	www.eligibilitycenter.org
UNC System Information regarding all the public institutions in North Carolina. Includes info on minimum admissions requirements, college program/degree finder, transfer information, and paying for college	https://www.northcarolina.edu/students/

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NC Independent Colleges & Universities Information regarding all the private institutions in North Carolina	www.ncicu.org
Selective Service Selective Service and Information. Federal Law requires nearly all male US citizens and male immigrants, 18 through 25, register with Selective Service.	www.sss.gov
Trade and Vocational Schools Trade school search engine	https://www.best-trade-schools.net/

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Financial Aid and Scholarship Resources

***This is just a few of the many resources found regarding financial aid and scholarship resources.

Source	Web Address
Heritage High School Student Services offers a Scholarships & Financial Aid site that includes info and/or links to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explanation of types of financial aid• Our Financial Aid Advisor who works at Heritage once a week and assists with the FAFSA, understanding college financial aid award letters, etc.• Monthly Scholarship Newsletters that announce upcoming and popular scholarships• NC Merit Based Full-Ride Scholarships (Cheatham-White Scholarship Program @ NC Central University, EC Scholars @ East Carolina University, Levine Scholars Program @ UNC Charlotte, Morehead-Cain @ UNC Chapel Hill, Park Scholarship @ NC State University)• FAFSA• Residency Determination Services (RDS) - required by all students applying to NC schools to prove they qualify for in-state tuition• NC Promise - 4 NC universities that cost \$500 per semester to attend	https://sites.google.com/wcpss.net/studentserviceshhs/whats-after-high-school/enrolled-continuing-education/scholarships-financial-aid
FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid Scholarship Resources) - Any student, regardless of income, who wants to be considered for federal, state, and school financial aid programs must apply every year. This includes grants, scholarships, work-study funds, and loans.	https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa
NC Residency Determination Services (RDS) ALL students applying to any colleges in NC must complete this to verify in-state status. NOTE: When logging in, students should use their cfnc.org username and password.	https://www.ncresidency.org/
NC State Education Assistance Authority Scholarship and grant programs in North Carolina	www.ncseaa.edu
US Department of Education Federal resources for information on loans, grants and scholarships	www.ed.gov
International Financial Aid Center Resources for international students	www.iefaf.org

Notes:
