



# *AFHS College Night 2024*

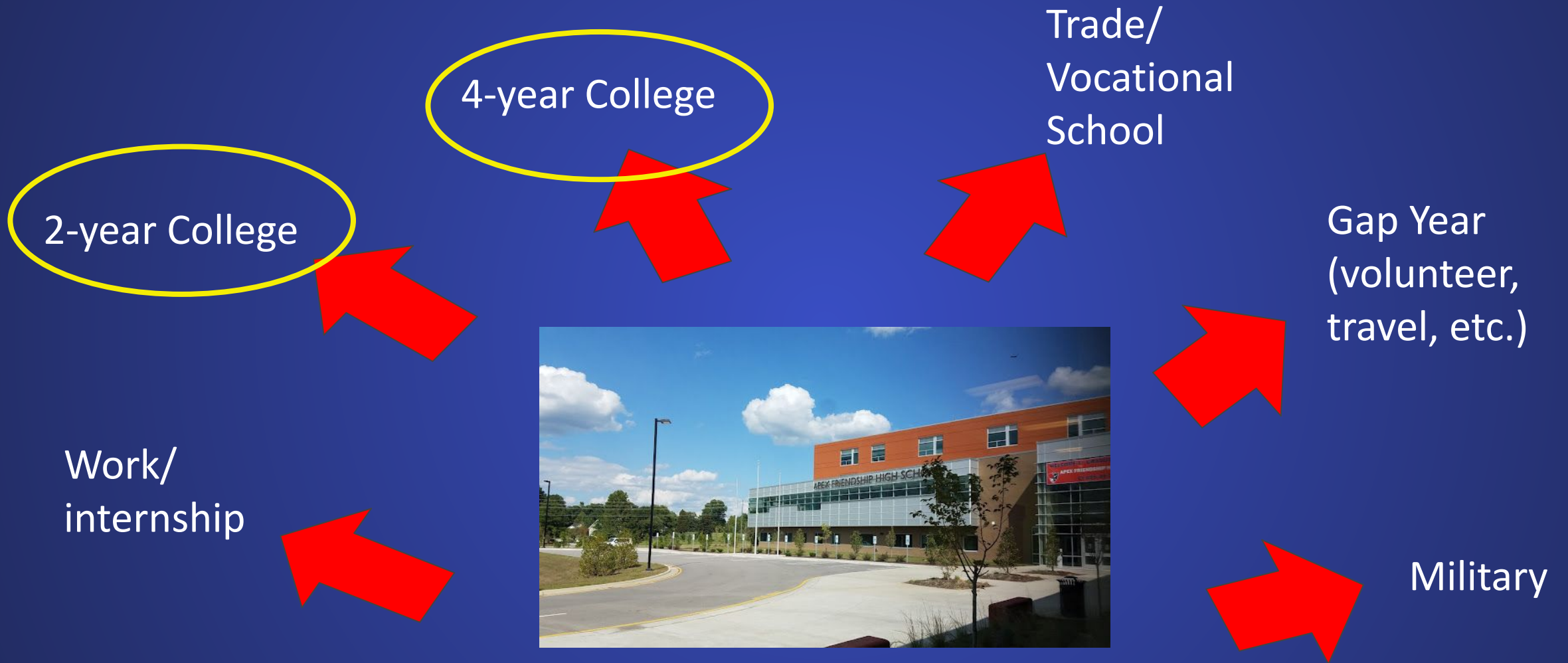
*Preparing for College Applications*  
*April 16, 2024*

# Welcome!



- Introduction
- College Application Overview
- Financial Aid Overview
- College Panel
- Closing

# What is next? Post-High School Options



# University Transfer

- Seamless transfer pathways with 50+ NC public and private institutions.
  - Associate in Arts
  - Associate in Sciences
- 2+2 programs for Associate in Applied Science program graduate
- Associate in Engineering transfer pathway partners:
  - East Carolina University
  - NC A&T State University
  - NC State University
  - UNC Charlotte
  - Western Carolina University
- Associate in Fine Arts transfer pathway partners:
  - Appalachian State University
  - East Carolina University
  - UNC Asheville
  - UNC Chapel Hill
  - UNC Charlotte
  - UNC Greensboro
  - Western Carolina University
  - Savannah College of Art & Design

Find out more at [transfer.waketech.edu](https://transfer.waketech.edu)

# Common App – Getting started...

Dashboard My Colleges Common App College Search Financial Aid Resources

## Common App walkthrough

for first-year students

Need help?



