

**Class of 2011**

**Planning Guide**

**2009 – 2010**

Wake County Public School  
System

Office of Counseling and Student  
Services

[www.wcpss.net/cass/counseling](http://www.wcpss.net/cass/counseling)

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## WELCOME BACK JUNIORS!

This planning guide is designed to help you plan a great junior year. There are many people and resources available to help you make the important decisions about your future. Use this guide to help you find information about college loans and scholarships, PSAT and SAT tests, and putting together a resume.

Use the Junior Year Planning Calendar to keep on track with deadlines and planning.

Talk to people about their careers, what they like, what they don't like and think about what you might want to do after high school, and what you need to do to get there.

- Know your graduation and promotion requirements. Most high schools require 26 credits to graduate, (Current juniors at Enloe, Longview, Phillips, Southeast Raleigh, and Wake Early College of Health and Science require 20) and you can review Course of Study options here: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/graduation>
- Know your school counselor.
- Continue to explore career and college options.
- Know how to read and understand your high school transcript.

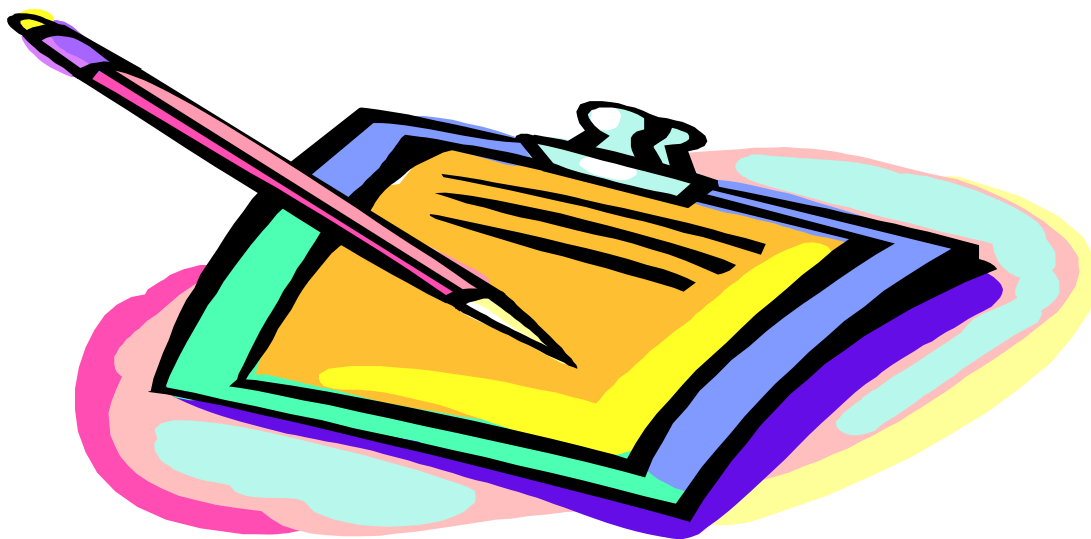
### **Parents:**

Please encourage your student to actively participate in this planning process. You can help them be prepared for the challenges ahead, by helping them invest in planning for their future now.

Thank you to Eric Chancy of Apex High School for updating and maintaining this document.

## Planning tools for the Junior Year

- ◆ The Junior Year Planning Handbook - Use this handbook to guide you through the basic steps of post-secondary planning. Ask questions of your counselors, parents and teachers along the way.
- ◆ PSAT – Sign up for the PSAT and pay the fee to register. It will be administered in October. Your PSAT results will provide you a solid indication of what areas you need to focus on to achieve an appropriate score for college admission. By taking your PSAT in your junior year you will be automatically entered in the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT).
- ◆ SAT/ACT- Both tests are used for admission into colleges/universities throughout the country. In this region of the country, the SAT is more widely used as a standard for admission. Use this website to convert your current ACT score to the SAT Reasoning Test:  
<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/act-sat-concordance-tables.pdf>.  
\*\*NOTE: THIS SITE REFERS TO 1600 LEVEL SCORES.  
It matches the writing portion of the test separately.
- ◆ ASVAB results – Offered by the Armed Services, requires NO military commitment, and provides excellent feedback on career opportunities for you. Find out from the CDC (Career Development Coordinator) at your high school when it is being offered.
- ◆ [www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org) - Referred to throughout this handbook, CFNC provides excellent tools for use throughout the planning process, as well as tools for your parents to use



