

Virtual Resources for the College Search and Application Process

- [Virtual college tours of UNC system school](#)
- [Learn more about CTCL \(Colleges That Change Lives\)](#)
- Learn more about institutions from resources other than the school itself:
<https://www.niche.com/colleges/search/best-colleges/>
- CollegeBoard search tool: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>
- Cappex College search: <https://www.cappex.com/colleges>
- National Center for Education Statistics:
<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
- Review of college search engines:
<https://blog.prepscholar.com/the-best-college-search-websites>
- NACAC timeline for college planning:
<https://www.nacacnet.org/globalassets/documents/publications/gcap2018final.pdf>
- CFNC Career Planning:
https://www1.cfnc.org/Plan/For_A_Career/Learn_About_Yourself/Learn_About_Yourself.aspx

Common Application

- Common App/family resources:
<https://www.commonapp.org/plan/for-parents>
- Common app student resources/ many helpful video tutorials:
<https://www.commonapp.org/help>
- [Common App essay prompts 2025-2026](#)

How to write an outstanding essay:

- [Tufts Admissions advice](#)
- [UNC Admissions advice](#)
- College Essay Guy:
<https://www.collegeessayguy.com/blog/college-essay-examples>
- Prep Scholar:
<https://blog.prepscholar.com/college-essay-examples-that-worked-expert-analysis>

Financial Aid:

- CFNC Financial Aid (You will need to establish an account, which you likely already have.):
<https://basics.financialliteracy101.org/index.cfm?error=noprogram>
- **North Carolina Residency Determination:**
<https://ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyInfo/>
- Completing the FAFSA:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFT4ikCr_xw/watch?v=liO5RKKNrhE
- [Complete the FAFSA](#)

The scholarship search begins after you have submitted your applications. Remember that the institutions themselves have larger scholarships to offer, usually tied to merit, athletics or service.

Scholarship search tools:

- NC Scholarship Search database:
https://www.cfnc.org/paying/schol/info_schol.jsp
- Community Foundation of WNC

<https://cfwnc.org/students/about-scholarships>

- Peterson's Scholarship SearchEngine:
<https://www.petersons.com/college-search/scholarship-search.aspx>
- College Foundation of NC (CFNC.org):
<https://www.cfnc.org/index.jsp>
- FastWeb: <http://www.fastweb.com/>
- United Negro College Fund (UNCF): <http://www.uncf.org/>
- Thurgood Marshall College Fund for Historically Black Colleges & Universities:
<http://tmcf.org/>
- Scholarships.com: <https://www.scholarships.com/>
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund: <https://hsf.net/en/>
- Latino College Dollars: <http://www.latinocollegedollars.org/>
- I Am First! First Generation College Students: <http://www.imfirst.org>
- LendEdu College Financial Aid, Scholarships & Loans 101 Course:
<https://lendedu.com/blog/financial-aid-scholarships-student-loans-101-course>
- Future Leaders: [GE- Reagan Scholarship for future leaders](#)

Job Search Resources

- What do I want to do for a job?
[CFNC Career Inventory](#)
- ONET career search:
[My Next Move](#)
- What would I actually do if (learn details about different professions):
[ONET](#)
- Looking for a job:
[List of companies hiring in WNC](#)
<https://www.onetonline.org/>
- For Job Seekers:
[Mountain Area Workforce](#)