I already submitted, can I change some of my answers?  
You can submit at any time and change your answers for any question in the Common App for the following reasons:


Yes  
 No

Clear answer

common app


# CFNC Application Info

ESPAÑOL EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS FAFSA TOOLS ABOUT US CONTACT US LOG IN

[Plan Your Future](#) [Apply to College](#) [Pay for College](#) [Save for College](#) 


## College Application Resources


You are welcome to use the free CFNC college application resources included in the pages below.



### Practice Application

Take advantage of our practice application to help prepare for when you apply.


**Start Today!** 



### Admissions Deadlines

Don't miss the date to apply for the school of your choice!

**Know Your Deadlines!**



### Admissions Essay Tips

Avoid the pitfalls when writing your admissions essay.

**Get Tips On Writing Your Best Essay!**

Application Hub

HS Spring Career and College Steps

NC Countdown to College

Adult Learners and Nontraditional Students

Residency Determination

Get Recruited

**College Application Resources**

Practice Application

Schools That Provide e-Transcripts

Admissions Essay Tips

College Application FAQ

Apply to College: Contact

# *Factors Considered in College Admissions*

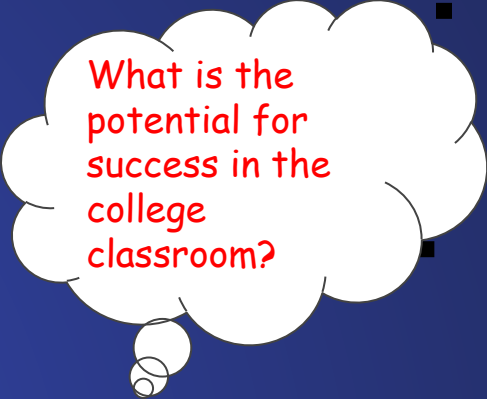
## *Academic Performance*

- Academic Rigor
- GPA/Class Rank
- Test Scores

## *Personal Characteristics*

- Essays
- Extracurricular Activities
- Letters of Recommendation

# Academic Performance



What is the potential for success in the college classroom?

## Transcript

- ❖ Do course selections and class performance demonstrate
  - Preparation for college level work?
  - Student took advantage of available rigor/ choose to challenge themselves?
- ❖ Level of academic rigor looked for depends on the college/program
- ❖ Senior schedule

## Test Scores

- ❖ UNC System schools have not determined if they will remain test-optional beyond the 2024 application cycle.
- ❖ For test-optional schools, scores can only enhance application
- ❖ Students are encouraged to test
- ❖ Not all schools are test optional or will remain test optional

Next **SAT**: May 4  
([4/19 registration deadline](#))

Next **ACT**: June 8  
([5/3 registration deadline](#))



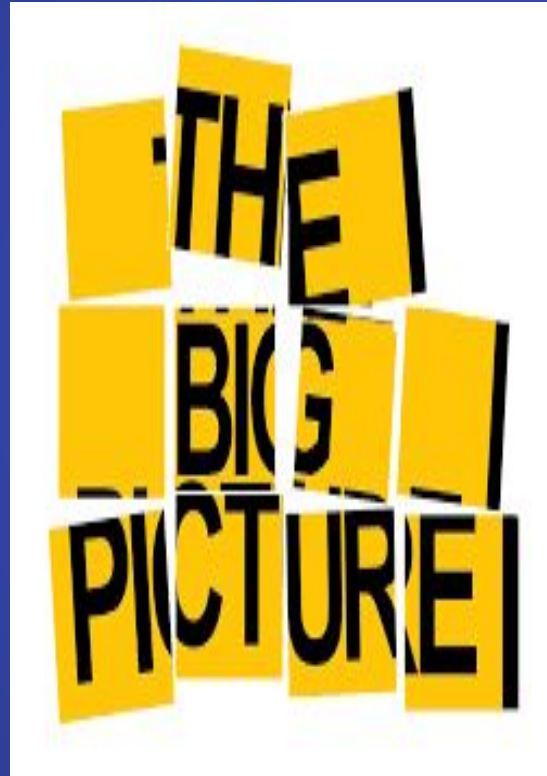
# Showcasing Personal Characteristics

Who are you  
and how will  
you contribute  
to a campus  
community?