## Junior Year Planning Calendar

### August-September

- \_\_\_ Review high school course plans and school activities
- \_\_\_ Ensure that you are on track for graduation and college entrance requirements
- \_\_\_ Think about how you will pay for college.
- \_\_\_ Talk to your parents.
- \_\_\_ Schedule a meeting with your counselor.
- \_\_\_ Enroll in honors, AP, and advanced courses if appropriate.
- \_\_\_ Attend College Fair at NC State McKimmon Center on Sept 20<sup>th</sup>

### October

- \_\_\_ Register and pay to take the PSAT
- \_\_\_ Take the PSAT and be entered into the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT) competition.
- \_\_\_ Review academic records (report cards, GPA).

### November

- \_\_\_ Begin to prepare for college entrance essays. What are your interests, educational priorities and special talents?
- \_\_\_ Check on nomination process for military academies if interested. Contact local state-level elected officials.

### December

- \_\_\_ PSAT results are back.
- \_\_\_ Identify college features that suit your needs. These include size, location, majors, financial opportunities and social or cultural activities.
- \_\_\_ Review CFNC.org application process
- \_\_\_ Register for SAT I, ACT or SAT II Subject tests,

### January

- \_\_\_ Look at the dates for the SAT I and ACT dates. Make sure you register if appropriate!

### February

- \_\_\_ Start discussing course selections for senior year with your counselor to ensure you are on track for graduation.
- \_\_\_ Student athletes: research NCAA Clearinghouse requirements.

### March

- \_\_\_ Develop your high school resume. If you are taking an AP exam, make sure you register!

### April

- \_\_\_ Research summer enrichment opportunities and part time jobs.

### May

- \_\_\_ Prepare for final exams. Colleges will see your final grades.

### June

- \_\_\_ Finalize your course selection for Senior year!

### July

- \_\_\_ Visit college campuses

# Junior Planning Checklist

## STUDENTS

- ◆ Register and pay to take the PSAT/NMSQT (your school automatically provides this test).
- ◆ Check the dates and locations of local college fairs.
- ◆ Attend college fairs. WCPSS College Fair is 9/20/09.
- ◆ Take the PSAT
- ◆ Register for challenging course. (i.e., honors, advanced placement)
- ◆ Refine your lists of schools; eliminate the ones that do not meet your criteria.
- ◆ Request catalogs for schools remaining on your list.
- ◆ Visit those schools as well, many offer campus tours.
- ◆ Consider taking SAT prep courses to improve your scores.
- ◆ Register to take the SAT or ACT if appropriate to your post secondary plans.
- ◆ Find out which schools require the SAT II subject tests in addition to the SAT test, there are currently 15 subject tests.
- ◆ Consider volunteer experience in your area of interest.
- ◆ Finalize your list of 6-10 colleges or universities.
- ◆ Note all admissions deadlines.
- ◆ Register for a CFNC.org account to apply online if you don't already have one.
- ◆ Develop a resume and keep it updated. CFNC.org can keep track of all of these things for you.
- ◆ Conduct scholarship research over the summer! You want to start applying for scholarships at the beginning of your senior year!
- ◆ ATHLETES! If you intend to participate in college athletics at a Division I or II school, start your NCAA Clearinghouse application at the END of the Junior Year. There is a staff member in your Student Services department who can assist you with this.

## PARENTS

- ◆ Help your student make realistic goals.
- ◆ Look at the financial costs for various colleges.
- ◆ Have your student start a checklist that includes deadlines and make sure they complete it.
- ◆ Allow your student to make their own future plans.
- ◆ Encourage independence, so that they will complete their own applications.
- ◆ Make sure they keep up their grades and turn in all assignments.
- ◆ Encourage them to do volunteer work and participate in extracurricular activities.
- ◆ Meet with your student's counselor and attend any programs that are offered at the school.
- ◆ Make it possible for your student to visit many schools in his/her list.
- ◆ Teach your student how to advocate for themselves respectfully.
- ◆ Encourage your student to sign up for SAT study courses.
- ◆ Instill in your student the importance of deadlines. They will be crucial in their senior year.

