



Pisgah High School Counseling Center:
SENIOR PLANNING GUIDE
2018-19

Make sure you are connected to
Counseling Center information:

Text @p^hs19 grads to 81010

Considering college? **THE SUMMER CHECKLIST**

- **Narrow down your career interests.** Talk with friends/family, try to visit or interview employers with jobs you find interesting, or complete a career inventory at <https://www.cfnc.org>. Research colleges that offer your “major” or program area. ***If you do not have a CFNC account, create one now. Many NC colleges’ applications are accessible only through CFNC.***
- As you research, also keep in mind:
 - **Cost:** Consider tuition per year as well as other fees like room, board, books, etc. Note whether the school is in-state (less expensive due to your tax support), out-of-state, or private (not subsidized by your tax dollars—but MAY offer more aid).
 - **Financial Aid:** ***Each school’s website should indicate how they award financial aid, if other applications are necessary, and deadlines.***
 - **Application deadline(s):** Many schools have multiple deadlines, but some scholarships are only considered for early applicants—and many schools will notify earlier applicants of admissions decisions first. Learn more about typical deadlines for NC colleges / universities at https://www.cfnc.org/static/pdf/home/sc/pdf/admissions_deadlines.pdf
 - **Admissions Tests:** All NC students take the ACT in February or March of their junior year for free. Do you plan to take it again? Do you plan to take the SAT? Are there any other tests that your school OR program of study recommends? (ACT / SAT considered but not required at community college.)
- Keep an open mind:
 - **Not interested in YEARS of college?** Many career opportunities open up to students who complete a 1 semester certificate, 1 year diploma, or a 2-year associate’s degree at a community college...
 - **Concerned about the cost?** Many students choose to complete the first two years of a bachelor’s (4 year) degree at a community college. “College transfer” can save students thousands of dollars. Learn more at <https://www.haywood.edu/counseling/college-transfer-counseling/transferring-to-a-four-year-university>
 - **Interested in employability?** Many of the fastest growing career opportunities (including MANY health care fields as well as opportunities in technology and manufacturing) can be accessed with a community college program! (Be aware that the more competitive programs may have earlier deadlines.)
- **When you return to school in August, we hope you have a list of approximately 3 to 5 schools in mind:** Make sure you have at least one pretty safe choice (you have researched their expectations of applicants and you should safely gain admission). We encourage you to also have a “dream” school in mind! Keep in mind that most 4 year schools do expect applicants to pay an “application fee” so most students will set a reasonable limit for themselves. (A limited number of fee waivers may be available to eligible students, but you should apply early. You may see your counselor in the fall if you have questions.)
- **If possible, try to VISIT at least one college campus this summer.** You might be able to visit a classroom, talk with an instructor, meet with students, sit with an admissions or financial aid representative, see a dorm (if applicable), or eat in the cafeteria! Learn about annual college “Open House” Events at https://www.cfnc.org/static/pdf/home/sc/pdf/admissions_deadlines.pdf
- **Go ahead and complete your Residency Determination! *This is the first step in the college application process for any 2-year or 4-year school in North Carolina.*** There will be several questions that will require you to consult with your parent/guardian, but completing this process is the only way to qualify for in-state tuition at public colleges / universities. Learn more at <https://ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyInfo/>,
- **Draft your “resume”:** When you start applying to colleges, for scholarships, or for employment, you will be asked for a list of activities that paint a picture of who you are and how you spend your time. Include formal and informal leadership as well as time commitment to part time work, extracurricular involvement (school and community), volunteer service, group OR individual “wins.” Go ahead and make a draft of your resume this summer, and ask several adults to proof it. Does it make sense? Are there grammatical or spelling errors? Have you omitted anything “cool” that you do? Help formatting can be found online: ***Be concise and emphasize what makes you unique!***
- **Get a notebook:** You will need ONE place for acceptance letters (***which may also contain your username / password for more information online, important dates, next steps***), online account user id / passwords (you WILL create a lot and will need to store them safely), scholarship applications, upcoming deadlines, copies of financial documents for quick reference, and more!
- **Update your email:** Make sure you have a professional-sounding email address for applications that will be accessible after you graduate—and that you check it regularly.
- **Monitor use of social media!** Yes-- employers, college admissions counselors, financial aid officers, and scholarship programs DO look up applicants.
- **Thinking about application essays?** Not all applications will require an essay, but the Common Application (used by many schools) will. You can take a look at their prompts early at <https://www.commonapp.org/whats-appening/application-updates/2018-2019-common-application-essay-prompts!>

Mark your calendar!

