

Financial Aid: What you need to know!

2026-2027 Award Year



Linda Brannan WCPSS Financial Aid Advisor - lbrannan@wcpss.net

*HOW MUCH
MONEY DO I
NEED TO GO
TO
COLLEGE?*





THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM

2025-26 Cost of Attendance NC Resident

Tuition, Books and Supplies, Housing, Other Expenses and Fees

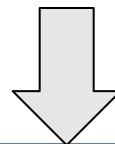
Actual cost varies by student selections

	Resident/In-state
NC State University	27,624.00
UNC-Chapel Hill	27,420.00
East Carolina University	25,013.00
NC A & T State University	25,622.00
UNC Charlotte	25,288.00
UNC Greensboro	20,550.00
UNC Wilmington	27,279.00
Appalachian State University	24,793.00
Fayetteville State University	17,521.00
NC Central University	26,002.00
UNC Pembroke	22,030.00
Western Carolina University	19,341.00
Winston-Salem State University	22,412.00
UNC Asheville	25,943.00
Elizabeth City State University	14,673.00



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM

TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT FALL 2025 (PRELIMINARY)



HIGHLIGHTS

- Nearly 257,000 total students, a UNC System record
- Total enrollment increased 3.4%
- Number of undergraduates climbed 3.8%
- Number of transfer students jumped 8.2%

Institution	Fall 2024	Fall 2025	Percent Change
ASU	21,570	21,798	1.1%
ECU	26,940	27,153	0.8%
ECSU	2,258	2,357	4.4%
FSU	7,107	7,623	7.3%
NC State	38,464	39,259	2.1%
N.C. A&T	14,311	15,275	6.7%
NCCU	8,579	9,160	6.8%
UNCA	3,056	2,874	-6.0%
UNC-CH	32,438	34,099	5.1%
UNCC	31,091	32,207	3.6%
UNCG	18,012	18,682	3.7%
UNCP	7,674	8,089	5.4%
UNCSA	1,111	1,150	3.5%
UNCW	18,848	19,895	5.6%
WCU	11,686	11,845	1.4%
WSSU	4,782	4,972	4.0%
UNC System	247,927	256,438	3.4%



NC PRIVATE COLLEGES (SELECTED)
2024-25 Cost of Attendance NC Resident
Tuition, Books and Supplies, Housing, Other Expenses and Fees

Actual cost varies by student selections - collegesimply.com

<u>Brevard College</u>	\$45,650
<u>Campbell University</u>	\$60,554
<u>Davidson College</u>	\$75,865
<u>Duke University</u>	\$82,749
<u>Elon University</u>	\$59,627
<u>Greensboro College</u>	\$35,500
<u>Johnson C Smith University</u>	\$34,254
<u>Meredith College</u>	\$57,774
<u>Methodist University</u>	\$55,016
<u>Shaw University</u>	\$29,734
<u>Wake Forest University</u>	\$82,988



2025-2026

FALL AND SPRING Tuition and Fees

\$2,982



**16 Credit
Hours
Tuition/Full
Time**



**Computer
Use/Tech Fee**



**Student
Activity/
Athletics Fee**



**Campus
Access Fee
Total**

Other estimated costs:

Textbooks Access Fee \$864

Other Fees \$336

Off Campus Living \$10,000

Other Miscellaneous Expenses throughout the year \$4,600



UNC-Chapel Hill offers free tuition and required fees to incoming undergraduate students from North Carolina whose families make less than \$80,000 a year.



Duke offers free tuition for students from families in North and South Carolina making \$150,000 or less and extra housing, food, and other expense assistance for students from families making \$65,000 or less.



Wake Forest University offers free tuition for students from families making \$200,000 or less .



William Peace University offers free tuition for students from families making \$75,000 or less, a high school GPA of 3.25, and Pell Grant eligibility

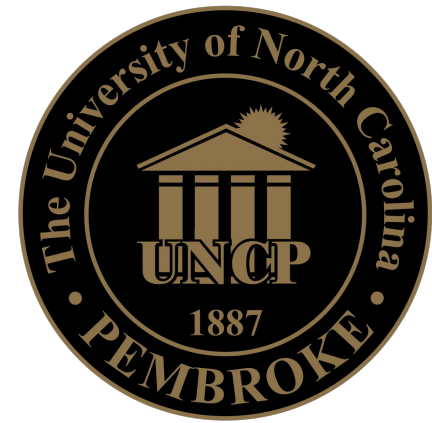
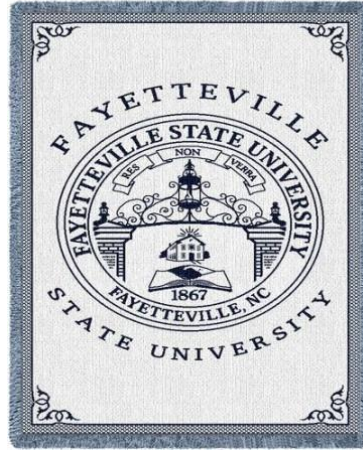


Appalachian State University - Murray Family ACCESS Scholarship Program offers 50 students from low income families full institutional costs including tuition, fees, room and board, and rental for up to 8 semesters. Submit application by Nov 1 and submit FAFSA by Dec 1.