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

- ◆ Post information about volunteer opportunities and summer internships.
- ◆ Update and advertise Scholarship Plus for students looking for scholarships.
- ◆ Meet with Juniors and discuss requirements for both graduation and individual school/college admissions.
- ◆ Invite as many colleges and/or universities to your school as possible.
- ◆ Conduct parent and student workshops that will help with their transitions.
- ◆ Provide SAT, ACT and FAFSA information online.
- ◆ Send out transcripts and student records as requested.
- ◆ Encourage students to make good grades during their junior year as this is an important time to solidify good grades and class rank.
- ◆ Schedule appointments with parents and students to discuss post-secondary planning and appropriate options that meet their needs.

## The College Search Simplified

**WHO:** The student should be doing the primary research – this is his/her college education. Parents should be involved, having active discussions about schools, choices, monetary considerations and monitoring progress.

**WHAT:** Actual usable information that will help facilitate the college planning process.

- 1) Use the College-Choice Worksheet from CFNC to help determine the traits most important to you in a school.
- 2) Take an interest inventory or career assessment if you have not already:  
[http://www1.cfnc.org/Career\\_Center/Career\\_Key/home\\_-\\_Career\\_Key.aspx](http://www1.cfnc.org/Career_Center/Career_Key/home_-_Career_Key.aspx)
- 3) Your major is the primary reason for selecting a school, so make sure that your major(s) is available at the schools your research. For help in finding a college that has your intended major(s), look for the Index of Majors on:  
[www.princetonreview.com/](http://www.princetonreview.com/).
- 4) If you are looking for a North Carolina school, use [www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org) to help you research schools that relate to your specific interests. For schools outside of NC, refer to [www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com) or [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). If you do not have internet access, please use The College Handbook, located in your Student Services office or your Media Center.
- 5) Using the table in this handbook (p 7), fill in the information using the resources listed above.

**WHEN:** All through the junior year.

**WHERE:** Some at school, some at home. Not just one or the other.

**HOW:** Using the tools listed above, as well as contacting colleges directly for information. Please refer to the next two pages for school websites and phone numbers.

There is a huge difference between this “paper” tour of a college that you will create by doing your research, a virtual tour that you might be able to take online and a real, personal tour of the college. Please visit colleges so that you get a true feel for the campus and the level of regular activity. Schedule that visit when school is in session – summer is great for travel, but not to get the real feel for a school.

Did you know that you can first go to a Community College and finish a four-year degree on time through the College Transfer Program? Did you know that you cannot learn firefighting at a four-year UNC system school, but that our UNC system Community Colleges have this curriculum? Make sure that your college choice very accurately reflects your individual career goals and intentions! Two-year schools present some very attractive options for students who are not ready to pay the costs of a four-year university, or might like to explore other vocational interest options, even while accumulating college-transferable credits.

## College Comparison Worksheet

<b>College Name</b>			
<b>Location</b> -distance from home			
<b>Expenses</b> -tuition, room, board -est. total budget -application fee, deposit			
<b>Size</b> -enrollment			
<b>Environment</b> -type of school -setting (rural/urban) -size of nearest city -coed/single-sex -religious affiliation			
<b>Admission Requirements</b> -deadlines -tests needed -avg. GPA, rank, SAT -notification date			
<b>Academics</b> -my major offered? -accreditation -student-faculty ratio -avg. class size			
<b>Financial Aid</b> -deadlines -school-specific form? -% receiving aid -scholarships?			
<b>Housing</b> -guaranteed freshman housing? -meal plan			
<b>Facilities</b> -academic -recreational -other			
<b>Activities</b> -clubs, organizations -Greek life -athletics/intramurals -study abroad			

## College Visit Information

You have made it to your junior year and the time has come for you to decide where you will be after you graduate from high school. Junior year is a great time to go visit potential colleges of your choice. First, call admissions to check when each college has their open house so that you will be able to get a first class tour. You need to start doing this early. The time to start applying will be here before you know it. A lot of college admission counselors will also meet individually with you and your parents to talk to you about your school. The more you are familiar with student life, academics and the campus in general the better off you will be to make a sound decision. Admissions can arrange to introduce you to upperclassmen and professors, and help you to determine your level of comfort with the school.

