

# **WAKEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR PLANNING GUIDE**



## **CLASS OF 2026**

## Wakefield High School Student Services Directory

<b>Name &amp; Position</b>	<b>Caseload</b>	<b>Telephone Number</b>	<b>E-mail Address</b>
<b>Mr. Bazzell</b> Principal	Administrator over all Seniors	919.562-3600	<a href="mailto:rbazzell@wcpss.net">rbazzell@wcpss.net</a>
<b>Ms. Reid</b> Dean of Students	Mid-Year, Early Graduates & OCS	919.562-3600 ext. 22241	<a href="mailto:treid1@wcpss.net">treid1@wcpss.net</a>
<b>Mr. Walker</b> School Counselor	Last Names A-C	919.562-3600 ext.22242	<a href="mailto:bwalker2@wcpss.net">bwalker2@wcpss.net</a>
<b>Ms. Ansbacher</b> School Counselor	Last Names D-H	919.562-3600 ext. 22244	<a href="mailto:mansbacher@wcpss.net">mansbacher@wcpss.net</a>
<b>Ms. Fletcher</b> School Counselor	Last Names I-Mo	919.562-3600 ext.22239	<a href="mailto:rfletcher@wcpss.net">rfletcher@wcpss.net</a>
<b>Ms. OBerTo</b> School Counselor	Last Names Mp-Sc	919.562-3600 ext.22231	<a href="mailto:joberTo@wcpss.net">joberTo@wcpss.net</a>
<b>Ms. Holliday</b> School Counselor	Last Names Sd-Z	919.562-3600 ext. 22243	<a href="mailto:lholliday@wcpss.net">lholliday@wcpss.net</a>
<b>Ms. Collins</b> SAP Counselor	All Students	919.562-3600 ext. 22240	<a href="mailto:cncollins@wcpss.net">cncollins@wcpss.net</a>
<b>Ms. Joyner</b> Career Development Coordinator	All Students	919-562-3600 ext. 22219	<a href="mailto:sjoyner@wcpss.net">sjoyner@wcpss.net</a>
<b>Ms. Meyer</b> School Registrar / Student Services		919.562-3600 ext. 22213	<a href="mailto:shmeyer@wcpss.net">shmeyer@wcpss.net</a>
<b>Ms. Andrade</b> Data Manager		919-562-3600 ext. 22249	<a href="mailto:yandrade@wcpss.net">yandrade@wcpss.net</a>
<b>Ms. Waldrum</b> Financial Aid Advisor	All Seniors		<a href="mailto:swaldrum@wcpss.net">swaldrum@wcpss.net</a>

# North Carolina Public Schools

## Graduation Requirements

<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/high-school-graduation-requirements>

<b>English (4 credits)</b>	<b>English I, English II, English III, English IV</b>
<b>Math (4 credits)</b>	<b>NC Math I, II, and III and a fourth mathematics course to be aligned with the student's post high school plans</b>
<b>Science (3 credits)</b>	<b>An Earth/Environmental Science, a Biology, a Physical Science</b>
<b>Social Studies (4 credits)</b>	<b>World History, Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy, American History, Economics and Personal Finance</b>
<b>Health &amp; Physical Education (1 credit)</b>	<b>Health &amp; Physical Education (Students are required to successfully complete CPR instruction to meet Healthful Living Essential Standards as a requirement for high school graduation.)</b>
<b>Electives (2 credits)</b>	<b>Two Elective credits of any combination from either: Career and Technical Education (CTE) or Arts Education or World Language</b>
<b>Electives (4 credits)</b>	<b>Four additional electives from: Career and Technical Education (CTE) ROTC, Arts Education (e.g., dance, music, theater arts, visual arts), Any other subject area or cross-disciplinary courses (e.g., mathematics, science, social studies, English and dual enrollment courses)</b>

## Senior Latin Honors Recognition

In compliance with the Wake County School Board, Wakefield High School will use Latin Honors to recognize seniors graduating with honors. The Latin Honors recognition is based on the Mid-Year Rank process which is calculated at the end of 1st Semester. Wakefield HS will run the Mid-Year Rank on Feb 10, 2026. Seniors will be recognized at the Senior Awards ceremony and receive special notation in the graduation program.