Universities outside of NC that have similar tuition free offers include Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, MIT, University of Pennsylvania, Brandeis, Columbia

NC Promise Institutions

All resident undergraduate students enrolled can attend for **\$500 per semester tuition**. Campus related fees and on-campus residency costs are to be added to tuition to understand the full cost of attendance.



Sample NCSU Cost of Attendance (COA) on College Website

Academic Year 2025-26

Academic Year 2025-26	North Carolina Residents	Out-of-State Residents
Tuition & Fees	\$9,028	\$33,993
Books & Supplies	\$624	\$624
Housing	\$9,522	\$9,522
Food	\$6,406	\$6,406
Personal Expenses	\$1,602	\$1,602
Transportation	\$1,442	\$2,000
Loan Fees	\$44	\$44
TOTAL	\$28,668	\$54,191

How do I apply?



Free Application for Federal Student Aid



**Create Your
FSA ID -
asap!**



Create Your FSA ID

FSA ID Cheatsheet

Create FSA ID

- The students and contributors (biological or adopted parent, stepparent) are required to **have their own FSA ID. Cannot share FSA ID's.**
- Parents without a social security number are still required to have an FSA ID.
- An email address is required.
- Information entered for the FSA ID must match what is entered into the FAFSA Application.

*Don't give your FSA ID to anyone or allow anyone.
Sharing your FSA ID could put you at risk of identity theft!*

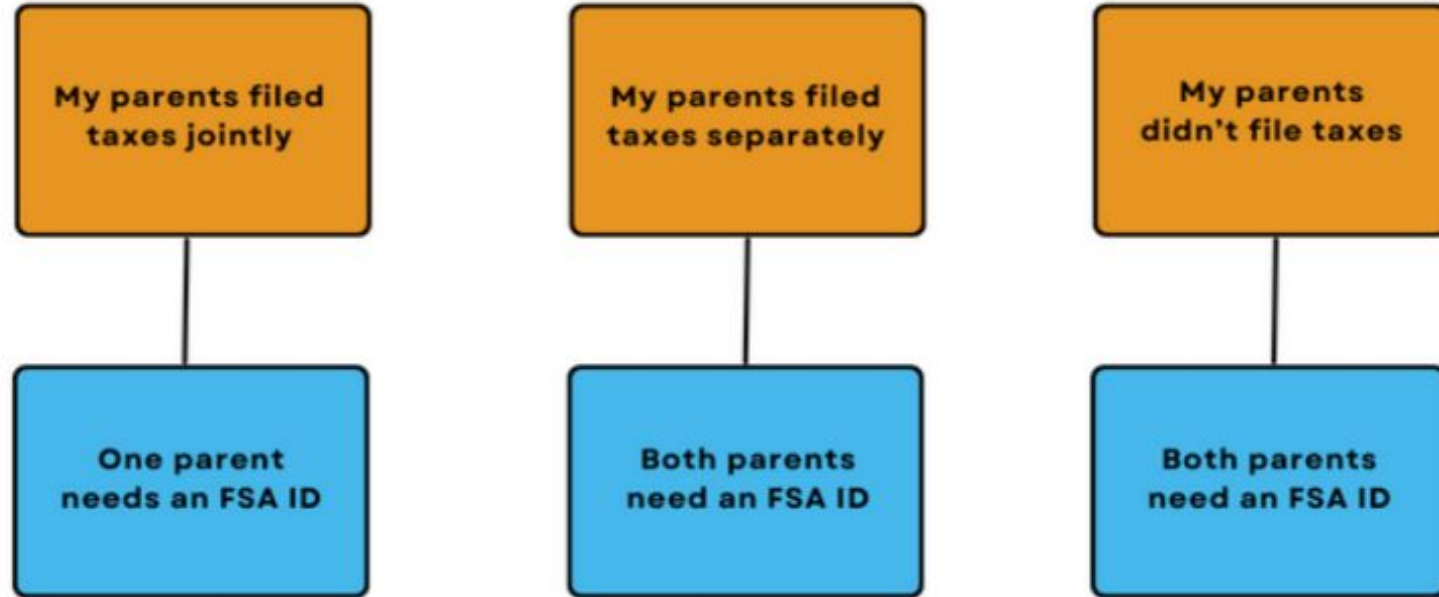
How to Create Your FSA ID for the NEW FAFSA Application



*(Step by step
instructions to
Create FSA ID*

*Click image to
see video)*

Create your Federal Student Aid ID at [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)



- FAFSA 2025-2026

***Complete this
form if attending
January 2026.
Use 2023 Taxes.
Open now.***

- FAFSA 2026-2027

***Complete this
form if attending
Fall 2026 or
January 2027.
Use 2024 Taxes.
Opens October 1.***



Free Application for Federal Student Aid

[Studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)