There are also other benefits to visiting colleges in your junior year. You will know what classes you need to sign up for in your senior year and what grades/GPA may be necessary for admission. Knowing the range of G.P.A and SAT scores of the current year's freshmen class will be very helpful to you.

Once you have narrowed your list of colleges, set up campus visits in your senior year.

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR VISIT**

1. Pick a time to visit when classes are in session so that you can see the student interaction on campus.
2. See if they allow overnight visits in a dormitory or residence hall.
3. If you are interested in a sport, try to make contact with the coach of that sport.
4. Pick up a copy of the Campus Catalog and/or School Newspaper.
5. Talk to the students that actually attend the school.
6. Find out the cost to attend per year and the Financial Aid process.
7. Verify admission requirements and what is required for acceptance.
8. Check to see which programs are the most well-known.

### **QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CAMPUS TOUR GUIDE**

1. How do students fit in here?
2. What student organizations are open to freshmen?
3. How adequate are the research facilities and student union?
4. What is the percentage of classes that are taught by a professor versus a Teaching Assistant?
5. What are the housing options for freshmen? How many students live off campus?
6. Why did you choose this particular college?
7. How accessible are the college professors?
8. What are the biggest issues on campus?
9. What are the courses that present the biggest challenge for freshmen?
10. How are the dining facilities on campus?
11. Are freshman allowed to have cars on campus?

#### 4-year UNC System Schools

College	Website
Appalachian	<a href="http://www.appstate.edu">www.appstate.edu</a>
East Carolina University	<a href="http://www.ecu.edu">www.ecu.edu</a>
Elizabeth City State Univ.	<a href="http://www.ecsu.edu">www.ecsu.edu</a>
Fayetteville State University	<a href="http://www.uncfsu.edu">www.uncfsu.edu</a>
NC A&T University	<a href="http://www.ncat.edu">www.ncat.edu</a>
NC Central University	<a href="http://www.nccu.edu">www.nccu.edu</a>
NC School of the Arts	<a href="http://www.ncarts.edu">www.ncarts.edu</a>
NC State University	<a href="http://www.ncsu.edu">www.ncsu.edu</a>
UNC Asheville	<a href="http://www.unca.edu">www.unca.edu</a>
UNC Chapel Hill	<a href="http://www.unc.edu">www.unc.edu</a>
UNC Charlotte	<a href="http://www.uncc.edu">www.uncc.edu</a>
UNC Greensboro	<a href="http://www.uncg.edu">www.uncg.edu</a>
UNC Pembroke	<a href="http://www.uncp.edu">www.uncp.edu</a>
UNC Wilmington	<a href="http://www.uncwil.edu">www.uncwil.edu</a>
Western Carolina Univ.	<a href="http://www.wcu.edu">www.wcu.edu</a>
Winston-Salem State Univ.	<a href="http://www.wssu.edu">www.wssu.edu</a>