- **Cum Laude:** Means to graduate with “Honor”
  - Student(s) with weighted Grade Point Averages (GPA) ranging from 3.75 – 3.99.
- **Magna Cum Laude:** Means to graduate with “Great Honor”:
  - Student(s) with weighted Grade Point Averages (GPA) ranging from 4.0 – 4.249.
- **Summa Cum Laude:** Means to graduate with “Highest Honor”:
  - Student(s) with weighted Grade Point Averages (GPA) ranging from 4.25 and higher.

## **NC Academic Scholar Designation (not required for graduation)**

1. The student shall complete the Future-Ready Core mathematics sequence of Math I, II, III and a fourth-level mathematics course that meets University of North Carolina system Minimum Course Requirements;
2. The student shall complete three course credits of science including an Earth/Environmental science course, Biology, and at least one physical science course that must include either physics or chemistry;
3. For students entering ninth grade in 2012-13 or later, the student shall complete four course credits of social studies;
4. The student shall complete two course credits of a world language (other than English);
5. The student shall complete four elective course credits in any one subject area, such as Career and Technical Education (CTE), JROTC, Arts Education, World Languages, or in another content area;
6. The student shall have completed at least three higher-level courses during junior and/or senior years which carry quality points such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge International, or Dual Enrollment courses; Advanced CTE and CTE credentialing courses; honors level courses, or Project Lead the Way courses; and
7. The student shall earn an unweighted grade point average of at least 3.50.

## Class of 2026 Senior Information

### **Senior Fee**

### **Cap & Gown**

Cap & Gowns will be bulk ordered through Herff Jones this year. There will be a cap & gown meeting on Monday, October 27, 2025 at 8:45 AM.

### **Yearbook**

Class of 2026, have you booked your senior portrait session? Spots fill up quickly, and we want to make sure you don't miss out! Every session includes the tux and drape pose used in the yearbook along with cap and gown portraits. **[Click this Link to Schedule](#)** -- **Last day to be photographed is 12/1/25.**

Families of seniors interested in celebrating your students in the yearbook can purchase and design a **[Senior Recognition Ad](#)** through Jostens. They must be done by December 31st to be featured in the yearbook.

### **Graduation**

# COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE FOR SENIORS

Senior Conferences begin September 17th - Students will receive passes daily with appointments

## September

- Create a CFNC account at [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org), if you haven't done so already.
- Register for the SAT ([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)) or ACT ([www.actstudent.com](http://www.actstudent.com)) if needed. Keep in mind, all UNC System schools, and most others, continue to be test-optional this year.
- Double-check that your classes meet graduation requirements (with your counselor).
- Start working on your college applications if you haven't already.
- Start asking for shining letters of recommendation from your fan club of teachers (typically 2 teachers).
- Create a Resume and Brag Sheet and share copies with your teacher and counselor recommenders to help them learn more about you and your passions/interests/activities outside of school.
- Unable to visit campuses in person this summer? Many campuses are resuming on-site visits and continue to offer virtual college tours. There are also Virtual College Fairs and Virtual Info Sessions/Webinars for students and families. Check the admissions website for information.
- Complete the RDS process to qualify for in-state tuition or to establish eligibility for state grant determination under North Carolina law.
- Prepare to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) @ [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Write it on your calendar – the FAFSA opens in OCTOBER!
- Make sure your parents can find their tax returns from last year. This will be needed for FAFSA completion.
- Schedule a time to meet with the WHS Financial Aid Advisor, Ms. Susan Waldrum. Email Ms. Waldrum at [swaldrum@wcpss.net](mailto:swaldrum@wcpss.net) to schedule an appointment. Both students and their families can attend.
- Thinking about enlisting in the military? Sign up for the ASVAB by emailing Ms. Joyner ([sjoyner@wcpss.net](mailto:sjoyner@wcpss.net)).
- Research/apply for scholarships. (see website resource list)

## October

- FAFSA OPENS OCTOBER 1, 2025!!!
- Be aware of early college admissions deadlines in October and November!! At many schools, meeting the early application deadline ensures you'll be in the applicant pool for their merit-based scholarships.
- If you plan to test and haven't registered for the SAT or the ACT, do it now!

- Are you eligible for an ACT/SAT/College Application fee waiver? Discuss with your counselor.
- Thinking about the military? Make sure you sign up to take the ASVAB on October 8th.
- CFNC.org College Application Week ([www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org)), also known as NC Countdown to College – many NC independent colleges/universities will waive their application fees during this special week this month...you must create an account and apply through CFNC to take advantage of this opportunity.
  - This year College Application Week is OCTOBER 20-25, 2025 Visit <https://www.cfnc.org/apply-to-college/nc-countdown-to-college/>
- Don't let your schoolwork suffer! Colleges will ask for all senior year grades.
- Schedule a time to meet with the WHS Financial Aid Advisor, Ms. Waldrum. Email her to set up an appointment.
- Research/apply for scholarships – Check the WHS website for monthly scholarship bulletins.