## Essays

Thoughtful reflection

- Who are you?
- What's your story?
- Why this major?
- Why this college?



## Student Resume

- Activity List
- Honors/Awards
- Experiences, skills, talents
- Interests

## Letters of Recommendation

- Provides additional context
- Teacher vs. Counselor LOR
- Anecdotes are helpful– provide specifics

# College / Scholarship Essays - Helpful Hints



Every summer, I volunteer with Habitat for Humanity building homes. I am an assistant to a site supervisor, help with site clean up, and serve as a runner for materials.

vs

As a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, I learned the value of teamwork and what it means to come together for your community. I recall one weekend where everything seemed to go wrong with the construction project. I had to step into several roles in which I had no experience. However, I was up for the challenge and was able to demonstrate.....

The person I admire the most is my father. My father had a difficult childhood. He has worked hard his whole life and is now a successful business owner. My father is kind to everyone he meets and he is my biggest hero.

vs

The person I admire the most is my father. He instilled in me a strong work ethic which I apply to my school work, athletics, and part-time job. At my part-time job, my manager noticed that I would pick up extra shifts and would often assist newer staff members. I was offered a promotion because of.....

Summer To-Do List



## AFHS College Application Summer To-Do List



### □ Narrow Down Your College List

- It can be overwhelming to know where to begin, but using college search databases, like [Big Future](#), [CFNC](#), [CollegeSimply](#) and [College Scorecard](#) can help you narrow down your college choices. **Consider what is important to you-** location, size, majors/programs offered, cost, activities, support services, study abroad opportunities, campus climate, research opportunities, etc.
- Exploring college websites and **going on college visits** can give you a feel for the college to determine if it is a good fit for you.
  - Understanding your fit for the school is also important. Consider how your GPA and test scores compare to college acceptance ranges. **Build a college list** of 5-8 schools that includes safety, match, and reach schools.
  - [UNC System Schools' Admissions Info](#)
  - [NC Independent Colleges](#)

### □ Know the Admission Requirements

Some schools and programs have additional admission requirements. Make sure you know the requirements before the start of senior year in case you need to add an additional class such as an art, a fourth science, or a third foreign language. [Military academies have separate requirements](#)

### □ Understand the College Application Process

- You can use [Common App](#) to apply to most colleges. Common App is a great tool to organize your college list and keep up with the [application requirements of different schools](#). **Create a Common App account**, add colleges to your college list, and begin answering questions in these seven sections: Profile, Family, Education, Testing, Activities, Writing, and Courses & Grades. You can start on college specific questions on August 1st. View the [Common App YouTube channel](#) for tutorials.
- You can apply to North Carolina colleges or universities through [CFNC.org](#). Even if you do not apply to colleges through CFNC, you will still need to **create a CFNC account** to complete your NC Residency Determination and to request final transcripts for NC colleges (more information to come on these items in the fall).
- Consider if you will apply [Early Action](#), [Early Decision](#), or [Regular Decision](#).

### □ Start Preparing Application Materials

- Compile a **list of activities**, honors, awards, special experiences, and talents/*skills* and [create a resume](#). Common App only allows 150 characters to describe an activity. See [how to make the most of your Common App Activity List](#).
- To give your resume a boost, consider [Summer Enrichment](#) activities such as [summer programs](#), [employment](#), or an [internship](#), or [volunteer](#) your time this summer.
- Start drafting your **personal statement**-who are you, what is your career goal, and what interests you about the major you plan to study? What is a story about you that you want to share with colleges? Draft that story.
- The **essay** is an essential element of the application. Please review the AFHS Student Services presentations, [Presenting Your Best Self](#) and [College Essay Writing Clinic](#). Also, see the [How to Approach the Common App Essay](#) and [free resources from the College Essay Guy](#).
- Not all schools require a **letter of recommendation**, but if you apply to a school that does, consider who can give a well-rounded picture of you and speak to contributions you've made to the classroom and/or to the community? A recommender may ask you for a resume or "**brag sheet**." Be intentional about the information you provide on the brag sheet and give specific examples of the characteristics you hope your recommender will emphasize. Also, be sure to practice good etiquette when requesting recommendation letters (formally request the recommendation well in advance, supply necessary information, give friendly reminders, say thank you).