#### 4-year Private NC Schools

College	Website
Barton College	<a href="http://www.barton.edu">www.barton.edu</a>
Belmont Abbey	<a href="http://www.bac.edu">www.bac.edu</a>
Bennett College	<a href="http://www.bennett.edu">www.bennett.edu</a>
Brevard College	<a href="http://www.brevard.edu">www.brevard.edu</a>
Campbell University	<a href="http://www.campbell.edu">www.campbell.edu</a>
Chowan College	<a href="http://www.chowan.edu">www.chowan.edu</a>
Davidson College	<a href="http://www.davidson.edu">www.davidson.edu</a>
Duke University	<a href="http://www.duke.edu">www.duke.edu</a>
Elon University	<a href="http://www.elon.edu">www.elon.edu</a>
Gardner-Webb University	<a href="http://www.gardner-webb.edu">www.gardner-webb.edu</a>
Greensboro College	<a href="http://www.greensborocollege.edu">www.greensborocollege.edu</a>
Guilford College	<a href="http://www.guilford.edu">www.guilford.edu</a>
High Point University	<a href="http://www.highpoint.edu">www.highpoint.edu</a>
Johnson C. Smith Univ.	<a href="http://www.jcsu.edu">www.jcsu.edu</a>
Lenoir-Rhyne College	<a href="http://www.lrc.edu">www.lrc.edu</a>
Louisburg College	<a href="http://www.louisburg.edu">www.louisburg.edu</a>
Mars Hill College	<a href="http://www.mhc.edu">www.mhc.edu</a>
Meredith College	<a href="http://www.meredith.edu">www.meredith.edu</a>
Methodist College	<a href="http://www.methodist.edu">www.methodist.edu</a>
Montreat College	<a href="http://www.montreat.edu">www.montreat.edu</a>
Mount Olive College	<a href="http://www.mountolive.edu">www.mountolive.edu</a>
North Carolina Wesleyan College	<a href="http://www.nwc.edu">www.nwc.edu</a>
Peace College	<a href="http://www.peace.edu">www.peace.edu</a>
Pfeiffer University	<a href="http://www.pfeiffer.edu">www.pfeiffer.edu</a>
Piedmont Baptist College	<a href="http://www.pbc.edu/ps/ps_Default.aspx">http://www.pbc.edu/ps/ps_Default.aspx</a>
Queens College	<a href="http://www.queens.edu">www.queens.edu</a>
Salem College	<a href="http://www.salem.edu">www.salem.edu</a>

St. Andrews Presbyterian	<a href="http://www.sapc.edu">www.sapc.edu</a>
St. Augustine's College	<a href="http://www.st-aug.edu">www.st-aug.edu</a>
Wake Forest University	<a href="http://www.wfu.edu">www.wfu.edu</a>
Warren Wilson College	<a href="http://www.warren-wilson.edu">www.warren-wilson.edu</a>
Wingate University	<a href="http://www.wingate.edu">www.wingate.edu</a>