## **November**

- Continue working, and submitting, applications to meet early deadlines.
- Research/apply for scholarships – Check the WHS website for monthly scholarship bulletins.

## **December**

- Okay procrastinators: Holiday break gives you lots of time to finish your essay and resume, not to mention those applications. Regular admission deadlines are around the corner!!
- Research/apply for scholarships – Check the WHS website for monthly scholarship bulletins

## **January**

- Are all your college applications submitted? Are any other due dates approaching?
- Check your mail/email for decisions on those early admission applications.
- Research/apply for scholarships.

## **February/March/April**

- If required, send your mid-year high school grade report to colleges (through CFNC.org Application Hub, WCPSS Scribder, or Counselors via Common App).
- Submit copies of any college admission and/or scholarship award letters to the provided google form so we can recognize you at Senior Awards.
- Financial aid awards may start arriving in February. When you get yours, review it with a Financial Aid advisor to make sure you understand it.

- Regular deadline applicants will receive decisions during this time.
- If you haven't done so yet, it's time to make an enrollment decision (May 1st is typically the cut off), accept the financial aid offered, and send in housing and tuition deposits!
- Research/apply for scholarships (this process never ends – even once you're in college, if you want money – you have to continue to look for it!)

## **May**

- Notify the colleges that you're choosing not to attend.
- If you get an aid package from one of your "No" schools, let them know so another lucky student can reap the award.
- Review your "to-do" list for the school you will attend. There will be a lot to take care of before you start school in the Fall.
- Send thank-you notes to those who have helped you out along the way.
- COMPLETE THE SENIOR SURVEY PROVIDED WITH FINAL DECISIONS!

## **June**

- Request your final transcript be sent to the school you will be attending. Students should request Final Transcripts via CFNC.org for NC colleges, universities and community colleges. For out-of-state schools, go to <https://wcpss.scriborder.com/>
- Remember that summer job? Put some money away -- you'll need it for education funding and books!

**All of your college preparation has paid off. Get ready for your first year of college!**



### College Admissions Choices Definitions

<b>NON-RESTRICTIVE ADMISSIONS</b> <i>Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1<sup>st</sup> to consider their options and confirm enrollment.</i>	<b>RESTRICTIVE ADMISSIONS</b> <i>Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.</i>
<b>Regular Decision:</b> Students apply by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time. Commitment: Non-binding	<b>Early Decision (ED):</b> Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted, they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early. Commitment: Binding
<b>Rolling Admission:</b> Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle. Commitment: Non-binding	<b>Restrictive Early Action (REA):</b> Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm. Commitment: Non-binding
<b>Early Action (EA):</b> Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date. Commitment: Non-binding	

### College Application Decision Definitions

**OFFER OF 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 admitted.

## **University of North Carolina System Schools**

*The UNC System is a treasured public institution dedicated to serving the people of North Carolina through world-class teaching, research, and community engagement. Today, nearly 250,000 students are enrolled in our 16 universities across the state.*

### The 16 Institutions:

Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, North Carolina A&T University, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University, University of North Carolina at Asheville, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, University of North Carolina School of the Arts, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Western Carolina University and Winston-Salem State University

### **Minimum Requirements for Admission to UNC System Schools For students entering in the Fall 2026 semester and beyond:**

- **High School GPA:** A minimum weighted GPA of 2.5.
- **Standardized Test Scores:** Students with a weighted High School GPA greater than or equal to 2.50 and less than 2.80 are required to submit a standardized test score of a 17 or higher on the ACT or a 930 or higher on the SAT.