### □ Prep for the SAT and/or ACT

- If needed, register to take the [SAT](#) or [ACT](#) over the summer or in the fall to boost scores for college admissions or scholarship opportunities. Although some colleges are test optional next year, most colleges will still accept and consider your scores if they enhance your application. Take advantage of [free SAT prep](#) or [free ACT prep](#) before your next test.



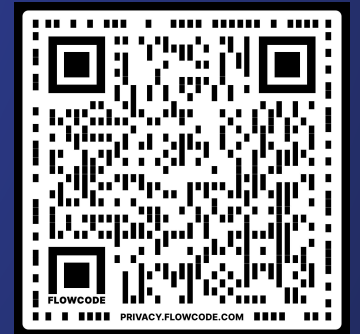
### Wake County Libraries: Level Up

[Free programs and appointments](#) to help students with test prep, college applications and financial aid.

□ Remember your [AFHS School Counselors](#) are here to help you!

# Financial Aid- FAFSA

- FAFSA Presentation with Mrs. Brannan... Fall 2024 TBD
- Current Juniors - '25-'26 FAFSA expected to return to the October 1st opening date. Both '24-'25 and '25-'26 will be open, so choose carefully!
- '25-'26 FAFSA will require 2023 Tax information
- **Linda Brannan is our Financial Aid Representative for AFHS. She can help you and your family with **FAFSA** questions.**
- April 26th is Mrs. Brannan's last day for appointments until next school year.
- Mrs. Brannan: lbrannan@wcpss.net
- [Make an Financial Aid appointment](#)



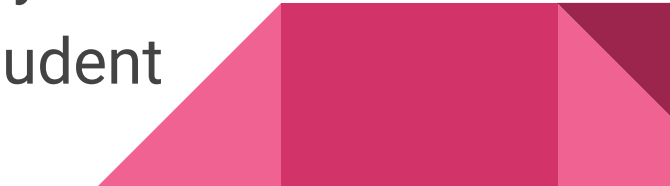
# Other Types of Financial Aid

**Grants**- a financial award usually given by a company, foundation, or the government

**Loan**- Money that is borrowed and expected to be paid back with interest

**Work Study**- part-time employment while in school. It is allowed for students that qualify for financial aid.

**Scholarships**- are financial aid awards designed to help students pay for an undergraduate degree. Sometimes a scholarship is a one-time check. Other school scholarships are renewable and provide money for students each semester or school year. These awards differ from student loans in that they don't have to be repaid.



# Scholarships

- Always research scholarship opportunities offered through the colleges to which you plan to apply.
- Make use of online scholarship search engines: **Fastweb, Big Future, CFNC,** and many others.
- AFHS Student Services website with listing of national and local scholarship opportunities for AFHS students: <https://www.wcpss.net/Page/53592>
- **APPLY TO ALL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WHICH YOU ARE ELIGIBLE.**
- **Students should report all scholarship offers to Student Services even if they are not accepting them. This is important for data collection for WCPSS.**



# College Panel

**Fredrick Evans**  
**Elon University**



**Ronnie Chalmers**  
**North Carolina State**  
**University**



**Shakinah Simeona-Lee**  
**Appalachian State**  
**University**



**Maria Lofton**  
**University of North**  
**Carolina at Chapel Hill**







# APPSTATE

SHAKINAH SIMEONA-LEE  
SENIOR ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR DIVERSITY  
INITIATIVES  
SIMEONALEES@APPSTATE.EDU

# WELCOMES YOU

# CHOOSE YOUR PATH

A young person with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a green sweatshirt with a white botanical design, is using a pipette in a laboratory setting. They are holding the pipette with their right hand and a small vial with their left hand. The background shows laboratory equipment and shelves with various bottles.

## COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

Beaver College of Health Sciences  
College of Arts and Sciences  
College of Fine and Applied Arts  
Hayes School of Music  
Reich College of Education  
Walker College of Business  
Williams School of Graduate Studies

## SELECTIVE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Appalachian Community of  
Education Scholars (ACES)  
Honors College  
Watauga Residential College

# ACADEMICS

*Discover Your Academic Passions*

**150+** undergraduate majors

**Accelerated Master's Program**

(enroll in graduate courses during your senior year)

**16:1** student-to-faculty ratio

**25** average class size



# CLUBS and ORGANIZATIONS

*Meet Your Community*

**400+** clubs and organizations

**150+** community-focused groups that serve locally and beyond

**30+** multicultural and international clubs and organizations

**35** sororities and fraternities with multiple greek councils



# FIRST-YEAR ADMISSIONS



## Application Requirements:

- Common App application
- \$65 application fee\*
- Transcripts
- Test scores\*

## Recommended Materials:

- Activities list
- Interest statement

## Early Action Deadlines:

- Nov. 1: Apply for admission
- Nov. 15: Submit materials
- Nov. 15: Apply for scholarships
- Jan. 25: Receive decision

## Regular Decision Deadlines:

- Feb. 1: Apply for admission
- Feb. 15: Submit materials
- March 15: Receive decision

### Quick Facts

6,300 Students

24% In-State

5 Schools, 70+ Majors

### Notable Programs

Engineering

Nursing

Financial Technology

Study Abroad!