## 2-year NC Community College and Technical Schools

School	Website
Alamance Community College	<a href="http://www.alamance.cc.nc.us">www.alamance.cc.nc.us</a>
Asheville-Buncombe Tech Comm. College	<a href="http://www.abtech.edu">www.abtech.edu</a>
Beaufort County Community College	<a href="http://www.beaufort.cc.nc.us">www.beaufort.cc.nc.us</a>
Bladen Community College	<a href="http://www.bladen.cc.nc.us">www.bladen.cc.nc.us</a>
Blue Ridge Community College	<a href="http://www.blueridge.edu">www.blueridge.edu</a>
Brunswick Community College	<a href="http://www.brunswick.cc.nc.us">www.brunswick.cc.nc.us</a>
Caldwell Comm. Coll. & Tech. Institute	<a href="http://www.cccti.edu">www.cccti.edu</a>
Cape Fear Community College	<a href="http://www.cfcc.edu">www.cfcc.edu</a>
Carteret Community College	<a href="http://www.carteret.edu">www.carteret.edu</a>
Catawba Valley Community College	<a href="http://www.cvcc.edu">www.cvcc.edu</a>
Central Carolina Community College	<a href="http://www.cccc.edu">www.cccc.edu</a>
Central Piedmont Community College	<a href="http://www.cpcc.edu">www.cpcc.edu</a>
Cleveland Community College	<a href="http://www.cleveland.cc.nc.us">www.cleveland.cc.nc.us</a>
Coastal Carolina Community College	<a href="http://www.coastalcarolina.edu">www.coastalcarolina.edu</a>
College of The Albemarle	<a href="http://www.albemarle.edu">www.albemarle.edu</a>
Craven Community College	<a href="http://www.cravencc.edu">www.cravencc.edu</a>
Davidson County Community College	<a href="http://www.davidson.cc.nc.us">www.davidson.cc.nc.us</a>
Durham Technical Community College	<a href="http://www.durhamtech.edu">www.durhamtech.edu</a>
Edgecombe Community College	<a href="http://www.edgecombe.edu">www.edgecombe.edu</a>
Fayetteville Technical Community College	<a href="http://www.faytechcc.edu">www.faytechcc.edu</a>
Forsyth Technical Community College	<a href="http://www.forsythtech.edu">www.forsythtech.edu</a>
Gaston College	<a href="http://www.gaston.edu">www.gaston.edu</a>
Guilford Technical Community College	<a href="http://www.gtcc.edu">www.gtcc.edu</a>
Halifax Community College	<a href="http://www.halifaxcc.edu">www.halifaxcc.edu</a>
Haywood Community College	<a href="http://www.haywood.edu">www.haywood.edu</a>
Isothermal Community College	<a href="http://www.isoothermal.edu">www.isoothermal.edu</a>
James Sprunt Community College	<a href="http://www.sprunt.com">www.sprunt.com</a>
Johnston Community College	<a href="http://www.johnstoncc.edu">www.johnstoncc.edu</a>
Lenoir Community College	<a href="http://www.lenoircc.edu">www.lenoircc.edu</a>
Martin Community College	<a href="http://www.martincc.edu">www.martincc.edu</a>
Mayland Community College	<a href="http://www.mayland.edu">www.mayland.edu</a>
McDowell Technical Community College	<a href="http://www.mcdowelltech.edu">www.mcdowelltech.edu</a>
Mitchell Community College	<a href="http://www.mitchellcc.edu">www.mitchellcc.edu</a>
Montgomery Community College	<a href="http://www.montgomery.edu">www.montgomery.edu</a>
Nash Community College	<a href="http://www.nashcc.edu">www.nashcc.edu</a>
Pamlico Community College	<a href="http://www.pamlico.cc.nc.us">www.pamlico.cc.nc.us</a>
Piedmont Community College	<a href="http://www.piedmontcc.edu">www.piedmontcc.edu</a>
Pitt Community College	<a href="http://www.pittcc.edu">www.pittcc.edu</a>
Randolph Community College	<a href="http://www.randolph.edu">www.randolph.edu</a>
Richmond Community College	<a href="http://www.richmondcc.edu">www.richmondcc.edu</a>

Roanoke-Chowan Community College	<a href="http://www.roanokechowan.edu">www.roanokechowan.edu</a>
Robeson Community College	<a href="http://www.robeson.cc.nc.us">www.robeson.cc.nc.us</a>
Rockingham Community College	<a href="http://www.rockinghamcc.edu">www.rockinghamcc.edu</a>
Rowan-Cabarrus Community College	<a href="http://www.rowancabarrus.edu">www.rowancabarrus.edu</a>
Sampson Community College	<a href="http://www.sampsoncc.edu">www.sampsoncc.edu</a>
Sandhills Community College	<a href="http://www.sandhills.edu">www.sandhills.edu</a>
South Piedmont Community College	<a href="http://www.spcc.edu">www.spcc.edu</a>
Southeastern Community College	<a href="http://www.scnc.edu">www.scnc.edu</a>
Southwestern Community College	<a href="http://www.southwesterncc.edu">www.southwesterncc.edu</a>
Stanly Community College	<a href="http://www.stanly.edu">www.stanly.edu</a>
Surry Community College	<a href="http://www.surry.edu">www.surry.edu</a>
Tri-County Community College	<a href="http://www.tricountycc.edu">www.tricountycc.edu</a>
Vance-Granville Community College	<a href="http://www.vgcc.edu">www.vgcc.edu</a>
Wake Technical Community College	<a href="http://www.waketech.edu">www.waketech.edu</a>
Wayne Community College	<a href="http://www.waynecc.edu">www.waynecc.edu</a>
Western Piedmont Community College	<a href="http://www.wpcc.edu">www.wpcc.edu</a>
Wilkes Community College	<a href="http://www.wilkescc.edu">www.wilkescc.edu</a>
Wilson Technical Community College	<a href="http://www.wilsoncc.edu/">http://www.wilsoncc.edu/</a>