*Please note that, while these are the minimum requirements for consideration, they do not guarantee acceptance.*

## **North Carolina Independent Colleges & Universities**

*NCICU represents 36 colleges and universities. Each is different, with a distinct character, student body, degree offerings, and campus opportunities. This range of options means that whether you're looking for a particular academic or athletic program, a specific region of the state, a traditional co-educational college or university, a women's college, or a historically black college or university, you can find the right fit for you in one of North Carolina's independent colleges or universities.*

### The 36 Institutions:

Barton College, Belmont Abbey College, Bennett College, Brevard College, Cabarrus College of Health Sciences, Campbell University, Catawba College, Chowan University, Davidson College, Duke University, Elon University, Gardner-Webb University, Greensboro College, Guilford College, High Point University, Johnson C. Smith University, Lees-McRae College, Lenoir-Rhyne University, Livingstone College, Louisburg College, Mars Hill University, Meredith College, Methodist University, Mid-Atlantic Christian University, Montreat College, NC Wesleyan University, Pfeiffer University, Queens University of Charlotte, Saint Augustine's University, Salem College, Shaw University, University of Mount Olive, Wake Forest University, Warren Wilson College, William Peace University and Wingate University

## Community College Information

Students may decide to begin postsecondary education at a community college. NC residents pay in-state tuition at all of NC's 58 community colleges. Community colleges have an "Open Door Policy" which provides admission to any person who has reached the age of 18 or has graduated from high school. Programs for all educational levels are offered including non-credit programs for personal and professional enrichment and credit programs where one can earn a certificate, diploma, or Associate's degree in a field of study. Most 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. **Financial aid is available.**

Information for all 58 NC community colleges can be accessed at: [www.nccommunitycolleges.edu](http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu). Students can apply to any of the community colleges in North Carolina through their CFNC account at [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org).

### **The College Transfer Program**

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) to apply toward a Bachelor's degree at a four-year school.

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 fulfills the MCR (Minimum Course Requirements) for NC four-year college admissions.

### **Wake Technical Community College**

Wake Tech offers over 180 Certificate Programs, Diploma Programs, and the Associate Degree Programs. More information on WTCC and the admission application can be accessed at: [www.waketech.edu](http://www.waketech.edu). For a listing of for-credit programs, go to: <http://curred.waketech.edu/>

Wake Tech is a member of the National Junior College Athletics Association (NJCAA), Division I, Region 10, and offers baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, golf, cross country, and cheerleading.

The Office of Volunteerism & Leadership (OVAL) helps students build the knowledge and skills to become active local and global leaders. Service and leadership training programs include: Fostering Bright Futures, Pathways Male Mentoring, Scott Scholars, Student Ambassadors, and Student Government Association.

## College Entrance Exam Information

*Please check each institution you are applying to to verify if test scores are mandatory or optional! For UNC System Schools: Students with a weighted High School GPA greater than or equal to 2.50 and less than 2.80 are required to submit a standardized test score of a 17 or higher on the ACT or a 930 or higher on the SAT.*

The **SAT Reasoning Test** (Scholastic Aptitude Test) measures critical reading, mathematics and writing ability and predicts college performance. Colleges select the best critical reasoning, 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.

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.

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.

Check with colleges to see which test they prefer. Students can register on-line. 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.

Testing accommodations for students with disabilities may be available. Check for accommodation information on the testing center website or in the registration bulletin. Our WHS Testing Coordinator is Ms. Felisa Kelly at [fkelly@wcpss.net](mailto:fkelly@wcpss.net)!

To register for the SAT go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

To register for the ACT go to [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

To register for the TOEFL go to [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org)

### **How to Send Standardized Test Scores (SAT/ACT scores):**

In order for test scores (SAT, ACT) to be official, they must be sent directly to the college from College Board (SAT) at [www.sat.collegeboard.org](http://www.sat.collegeboard.org) or from ACT at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). Remember that schools may be test-optional this year, but they are not test-blind, which means if you have strong standardized test scores and you think they would strengthen your application, send them in.

### **Test Fee Waivers**

SAT and ACT fee waivers are available for economically disadvantaged students. Students on free/reduced lunch or who meet other criteria may qualify. See your counselor or the College Board website for details and guidelines. Fee waivers can 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 NCAA Eligibility Waivers. See your counselor for details and guidelines.

### **What do admissions officers consider when reviewing an application?**

- Difficulty of course work selected relevant to what was offered (did you take the most challenging course load you could have at your school?)
- Grades (GPA both weighted & unweighted)
- Class rank
- SAT and/or ACT scores (remember score submission is optional this year)
- Extracurricular activities
- Community/ volunteer service
- Recommendations from teacher and/or counselor(s) or other(s)
- Interview (not required by all schools)
- Essay (not required by all schools)

### ***Tips on Completing Your College Application***

- Be cautious of how you represent yourself in social media and even in your email address. Your email address should be professional or formal (yourname@ . . .). Do not present yourself in a way that shows questionable character.
- Provide a contact email and phone number that you check regularly - this is how the schools will get in touch with you if they have follow-up questions, etc. You don't want to miss any important info!
- Most colleges and universities require applicants to apply on-line. Be sure to go to the college's website for instructions.
- Keep track of application deadlines for those schools to which you are applying.
- Complete your own applications – colleges know if your parents fill it out.
- If your list of extracurricular activities exceeds the allotted space, list your top activities or those where you've had a leadership or other significant role. If your application allows, submit your extracurricular resume as an additional sheet.
- If you're an athlete, send your sport highlights to the athletics department.

