



COLLEGE PATH ADVISING

LLC
ESTD 2017

NC College Connect

Direct Admission & Free Application Week in North Carolina

Who Am I

- Worked in Higher Education for 17 yrs
- Director of Admissions for 8 yrs at two different schools (John F. Kennedy University & Meredith College)
- Student Affairs: Housing, Student Activities & International Students
- Former Associate Dean of Students at the California College of the Arts
- BA in English from University of Southern Cal and MA in Student Personnel Administration in Higher Education from New York University
- Currently – College Path Advising (8+ years)
- Associate Member Independent Educational Consultant Association



 DIRECT ADMISSION

What Is NC College Connect?

NC College Connect is a **direct admission program** designed specifically for eligible North Carolina public high school seniors. This innovative initiative allows qualified students to receive admission offers from participating colleges **without completing a traditional application.**

The program is managed entirely through [CFNC.org](https://cfnc.org), North Carolina's official college and career planning resource. It's important to note that this opportunity applies only to **participating North Carolina colleges and universities**, and eligibility is determined by your academic record.



What Is College Application Week?

A Special Week Each Fall

College Application Week is a **specific week designated each fall** when select North Carolina colleges and universities waive their standard application fees. This initiative makes college more accessible by removing financial barriers during the application process.

Submit Through CFNC

To take advantage of the fee waiver, all applications must be submitted **through the CFNC platform**. Applications submitted directly to college websites or through other portals will not qualify for the waived fee, even during the designated week.

Changes Every Year

Participation in College Application Week **varies annually**. Schools that offered free applications last year may not participate this year, and new institutions may join. Always verify current participation before assuming an application will be free.

How These Programs Overlap

Understanding the relationship between NC College Connect and College Application Week can be confusing. Here's what you need to know:

Only One Program

Many institutions participate in **only one of these initiatives**, either offering direct admission through NC College Connect or waiving fees during Application Week, but not both.

Never Assume

Never assume an application is free just because a school participates in one program. Always verify the specific requirements and fees for each institution before submitting your application.

Participate in Both
Some colleges participate in **both NC College Connect and College Application Week**, offering direct admission opportunities and fee waivers during the designated week.



How to Read the Lists

\$ Symbol

The **dollar sign (\$)** indicates that a college has participated in **College Application Week** (the free application week) in past years. This is historical data to help you plan.

(HBCU) Designation

Schools marked with **(HBCU)** are **Historically Black Colleges and Universities**, institutions that have played a crucial role in educating African American students and enriching our educational landscape.

Important Reminder

Free-week participation is **not guaranteed every year**. Just because a school has the \$ symbol doesn't mean they will definitely waive fees this year. Always confirm current participation on [CFNC.org](https://www.cfnc.org).

PUBLIC

UNIVERSITIES

NC College Connect Schools: Public Universities

UNC System Schools

Appalachian State University \$

East Carolina University \$

UNC Asheville \$

UNC Pembroke \$

Western Carolina University \$

- **UNC Charlotte**
- **UNC Greensboro**

Historically Black Universities

Elizabeth City State University \$ (HBCU)

Fayetteville State University \$ (HBCU)

North Carolina Central University \$ (HBCU)

Winston-Salem State University \$ (HBCU)

- ☐ All eleven of these public universities participate in NC College Connect direct admission. Most have also participated in free application week in previous years.

NC College Connect Schools: Private Colleges & Universities



Liberal Arts Colleges

Barton College \$

Brevard College \$

Catawba College \$

Greensboro College \$

• **Guilford College**

Meredith College \$

Salem College \$

Warren Wilson College \$

William Peace University \$



Faith-Based Institutions

Belmont Abbey College \$

Campbell University \$

Chowan University \$

Gardner-Webb University \$

Lees-McRae College \$

Lenoir-Rhyne University \$

Mars Hill University \$

Methodist University \$

Mid-Atlantic Christian University \$

Montreat College \$

Pfeiffer University \$

Wingate University \$



HBCUs

Bennett College \$ (HBCU)

Johnson C. Smith University \$ (HBCU)

Livingstone College \$ (HBCU)

Saint Augustine's University (HBCU)

Shaw University \$ (HBCU)



Other Private Options

Louisburg College \$

North Carolina Wesleyan University \$

University of Mount Olive \$

Nearly 30 private colleges and universities participate in NC College Connect, with the vast majority also participating in College Application Week. This represents an incredible opportunity for NC students to explore diverse educational pathways.

Not NC College Connect, But Have Participated in Free Week



Davidson College \$

A highly selective private liberal arts college known for academic rigor and personalized education. While not part of NC College Connect, Davidson has participated in free application week.



Elon University \$

A mid-sized private university recognized for engaged learning and beautiful campus. Has offered free applications during College Application Week in previous years.



NC A&T State University \$ (HBCU)

The largest HBCU in the nation and a major research institution. Does not participate in NC College Connect but has waived fees during the designated week.



Johnson & Wales University – Charlotte \$

Career-focused institution with programs in business, hospitality, and culinary arts. Has participated in free application week initiatives.



Carolinas College of Health Sciences

Specialized healthcare education institution offering programs in nursing and other health professions.

Schools That Participate in Neither NC College Connect Nor Free Application Week

These highly selective institutions require **traditional applications** and **standard application fees**. They do not participate in NC College Connect's direct admission program or waive fees during College Application Week.



North Carolina State University

Major research university in Raleigh, known for engineering, sciences, and technology programs. Requires standard application through the Common App or Coalition App.



UNC Chapel Hill

The nation's first public university and one of the most selective public institutions in the country. Uses its own application process.



UNC Wilmington

Coastal university known for marine sciences and competitive admissions. Requires traditional application submission and fees.



Duke University

Private research university and one of the nation's most prestigious institutions. Has its own rigorous application requirements and fees.

❏ While these schools don't participate in these fee-waiver programs, they all offer fee waivers for students who demonstrate financial need. Contact their admissions offices directly to learn more.

What Students Should Do

01

Create Your CFNC Account Early

Most NC students already created a CFNC account in **8th grade**. If you haven't yet, set up your account immediately at [CFNC.org](https://www.cfnc.org). This is your gateway to all NC college opportunities.

02

3 Complete Short Applications

For each school you're interested in, complete the **short NC College Connect application** through CFNC. This brief form is much simpler than traditional applications.

03

5 Apply During Free Week Only If Confirmed

Submit applications during College Application Week **only after confirming** on CFNC that your chosen schools are participating. Verify before you click submit.

04

2 Review NC College Connect Offers

Starting **August 1**, log into your CFNC account to see which colleges have offered you direct admission. Review each school's programs, campus culture, and requirements carefully.

05

4 Monitor College Application Week

Check the **College Application Week list every year** to see which schools are waiving fees. This list changes annually, so never assume based on previous years.

06

6 Track All Deadlines Carefully

Each college has different deadlines for supplemental materials, housing deposits, and financial aid. Create a calendar and set reminders so you don't miss critical dates.

After Submitting Your Application

Open Your College Portal

Watch for an email with login instructions for each college's application portal. This is where you'll track your application status.

Complete Additional

Forms

Many schools require residency verification, academic updates, or conduct forms. Submit these promptly to avoid delays.

Pay Fees If Required

Some schools waive the application fee automatically, while others require payment if you're applying outside free week. Check your portal for fee status.

-  Final Reminder: NC College Connect does NOT automatically mean free applications. Free-week participation changes every year. Always verify current information on [CFNC.org](https://www.cfnc.org). When in doubt, ask your school counselor or the college's admissions office before submitting. Being informed is your best strategy!

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