## Financial Aid Quiz

- 1) We can't qualify for any student loans. T F
- 2) Everyone is eligible for Financial Aid. T F
- 3) I don't need to submit the FAFSA form to receive aid. T F
- 4) There is a fee to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. T F
- 5) Scholarships are reserved only for those who are academically talented. T F
- 6) Individual schools do not need more information than what is on the application for me to receive financial aid. T F
- 7) My job off-campus can qualify as work-study. T F
- 8) Unsubsidized loans are loans where the federal government pays the interest while I am in college. T F
- 9) If I quit school, my loans are not due to be paid back until six months after I would have graduated. T F
- 10) There are no opportunities for scholarship available to me as a junior. T F



## **Financial Aid for Juniors**

The best financial aid you can receive is through your own good planning! As a junior, the smartest thing you can do is find out what financial aid is out there for you, when it is due, and prepare your materials accordingly (including a resume or activity sheet, detailed later in this handbook). Most scholarship opportunities take place in the senior year – however, there are a few opportunities out there for juniors, particularly at individual colleges and universities sponsoring junior programs.

First and foremost, **DON'T PAY ANYONE FOR SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION!** If you receive a letter in the mail about your “appointment”, ignore it. There are a lot of scams out there that will take you for several hundred to several thousand dollars, and give you less information than you can receive for free from your high school.

There are two types of financial aid: Gift-based aid and Need-based aid

Gift-based aid comes in two forms: scholarships and grants.

How can I best prepare for scholarships?

- Get good grades
- Participate in extracurricular activities, particularly things in which you have a serious interest.
- Be involved in your community, and take leadership roles.
- Start digging for scholarships, even though many will not be available to you as a junior – the point is to be ready for them as a senior!

Who can get a scholarship? Many people miss out on opportunities because they simply don't look in places close to home:

- 1) What major will you pursue? Who has scholarships related to your major?
- 2) Do you work? If so, does your employer have a scholarship available?
- 3) Do your parents work? If so, do their employers have scholarships available?
- 4) Are your parents members of any professional organizations that sponsor scholarships? **ASK!**
- 5) Are you or your parents members of any organizations – Boy Scouts, CASL Soccer, Lions Club, Rotary Clubs, etc.
- 6) Are either of your parents – and in some cases grandparents – veterans of active military service? **ASK!**
- 7) Have you examined your ethnic heritage for possible scholarship opportunities sponsored by ethnic-based organizations?
- 8) Do you have a special need or talent? Any special medical conditions – diabetes, learning disabilities or any disability that severely affects major life functions such as learning, working, etc.
- 9) **ESSAYS** – people hate to write them, and so they often lack applications.
- 10) Make sure you fill out college-specific financial aid forms – many schools have their own forms aside from the generic FAFSA form mentioned below.

You can perform scholarship searches on the following websites:

[www.scholarshipplus.com/wake](http://www.scholarshipplus.com/wake)

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org)

Grants primarily depend on your EFC (Estimated Family Contribution) from the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form. You cannot actually fill out the FAFSA until January of your senior year. HOWEVER, you can encourage your parents to schedule a meeting with the **Financial Aid Advisor** at your high school, to use the financial aid calculators and planning tools available on [www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org) and to meet with their financial advisor/planner if they have one.

Need-based aid comes in two forms: employment and loans.

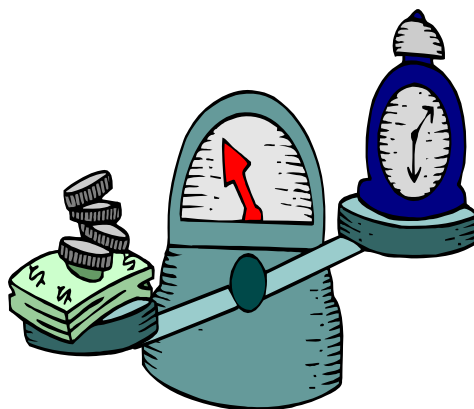
To be eligible for need-based aid, you must fill out the FAFSA form. If you, or your parents would like to review the FAFSA, please visit [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). **DO NOT PAY ANYONE FOR FAFSA SUBMISSION!** It is a free form, and many companies are happy to charge you to submit it for you.