### Admissions Recommendations

3.4-4.4 GPA

Test Optional

Demonstrated Interest



**Fredrick Evans**  
fevans2@elon.edu

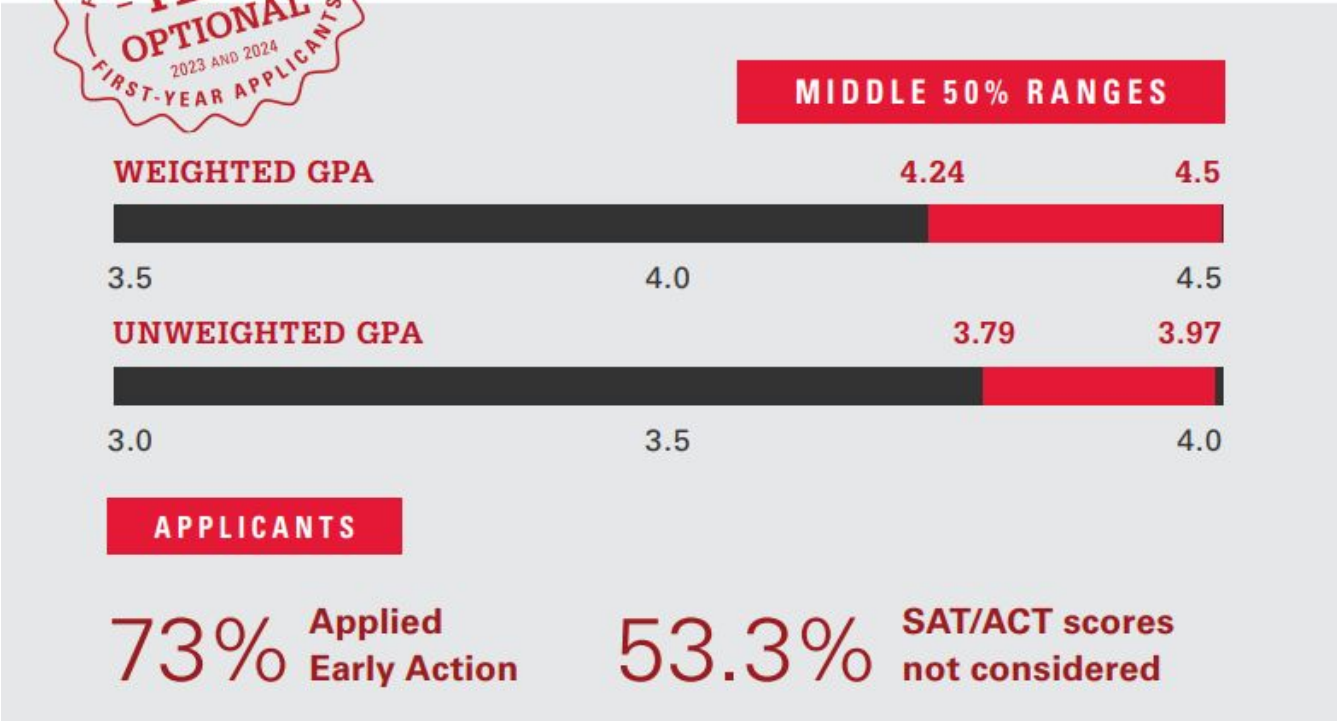


# 2023 First-Year Facts

## Fall 2023 Applications

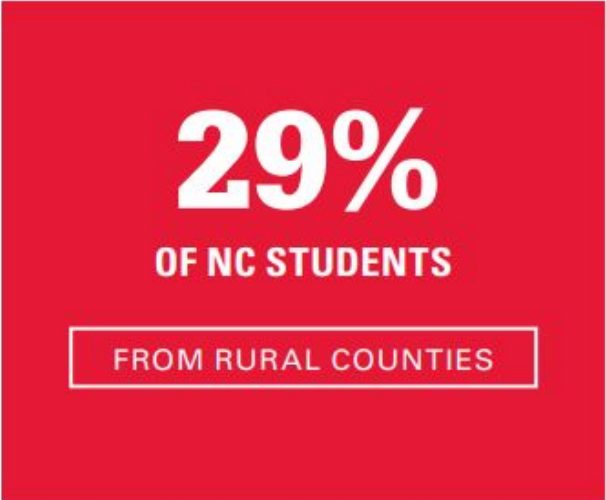
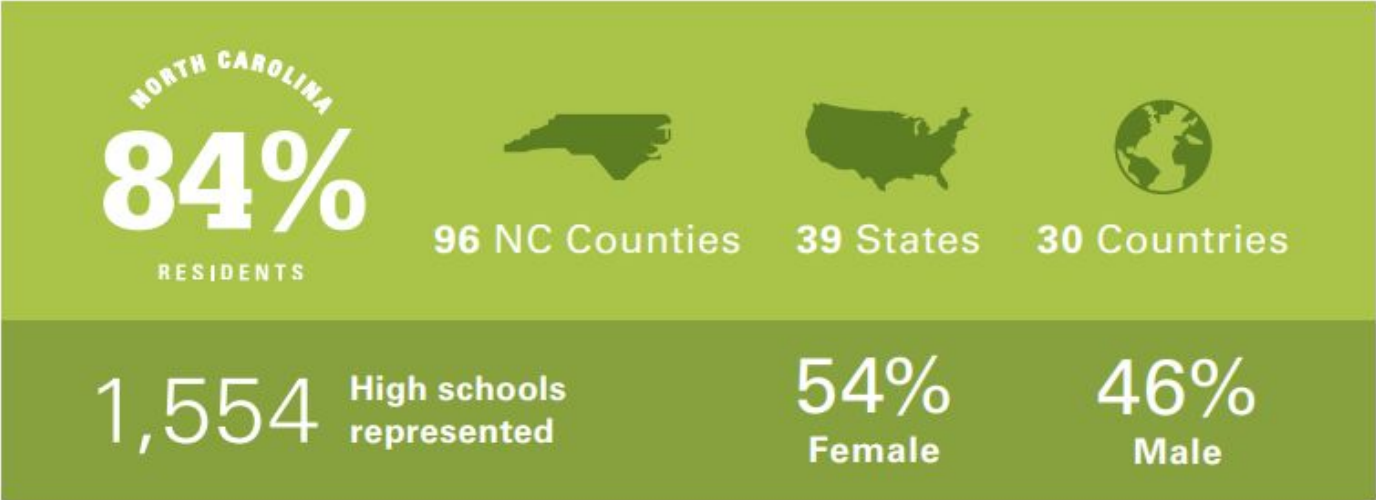
- > **39,855** first-year applications received
  - > **39.5%** acceptance rate
- > **4,726** transfer applications received
  - > **44.1%** acceptance rate
- > **7,132** total incoming students

