

# PLANNING FOR COLLEGE

## Broughton HS Class of 2025

### *Spring of Junior Year*

**Grades matter!** Work hard in classes to keep your grades up. This year's academic record is the most prominent in college application reviews

**Register for senior year courses.** February through mid-March is registration time for senior year. Check your list of colleges of interest to be certain you meet any specific course requirements. NC graduation requirements and UNC System admission requirements are a great place to start, but each state has its own rules

**Plan for testing.** Testing is still up in the air a bit for students applying to start school after Fall 2024. Look for information soon about testing requirements for students who plan to apply to public universities in North Carolina. Check with other schools where you may apply to see what their policies about testing may be. Remember, you may not have to submit test scores, but if you have strong scores, they could help you in the admissions process. Discuss testing with your guidance counselors and make a plan for your testing based on where you might apply – and your scores on any tests you have already taken

**Refine your college list.** You've probably had a list going for years (at least in your head). Search on websites (CFNC.org, CollegeBoard.org, etc) to help you get your list going. Talk with your parents, and the guidance counselors at school to discuss what might be good options for colleges for you to consider. Read through some of the many college publications you have received to add to your list or to narrow it down.

**Search college websites.** Take your list from above and start searching college websites. See if you can narrow your list to 3-5 favorites that you'll plan to visit. Big university, small liberal arts college, community college. Visiting one might confirm what size school you might want and you can further hone your list from there.

**Visit college campuses.** Summer before Senior Year is the time to visit campuses if you haven't started yet. By September, you want your list of where you will apply. Do your work now. Make some choices now. You should shoot for 3-5 schools where you'll submit applications. You can plan to visit top choices again once applications are off – and maybe again after acceptance. Make sure to register online or call ahead to the campus. Most campuses have special times for tours and information sessions or interviews.

**Plan for recommendation letters.** Ask a few special teachers if they will help you with this in the fall when application time arrives. When it's time in the fall you can easily get them the information they need and not take them by surprise. The "Cool" teachers are asked to write lots of recommendations!

## *Summer*

**Keep visiting campuses.** Hone your list. Add to the list if needed.

**Investigate scholarship opportunities.** Look at the colleges you are interested in – and in civic groups and other organizations. Make a plan of what you will apply for.

**Create your resume.** If you haven't done it already, put together a resume of your academic credentials, your honors, activities (including employment) and awards. CFNC.org has a great tool for this.

## *Fall of Senior Year*

**Grades Still Matter.** For some competitive schools, you might not get in based on grades through junior year – and you'll need to submit grades from the fall for admission review. A strong performance could make the difference. Also, every year students have admission offers taken away due to poor performance in their senior year. Don't let that be you!

**Visit your counselor.** Check with your school counselor to make sure your college application list is reasonable. Ideally it should have 3-5 schools on it. Application fees can be pricey so make some decisions now to narrow your list. At least one of your applications should be to a college where you are fairly certain you will be admitted.

**Attend the Fair.** The Raleigh-Wake County Educational Opportunities Fair will be in early-mid September at NC State's McKimmon Center. Colleges from the Carolinas and around the Southeast will be in attendance. This will be a time to speak with college representatives of the schools where you are planning to apply and get your questions answered.

**Test again.** If you choose, or if one of your schools requires test scores, take the SAT and/or ACT once more.

**Check application deadlines.** Make a list of application deadlines for your list of colleges. Don't wait until the last day to submit in case you have a problem or question. You can call the college's admissions office or go to your guidance counselor for help.

**Apply for admission.** Many schools now use online application options so you can apply once and it will work for several schools. CFNC.org has one application that will work for most NC colleges and universities. For many out-of-state and some more competitive colleges, the Common App will allow you to apply to several schools with one set of basic information.

**Apply for scholarships.** Look online to check application deadlines. Some of the more competitive scholarships will have fall deadlines, but many have deadlines that are not until sometime in the spring.

**Take a breath – the hard part is done!**