

Senior Year College Planning Guide

FALL SEMESTER

Meetings & Preparation

Meet with your **LNC counselor** to review:

-  Graduation requirements
 -  College plans, testing plans/scores, and career goals
 -  Scholarship and financial aid information
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Testing

-  Review your SAT or ACT scores.
 -  Decide if you need to retake the test.
 -  Check whether your colleges require test scores for admission.
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College Research & Applications

Create a College Spreadsheet

Include:

-  Reach, match, and safety schools
-  Application deadlines
-  Login and password info for application websites

- [Common App](#) or direct to institution applications. Work on application components, essays, and supplemental materials for each college you are applying to.



Letters of Recommendation

-  Request **1–2 teacher recommendations**.
-  Ask **at least two weeks** before your first application deadline.



Choose Your Application Type

-  **Early Decision (ED):** Binding — if accepted, you must attend.
 -  **Early Action (EA):** Non-binding — apply early, decide later.
 -  **Regular Decision:** Apply to multiple schools; deadlines usually in Jan–Feb.
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Explore CFNC (College Foundation of North Carolina)

Use CFNC to:

-  Plan your future and explore careers
 -  Apply to NC colleges
 -  Learn about scholarships and financial aid
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Residency Determination Service (RDS)

-  Complete **RDS** to establish **in-state residency** for NC public college tuition savings.
 -  Your RDS status applies to **all NC colleges** — public or private.
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NC Countdown to College

-  Apply to select NC colleges **for free** during one week in October.

- 📅²⁰²⁴₁₇ Participating schools list is released **October 1** each year.
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NC College Connect

You may qualify for **automatic admission** to select NC colleges if:

- 🏫 You attend a NC public high school
 - ⭐ You have a **weighted GPA of 2.8+**
 - 📋 You meet all NC College Connect requirements
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Complete Applications

Including:

- 📋 College admissions applications
 - ⭐ Honors College applications (if applicable)
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Stay Updated

- ✉️ Check your email regularly.
 - 🔗 Look for college portal setup links.
 - 🔔 Watch for application updates and document requests.
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Scholarships & Financial Aid

Scholarships

- 🎒 Review college-specific scholarships.
- 🏠 Look for local/community scholarships.

💰 Financial Aid

- ID Create your **FSA ID**.
 - 📝 Complete the [FAFSA](#) (opens October 1).
 - 📄 Submit the [CSS Profile](#) if required by your colleges.
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🎯 Ongoing Tasks

- 💡 Continue applying for scholarships throughout the year.
 - 📧 Monitor college emails for admissions and financial aid updates.
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📅 Spring Timeline

March–April

- 📁 Review and compare **financial aid award packages**.

May 1 – National Decision Day

- 🎉 Make your **final college decision**.
- 🗣️ Register for **orientation** at your chosen school.