**Ronnie Chalmers**  
 Director of Recruitment & Strategic Initiatives  
 919.513.1705  
 rlchalme@ncsu.edu





# 2023 First-Year Facts



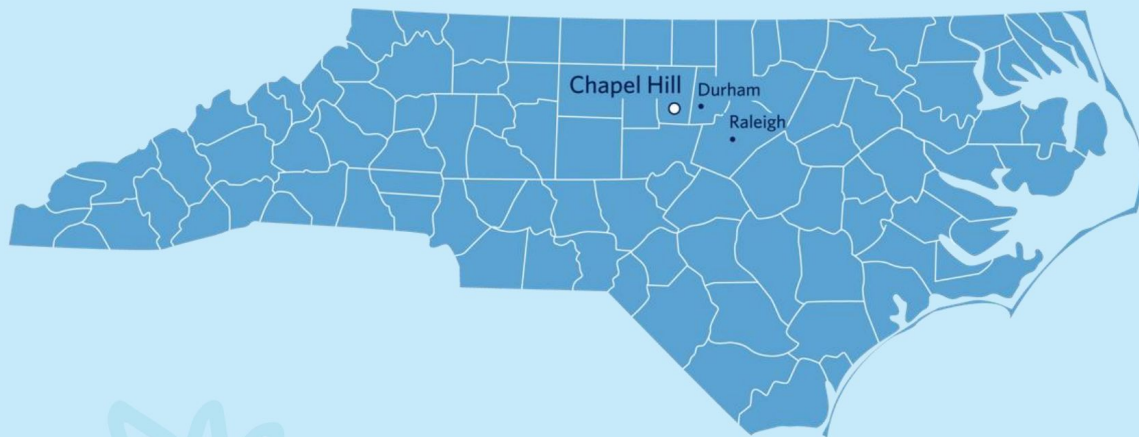
## TOP 10 MAJORS

- Engineering First Year
- Exploratory Studies
- Animal Science
- Fashion and Textile Management
- Sport Management
- Political Science
- Management First Year
- Life Sciences First Year
- Psychology
- Criminology

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 Director of Recruitment & Strategic Initiatives  
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[rchalme@ncsu.edu](mailto:rchalme@ncsu.edu)



# University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



**Proudly  
Public**

---

**Academic  
Excellence**



# Top Career Interests



**PHYSICIAN**



**BUSINESS  
EXECUTIVE**



**SCIENTIFIC  
RESEARCH**



**LAWYER**



**UNDECIDED**

# Thanks for Considering Carolina!



## CONTACT US

[unchelp@admissions.unc.edu](mailto:unchelp@admissions.unc.edu)

[mlofton@admissions.unc.edu](mailto:mlofton@admissions.unc.edu)

919-966-3621



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* NORTH CAROLINA  
*at* CHAPEL HILL

# College Panel

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# Q&A

What is the perspective of admissions on early release/late arrival (reduced schedule)?

UNC says that we all have different experiences, but they would want to have students explain what they did with that extra time in the additional information section of the school application. They mentioned that they want to see student take advantage of their time and opportunities in school.

App State asked student and families to consider, “What are you doing to be productive with that time? Are you go to be able to capitalize on the right major when you go to school?”

# Q&A

Do seniors need to notify universities when they change their senior year schedule?

NCSU said that students are admitted based on history and assumption that they are going to continue doing well and following the same pattern of course rigor. It really depends on what the student is planning on studying- if STEM related, you should not change it if you can avoid it and to reach out if you do.

# Q&A

Talk to us about your admissions' office perspective on students taking foreign languages in high school.

NCSU recommended for students to still take two units of the same foreign language. There are units in college that they may be able to opt out of if they've done well in high school.

UNC Chapel Hill says that student are required to take three years at UNC, so there's the possibility of testing out.

App State says that student must meet the minimum course requirements. Students can struggle with foreign language, so if they do something in place make sure time is utilized well to work toward intended major.

Elon is a private university that requires two credits or Foreign Language, with three credits being recommended.



# Q&A

What kind of job placement help is there for students graduating from your school?

Elon discuss their Professional Development Centers that are Specific to majors and want to do. Resume prep and internship connections are essential.

NCSU recommended that no matter what school you go to, get in to the career development centers early. DO NOT WAIT so you can take advantage of opportunities that they can help you find early and over summers.

# Q&A

Is there anything a freshman would need to know about living on your campus?