Employment will typically be an on-campus position, monitoring the front entrance of a dormitory, or working in a business office, or almost anywhere that a need arises on campus. You will be paid by the school.

Loans come in all shapes and sizes, but there are two key words: subsidized and unsubsidized. Subsidized loans are essentially interest-free until you finish school OR are not a full-time student for six months. (If you leave school, six months later you are expected to start paying back the loans!) Unsubsidized loans wind up being more expensive, because they accrue interest the whole time you are in school, even though you do not start paying them back until you are six months out of school, finished or not.

	Subsidized loan	Unsubsidized loan
Original Amount	5000	5000
Interest rate	4.17%	4.17%
Interest while in school	\$0	\$768+-
Amount owed upon graduation	5000	5768

It may not make a big difference to you now, but what if you have to borrow this amount and more to finance school? It makes financial sense to fill out the appropriate paperwork in order to reduce the amount of interest you will have due in the end.



**Student resume activity sheet** – compliments of WCPSS Postsecondary Planning Guide

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 school counselor may use your resume (during your senior year) to write recommendations and to help you with the scholarship process. Each senior is encouraged to have a resume and share with the counselor.

Your resume should be in a format that best highlights your experience, education and interests. A sample/template is included on the next page.

One possible resume format will include the following sections:

Heading: Name, Address, Telephone, email

Skills: Technical and Computer Skills, People Skills, Language Skills, Work Skills, Certifications

Education: Specialized classes or training, expected graduation from MHS

Experience: Volunteer and paid work, special projects you have completed

Activities: School and community activities in which you have participated (include dates, offices and awards)

Interests: Cover anything not in “Activities”

References: At least two non-family persons who can say great things about you, your character and your work

To create an online resume, visit [CFNC.org](http://CFNC.org) and click on the Student Planner tab. You will need to create a USERNAME to use the High School Planner feature.

# First Last

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Skills List here the skills that you have (Cad Drafting, Culinary Arts, etc.)

Work and volunteer experience List here any working experience (McDonald's, clerical work, etc.) you have as well as volunteer experience (church, Habitat for Humanity, etc.)

Education 19xx - 19xx Apex High School Apex, NC  
Working toward high school diploma  
6) [ Details of position, award, or achievement. ]

Interests and activities List your extracurricular activities and hobbies.

References List here three people who know you well and their phone numbers.

## **Summer opportunities**

Many colleges and universities have individual summer opportunities that allow students to involve themselves in a career interest, often for a small fee or even for free. Often, those opportunities are not widely publicized, and students miss out. For a list of summer opportunities, please visit [www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org), and click "Search CFNC", then type in "summer opportunities".

Don't stop there! If you don't know of anything that is readily available, ask around! Start with Student Services, and no one said that you couldn't call the radio station or the Town Planning department yourself!

Also, there are many volunteer opportunities available, depending on your interest and level of commitment (how often you are willing to participate). You can job shadow or participate in an internship over the summer, but summer is a great time to show you are more than an academic student, and that you are interested in and worthy of a chance to go to the school of your choice.

Other summer opportunities can be found at individual school institutions by using the websites listed in the college planning section of this handbook.

## Comprehensive Guides

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

### **The College Board**

Contains information on College Board testing, admissions, financial aid, and scholarships.

### **US News College Center**

[www.usnews.com/sections/rankings](http://www.usnews.com/sections/rankings)

College rankings and admissions and financial aid information.

### **Peterson's**

Search colleges by GPA, tuition, sports and more.

[www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)

## College Search Sites

### **Counselor-o-matic**

Information on colleges, scholarships, and the Princeton Review

[www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)

### **College View**

Information on colleges, scholarships, and careers.

[www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com)

### **FAFSA on the Web**

Application for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

### **FastWEB**

A free, searchable scholarship database.

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

### **College Foundation of North Carolina**

General information on the financial aid process. Apply directly to UNC-system schools; keep track of extracurricular activities; and much more

[www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org)

### **NCAA**

Information for student athletes who plan to play in college.

[www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)