## **Sending Transcripts**

*\*Official transcripts for this school year will be available after September 23rd.\**

### **How to Send Transcripts to any North Carolina College/University & Community College:**

For all North Carolina Colleges & Universities, transcripts must be sent electronically by the student through the CFNC website, [www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org) . There is no charge for transcripts to be sent from CFNC.

1. Go to [www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org)
2. If you do not have a CFNC account, you will need to create one by clicking “Login”, then choose “Don’t have an account”.
3. Once you have created an account, click on the “Apply to College” tab.
4. In this section, click on “Application Hub”
5. Verify that the profile information on the screen is correct. Your demographic information must match 100% with your information in PowerSchool. You can pull up your demographic information in PowerSchool to match with CFNC.
6. Click “Save Personal Information”, then scroll down to choose the schools where you want to send transcripts.

### **How to Send Transcripts for Scholarship Applications, and Out-of-State Colleges/Universities & Out-of-State Community Colleges**

All transcripts for out-of-state schools and scholarship applications must be ordered by the student from [www.wcpss.net/transcripts](http://www.wcpss.net/transcripts). Click “Request Transcripts and Student Records.” Click on the first backpack icon for “Current Student.”

1. Students can request 3 transcripts for free; each subsequent transcript is \$5.
2. The Student Services secretary or registrar will receive a daily summary of requests and completes those requests within 2-3 days.
3. Students should request the final transcript be sent using this link above.

### **How to Send Transcripts to Colleges/Universities Using Common App or Coalition Application Portals:**

Within the portal (for example, Common App) add your counselor’s email address.

In the Fall, the Counselor will upload a copy of the transcript and complete the School Report.

Students are responsible for sending final transcripts in the Spring to their college of choice. How to send CCP Transcripts:

1. If you participated in the CCP program at any point during HS, you are required to send your Community
2. College transcript(s) directly to the colleges/universities to which you are applying. Even though the CCP
3. courses and grades will appear on your Wakefield HS transcript and they will be reflected in your GPA, the colleges/universities require official transcripts from all institutions.

### **Brag Sheet for College Recommendations**

The ***Counselor Letter of Recommendation*** provides colleges and other organizations a holistic picture of your character, personal qualities, passions or challenges that can't be conveyed by grades or test scores. It provides insight into your personality and potential to thrive in a college setting. This is in contrast to the teacher letter of recommendation, which focuses on your performance and involvement in a particular class or subject area.

#### ***Do I need a Counselor Letter of Recommendation?***

- Not all colleges require a counselor letter of recommendation to accompany your application. Check the freshmen admission website for each college on your list to see if one is required.
- **If a counselor letter is not required**, ask your counselor if one is necessary to explain how your particular circumstances affected your academic record. Otherwise, do not ask for or send more letters than are required.
- **NOTE:** If applying to schools on the Common Application, the counselor letter of recommendation will automatically be completed by your counselor if the school(s) you are applying to requires it.

#### ***Instructions & Additional Information***

- To request a letter of recommendation from your counselor, you must submit the Senior Brag Form along with a copy of your resume and any required forms (if applicable) **at least 2-3 weeks in advance**.
- You can find the Brag Sheet on the Student Services website under the link for Seniors, then scroll down to Senior Conference Forms. You can also pick up a copy in Student Services.
- Please type your responses and spell out your awards and activities if they take place outside of Wakefield High School so that your counselor can be familiar with that particular activity/organization.
- Be honest and take your time. Answering these questions is a good starting point for your applications.
- Counselors will not complete a letter of recommendation without your brag sheet and resume.