App State - Housing guaranteed first year. Look at housing options during Fall for the next year especially if thinking about living off campus.  $\frac{2}{3}$  of students live off campus after first year. Free Apple Cart (bus transportation) pick up and drop off. Cars are okay.

UNC - First year required, guaranteed housing. 10-13 resident halls for first year students. Submit by deadline is important. SO, JR, SR housing not guaranteed. Off campus can also be within walking distance

Elon- First and second year required to live on campus. Elon recommended living the college experience.

NCSU - many will have living and learning communities, or themed residence halls so it's a good way to break the ice.

# Q&A

## Favorite tradition at your school?

NCSU - rushing bell tower

Elon - College Coffee - everyone comes together for coffee and pastries. This includes professors, staff, and students so it's a great way to network.

UNC - Taking a sip from the old well on the first day and you'll be guaranteed a 4.0 GPA.

App State - Football games and school spirit, energy of the crowd and the bigger stage.

# Q&A

## Will test scores be optional?

NCSU - currently if nothing changes test scores will not be optional, we will know very soon if there will be flexibility by institution. Better to have it and not need it, than need it and not have it. Schools will still superscore. Even if tests are required, we'll be looking at those test scores very differently. You should test but let's lower the anxiety around that and focus on doing well in classes.

Elon- still test optional, it can only help you and not hurt you to submit.

# Q&A

How do special academies look on applications?

NCSU asked what opportunities did you take advantage of? How you include that in your application and how you're presenting it in your application is what is going to be important for academies.

# Q&A

Do you have a cap on in-state enrollments?

UNC - 82% at minimum,

Elon - any and all,

App State - out of state that is 9%

What about for Wake County?

NCSU - no percentage quota for each district.



## Class of 2025 **\*\*ACTION REQUIRED\*\***

As of 2020, state law mandates that ALL seniors must have their second Meningitis vaccination before they begin their senior year.

Please submit a copy of your immunizations, showing the Meningitis vaccinations, via email to: [afhs-student-svcs@wcpss.net](mailto:afhs-student-svcs@wcpss.net) or you can fax to: 919-694-0525.

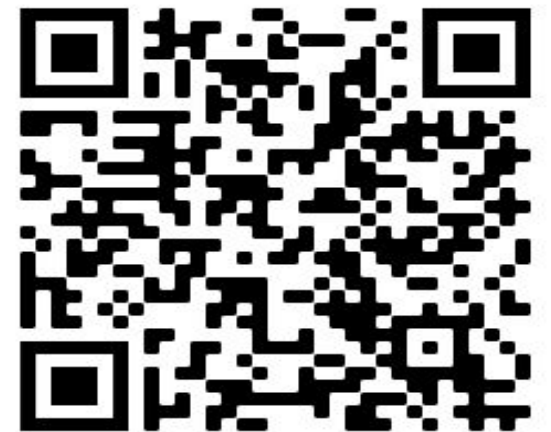
This proof must be received from each rising senior BEFORE the first day of the 2024-25 school year.

*THANK YOU!!*

## *Stay Informed*

- ★ AFHS Student Services website
- ★ Follow us on social media:
  - Twitter: @AFHSstudentserv
  - Instagram: @AFHSstudentserv
- ★ Weekly Email Updates for Seniors
- ★ Homerooms
- ★ Fall college presentations

*Not getting messages  
from the school or  
Wake County?*





# AFHS Student Services

\*Dean of Students - Ms. Carter - [scarter@wcpss.net](mailto:scarter@wcpss.net)

## \*10th-12th Grade Counselors

- A-Co - Ms. Butler \*\*please reach out to [scarter@wcpss.net](mailto:scarter@wcpss.net)
- Cr-He - Ms. Amalfitano - [bamalfitano@wcpss.net](mailto:bamalfitano@wcpss.net)
- Hi-Mc - Ms. Muir - [smuir@wcpss.net](mailto:smuir@wcpss.net)
- Me-R - Ms. Conley - [jconley@wcpss.net](mailto:jconley@wcpss.net)
- S-Z - Mr. Greene - [sgreene3@wcpss.net](mailto:sgreene3@wcpss.net)

\*SAP Counselor- Ms. Burden - [ksburden@wcpss.net](mailto:ksburden@wcpss.net)