COMING EVENTS:

Senior Portraits: Contact Russ Parker with Epic Photography (Waynesville) to make an appointment for your senior picture. Call 828.627.8238 or email starfirephoto@gmail.com. *You must have your drape / tux photo taken (even if you do not purchase) for the yearbook.*

Senior Ads for Yearbook: (This is optional.) Information is attached.

Senior Night: Tuesday, September 4, 6 PM, PHS Auditorium. Informational meeting for PHS seniors and their families about the college application process, applying for scholarships, and planning for employment. (Representatives will be available from a 2-year school, a 4-year school, and the military for families with questions.)

College Fair: Monday, September 10, 6 to 7:30 PM at Haywood Community College. Typically over 40 2-year and 4-year college representatives are available to meet with students and families.

Financial Aid Night: October 1, Auditorium at HCC, 6PM. Learn about the Financial Aid process and the importance of the FAFSA.

For incoming college students Fall 2019, FAFSA Opens: October 1: The "Free Application for Federal Student Aid" is the first step for most college financial aid decisions and the ONLY way to be considered for federal financial aid. Even if you think you won't qualify for federal loans or grants, you should still complete the FAFSA to demonstrate your interest in state grants and college / university based scholarships. The application can be completed at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

College Application Week: October 15-19. Many private colleges in NC will waive their application fee during College Application Week. PHS Counselors will schedule a day in the computer lab to assist students with completing an online college application.

FAFSA Day: Saturday, October 27. Families who need help completing the FAFSA will be able to make an appointment at HCC with a financial aid specialist.

Interested in playing a sport at the college level? Have you completed your eligibility? The **NCAA Eligibility** Center certifies whether prospective college athletes are **eligible** to play sports at **NCAA** Division I or II institutions. It does this by reviewing the student-athlete's academic record, SAT® or ACT scores, and amateur status to ensure conformity with **NCAA** rules. Create an account and learn more at https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/?DB_OEM_ID=9600. (Fee waivers may be available to eligible students.)

Are you considering the military?

There are a number of ROTC Scholarships to help students pay for their college education and ensure employment with the military when they graduate. Those applications typically have fall deadlines, so take a look now! <https://www.todaysmilitary.com/training/rotc>

Do you want to learn more about on-the-job training with the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, or National Guard? See your counselor for recruiter contact information or learn more at <https://www.todaysmilitary.com/contact-a-recruiter>

To Test (again) or NOT to Test?

ACT registration, online review, and test dates / locations are located at <https://www.act.org>. It is very important that you locate your ACT ID number (top of your March 2018 ACT score) and enter it (when requested) in your next ACT registration. This will ensure you have ONE account (linked to your last score) rather than two unrelated accounts. Even if you like your March 2018 score, many colleges will offer scholarships based solely on test scores and GPA, so it might be to your advantage to test again.

SAT registration, online review, and test dates / locations are located at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>. Students can access free personalized test prep through Khan Academy on the SAT's website.

Both tests offer fee waiver options for qualifying students. If you think you might be eligible (for example, you qualify for free / reduced lunch) see your counselor for more information!

TEST	DATE	Registration Deadline
ACT	July 14	June 15
ACT	September 8	August 10
ACT (at PHS!)	October 27	September 28
SAT	August 25	July 27
SAT (at PHS!)	October 6	September 7
SAT	November 3	October 5

If you test with accommodations, you must see Mrs. Inman *before* test registration to complete documentation required to be considered for testing accommodations on the ACT / SAT.