## **FINANCIAL AID**

All students applying for any federal financial aid must file the FAFSA form. The FAFSA is the only application students must complete to be considered for all federal financial aid, to include:

- Pell Grants
- Supplemental Educational Opportunities
- Stafford Loans
- Perkins Loans
- Work Study
- Grants
- Other Federal Financial Aid Programs

You can access the FAFSA form online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> and it becomes available in  
**OCTOBER!**

### **How can Student Services help?**

Ms. Susan Waldrum ([swaldrum@wcpss.net](mailto:swaldrum@wcpss.net)) is Wakefield's Financial Aid Advisor. Her role is to assist parents/guardians and students with the Financial Aid Process and she can also assist with the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. Students can make an appointment to see Ms. Waldrum by emailing her at the above address. She is available on THURSDAYS at Wakefield High School.

## **SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION**

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. A monthly scholarship bulletin is available on the WHS Student Services Website and is updated regularly. 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. Warning: Never pay for a scholarship or for scholarship information.

Individual colleges and universities also offer their own 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, Work experience, Honors and achievements, Financial need, Personal Statement



## MILITARY INFORMATION

Representatives from the different branches of the military visit Wakefield High School throughout the year. You can also visit local recruiting stations for more information and/or if you are interested in taking the ASVAB:

- *Wake Forest Recruiting Station: 10427 Ligon Mill Rd, Wake Forest, NC 27587*
- *Raleigh Recruiting Station: 6350 Plantation Center Dr Suite 111, Raleigh, NC 27616*

At other times the Military Representatives may be reached in their Raleigh Offices. For information on all branches of the military and all ROTC programs, go to [www.todaysmilitary.com](http://www.todaysmilitary.com).

<b>Air Force</b>	<b>919.872.7692</b>	<b>www.airforce.com</b>
<b>Army</b>	<b>919.562.4936</b>	<b>www.goarmy.com</b>
<b>Army Reserve</b>	<b>919.562.4936</b>	<b>www.goarmy.com/reserve</b>
<b>Coast Guard</b>	<b>919.878.4008</b>	<b>www.gocoastguard.com</b>
<b>Marines</b>	<b>919.872.9955</b>	<b>www.marines.com</b>
<b>Navy</b>	<b>1-866-628-7327</b>	<b>www.navy.com</b>
<b>Naval Reserve</b>	<b>1-866-628-7327</b>	<b>www.navyreserve.com</b>
<b>N.C. National Guard</b>	<b>919.790.1908</b>	<b>ww.nationalguard.com</b>

The **Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)** is an aptitude test to access 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. You can also email Mrs. Joyner at [sjoyner@wcpss.net](mailto:sjoyner@wcpss.net) if you have questions or for more information about taking the ASVAB test and whether it may be a good option for you.

## SELECTIVE SERVICE REQUIREMENT

All young men in the U.S., with very few exceptions, are required to register with Selective Service within 30 days of turning 18 years old. Registration is federal law. Failure to register is a felony, punishable by a fine of up to \$250,000 and/or five years in jail. Registering with Selective Service is also required in order to remain eligible for many federal and state benefits, including student financial aid, job training, and jobs in the Executive Branch of the federal government. For more information on Selective Service and to complete your registration, go to <http://www.sss.gov>. You may also call toll-free: 1-888-655-1825.

## **Employment After High School**

### **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 available.
- Develop some very necessary job-finding and job-keeping skills.
- You may speak to your counselor or to Ms. Joyner about job possibilities.
- Visit your career center, library and company websites.
- Contact the NC Employment Security Commission located at 700 Wade Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27611 or call 919-733-6700.
- Adapt your resume to reflect the needs of the potential job. Identify skills you possess that the company has in the job posting.

### **CHOOSING A CAREER PATH**

**Career Inventories** – Taking a career inventory can be a good way to begin exploring careers. Inventories often ask you questions about your interests, preferences, and values. They may also ask about your abilities and talents, and perhaps even attempt to measure some of your skills. The PLAN tab at [www.CFNC.org](http://www.CFNC.org) allows you to learn about yourself and to explore careers.

**Career Fairs** – Attend school-sponsored career fairs as well as ones in the community to talk with various professionals in various careers. Pick up brochures and other valuable information at these fairs.

**Informational Interviews** – You may be interested in several careers. One of the challenges of exploring careers is that the descriptions you read on the internet or the impression you have in your mind might not match what that career is like in real life. Consider scheduling some interviews with people who have jobs that you find interesting.

**Job Shadowing** – Another helpful way to see what certain jobs are really like is to job shadow someone. As the term implies, you simply find a person who would be willing to let you follow along while he or she works – typically for a half-day or full day.

**Volunteering** – Maybe an organization or business is not able to offer you a paid job. Volunteering may help you gain experience that you would otherwise not be able to get.