

Frequently Asked Questions: College Application Edition

Common App, CFNC, or School Website?

There are 3 ways to apply to college:

1. **CommonApp** allows you to fill out one application and send it to multiple schools. Not all schools accept the CommonApp, but many do. You may be asked to fill out supplemental information for specific schools. This is typically the best and most convenient option for students & counselors.
2. **CFNC** allows you to apply to any school in NC separately. Many of these schools are part of the CommonApp so you do not need to fill out the application more than once. This is most likely the best option if you are applying to a school that is not on the CommonApp.
3. For **out-of-state schools** that do not accept the CommonApp, you will need to apply directly through that school's **website**.

Weighted or Unweighted GPA?

Always report your weighted GPA unless the specifically asked for unweighted GPA.

What is the grading scale?

We go by the 4.0 grading scale - even if your gpa is higher than 4.0

What is the Residential Determination Service?

If you are applying to a state supported college or university in NC and claiming NC residency (that you are a NC resident), you must use the Residential Determination Service. This service takes you through steps to prove that you are a NC resident and are eligible for in-state tuition. At the end of this you will receive your Residency Certification Number (RCN) which you will enter on college applications.

Should I waive my right to read my recommendation letters from teachers?

Yes. This shows that you are confident that your teachers have positive remarks about you. Refusing to waive your right may send a red flag to the college/university.

Do I list Ms. Carlton as my adviser or school counselor?

Ms. Carlton is your SCHOOL COUNSELOR.

It is VERY important that you input her name and email on this portion of your CommonApp. This links your student application with her counselor account which allows her to submit important documents on your behalf.

What if I have more extra-curricular activities than the application allows?

For most schools on the CommonApp, you are allowed to enter 5 honors and 10 activities. Do your best to fill each of these slots. If you have more than 10 activities or 5 honors, try combining multiple things by common themes. Take this portion of the application very seriously.

Examples of honors: Secretary of SGA, Most Improved in Basketball, Most Outstanding Student in Biology, Eagle Scout, Brown Belt Taekwondo

Examples of activities: Beta Club, Special Olympics Volunteer, Part-time Job, Community Service, Sports, Enrichment Programs, Mission Trips

****Be sure to describe each activity as fully and detailed as possible!**

When are college applications due?

Admissions deadlines are different for each college. It is important that you keep a list of each college and their deadline. Early Action deadlines for many schools are as early as Nov. 1 or Nov. 15. Regular deadlines may be Jan. 1.

What is due by the application deadline?

Everything! All required materials must be submitted **PRIOR** to the application deadline. A complete application includes:

- **Residency Determination Service**
- All components of the **Online Application** & click submit (including activities, honors, and essay)
- **ACT/SAT test scores received by college**
- **Letters of recommendation received by college**
- **Transcript received by college**
- Paid application **fee** OR **fee waiver**

How do I send my transcript?

In state:

Go to cfnc.org > Click "Apply" > Click "Apply to College" > Click "Application Hub" > Click "Request a Transcript" > Enter personal information and select college

Out of state:

Go see Ms. Carlton and ask her to print, sign, and seal an official transcript for you. You will then mail this to the college admissions office.

Do I still have to pay to send my SAT/ACT score if I chose to self-report my scores on my application?

Yes. Self-report is great, but not official. You must send an official score report.

How do I send my ACT score?

Go to act.org

How do I send my SAT score?

GO to collegeboard.com

How many scores should I send?

As many as you want. Most schools "superscore" which means they take your best score in each subcategory (math, reading, english, etc.) across multiple tests and combine them to create your Super Score. They will disregard lower scores.

How do I fill out the section about my academic course history?

Ask Ms. Carlton for an unofficial copy of your transcript. Enter information exactly as it is shown on your transcript.

Should I take the SAT/ACT again?

Go talk to Ms. Carlton