***Click link to website above then
click “Complete FAFSA Form”***



Applying for Financial Aid With the **FAFSA[®]** Form

Video

<https://youtu.be/UupEQdS2VMY?si=24vplX-t39XKgfR7>

- -

Information you'll need to fill out the FAFSA:

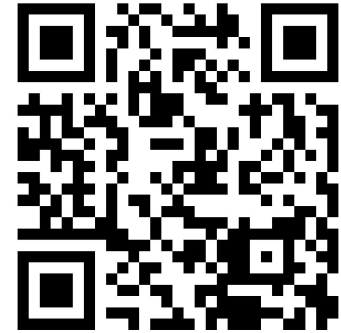
- ✓ Your **social security number** and **driver's license**, and/or **alien registration number**
- ✓ Student's 2024 federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned.
- ✓ Parent's 2024 income tax returns, W-2 forms and 1040 forms if you're a dependent.
- ✓ **Current Bank statements of Cash on hand and records of investments.**
*The FAFSA will want information on available cash, balances in savings and checking accounts and any investment portfolios as of the date of the FAFSA. *All real estate holdings other than the house you live in must be listed. The net worth of Family farms and small businesses are assets a required part of the application

****Give Consent to Use the IRS Data Retrieval - will pull the appropriate info from your 2024 Taxes into the FAFSA**



*Child support counts as an asset.
The number of family members in college is no longer considered in the needs analysis formula, but is still a required question on the FAFSA® form. Ask the colleges you plan to attend if they offer **bling discounts**.*

**Information you'll need to fill out the FAFSA -
Click image to access link to document:**



Scan me!

OTHER FORMS YOU MAY HAVE TO COMPLETE



College Scholarship Service (CSS)

Application Deadline: Varies

College Scholarship Service (CSS)
Profile
Multiple



apply
now

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP SERVICE CSS Profile

In North Carolina : **Chapel Hill, Elon, Wake Forest, Duke, Davidson**
Costs to submit for initial application then discount for every submission afterward. Undergraduates coming from a family with an income under \$100,000 may file for free.

Institutional Documentation Service (IDOC) is a service that collects family financial documents and distributes them to institutions on behalf of the student. You'll be notified by the College Board if you need to submit documents through IDOC.



Some colleges have their own financial aid forms.

These forms must be filed according to the college's deadlines

Look on the Financial Aid website of your college(s) to see what forms are required & the deadlines. - NOT Admissions!



APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

- *Find out how colleges treat outside scholarships.*
- *Find out what it takes to keep or renew a scholarship.*

Need-based scholarships: determined by financial circumstances (FAFSA).

Merit-based scholarships: determined by achievement, a special talent or skill or other qualifying factor. Most colleges automatically consider students. Some colleges require the FAFSA.

Special-circumstance scholarships: determined by military service, unique interest, disability status, etc.

Best Places to Find Scholarships

1. Colleges You are Applying - ***check the Financial Aid webpage - not Admissions.***
2. **High School Scholarship Listing** - Student Services
3. **Work** - Chick-Fil-A, McDonalds, WalMart, etc.
4. **Nonprofits** - churches, places you might volunteer, fraternities/sororities, civic organizations
5. **Reputable online searches** - College Board, CFNC, Scholarship Plus, FastWeb





How to Research Scholarships

Be patient & persevere

It takes a lot of work & effort and there are no guarantees

Get organized – keep a calendar of deadlines, keep a notebook or file system

Seek help early – give your supporters plenty of time to respond, be sure to thank them

Submit early – Meet Deadlines! Starting early makes a favorable impression

Expand research – HS counselor, colleges, civic groups, church, employers, etc.

Follow instructions – do exactly what you are asked to do – no more, no less

Proofread – check for clarity of content, legibility, accuracy & completeness

Keep copies – hold onto a copy of everything you send & record date sent

**HELPFUL
TIPS**

Be wary of “no essay” scholarships or ones that don’t ask for much information – they are just like sweepstakes with companies looking to gather your information.

SCAM ALERT! Don’t ever pay a fee to apply for a scholarship.

Chances of winning a scholarship are highest when applying for locally sponsored funds

Help Them Help You!!!!

Communicate

Be Courteous

Do Your Research

Meet Deadlines



Where Can I Get Help?

Linda Brannan Financial Aid Advisor



GHHS Financial Aid Advising

*Feel free to Scan the QR Code
to schedule a virtual
appointment.*

[Brannan's Financial Aid Tools \(google.com\)](#)
Mrs. Brannan's website

Use QR Code or link below to schedule Virtual
After School appointments - [Green Hope HS](#)
[Appointments](#) - link is on Student Services webpage

Email Ms. Brannan for In-Person appointments
at the school during the school day.
LBRANNAN@WCPSS.NET
(Note: Ms. Brannan works part time in 3 high schools)