

HOGGARD HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT SERVICES

Senior and Parent  
Information

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Parents and Seniors,

Counselors usually spend the month of September preparing students and parents for the upcoming college application process. Unfortunately with the storm, we have all been away from school for almost a month leaving us unable to be as thorough as we usually like to be in this process. We are releasing our powerpoint in hopes this will answer any questions you may have and help you feel more prepared as application deadlines approach.

# Student Services Staff

## Registrar

- Denise Simpson (transcripts)


## Counselors

- Josh Carnelley (A-Cn)
- Leigh-Ann Ahrenberg (Co-G)
- Noah Jawitz (H-Ma)
- Terry Hopkins (Mc-R)
- Frances Williams (S-Z)

## Social Workers

- Tammy DuRant (A-J)
- Kelly Burden (K-Z)

## Additional Resource Staff Who Are Helpful for Senior Year

- Sheryl Coston, CFCC Liaison and CTE Coordinator
  - Christi Lea Osborne, IB Coordinator
  - Jennifer Crudeli, AIG Coordinator
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# School Counselors are for ALL students:

☐ Academic

☐ Career

☐ Personal Social

- In meeting with our seniors this fall and working with them throughout this school year our goal is to be of assistance in helping them have a productive and enjoyable senior year and to prepare them for their next journey.
- Our role is to show them the tools to use, the places to look, the people they need to talk to, and to prepare them to advocate for themselves as they transition out of the high school setting.
- Each counselor has a large caseload, and meeting with our students is essential (and required), but we have to be cognizant of our time so we are meeting the needs of all of our students.

# Graduation Requirements


Students in New Hanover County are required to have 28 credits to graduate

Those credits must generally include the following:

- ❑ 5 English (This now includes an additional credit for the graduation project)
- ❑ 4 Math
- ❑ 4 Social Studies
- ❑ 3 Science
- ❑ 1 Health/PE
- ❑ 11 Electives
- ❑ CPR (hands only)

Counselors will review requirements with students during meetings this fall.

# Post-Secondary Options

- Approximately 90% of our students attend post-secondary schools, seeking undergraduate (four-year studies) or community college/technical schools (two-year studies).
  - Some start at community college and transfer to four-year studies after one to two years.
  - Other options include military, employment, and gap years.
  - The individual's decision is based on the needs of each adolescent and family.
  - What is the return on the investment of time, money, preparation?
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# Four-Year College: Navigating the Process

The application process is an arduous and stressful one for our students and families. It is a multifaceted endeavor which requires attention, organization, and adherence to individual colleges' submission expectations and deadlines.

## Factors in the Process:

- School selection-Where and why?
- Applying-How, deadlines?
- Fees-Why, how much?
- Test scores-Which ones?
- Transcripts-What is needed and how to have them sent?
- Letters of recommendation-From whom and how to get a helpful letter?
- Financial planning-What is the Expected Family Contribution?



# Breaking Down the Process

**Where should my child apply? It's very important to research schools.**

- Majors, campus life, location/setting, size, cost, demographics.
- Investigate individual college profiles. A good approach for categorizing choices is to divide into:
  - Reach or dream schools
  - Match schools
  - Safety schools
- After narrowing list, visit your top schools in each category.

# Virtual Exploration

- School Profile: A must-do for each college of interest  
<http://uncw.edu/aboutuncw/aboutJustthefacts.html>
- CFNC: Great information specific to NC  
<https://www.cfnc.org/>
- College Board: More great information on a national level  
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

- An invaluable list to help compare:  
[https://www.cfnc.org/static/pdf/home/sc/pdf/admissions\\_deadlines.pdf](https://www.cfnc.org/static/pdf/home/sc/pdf/admissions_deadlines.pdf)

# The Application Process

Each school website will note how you can apply.

Main ways to apply to a college are:

- The Common App  
<http://www.commonapp.org/how-apply#component-wrapper-10>
- The Coalition App  
<http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/students.html>
- The college website (example)  
[https://sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/undergraduate\\_admissions/apply\\_now/index.php](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/undergraduate_admissions/apply_now/index.php)
- CFNC  
[https://www1.cfnc.org/Apply/To\\_College/College\\_Applications/default.aspx](https://www1.cfnc.org/Apply/To_College/College_Applications/default.aspx)
- Application must be submitted and fees paid for the application to be complete.

\*\*\*Be sure to complete NC residency form, required by all NC schools\*\*\*

Application should direct you to the NC Residency Determination Site

# Application Due Dates Are Real Due Dates.

There are firm deadlines for application submission (four-year colleges), with a few exceptions:

- Early Action (non binding)
- Restrictive Early Action
- Early Decision (binding)
- Regular Decision
- Rolling Admissions

Deadlines for application submission to community colleges can vary slightly.

[https://www.cfnc.org/static/pdf/home/sc/pdf/admissions\\_deadlines.pdf](https://www.cfnc.org/static/pdf/home/sc/pdf/admissions_deadlines.pdf)

**\*\*Due to the storm, a few schools are extending their early deadlines. Check each schools website to see if that school's deadline has changed.\*\***

**-For example, NC State's early action deadline is usually Oct. 15th but has been pushed back to Nov. 1st.**

# Test Scores

## Most colleges want test scores.

- SAT versus ACT-Which is preferable?
  - Most colleges accept either
- SAT Subject Tests-When to take them?
  - Check each school you are applying to. Do they require subject tests?
- AP Scores-How are they helpful in the admissions process?
  - Can gain college credit for some AP classes you take. Each school will have different requirements.
  - Example: <https://uncw.edu/reg/transfercrredit-examAP.html>
  - Same goes for IB scores: example: <https://uncw.edu/reg/transfercrredit-examHLIB.html>
- Placement test at the Community Colleges
  - If applying to CFCC, you can send previous test scores to see if they qualify. If not, you may have to take a placement test at CFCC.

## How to send test scores:

- Electronically through testing sites such as College Board or ACT (log in to your account)
  - **Counselors cannot send these**
  - Make sure students merge school ACT with ACT exams they have taken on their own by calling ACT
- Fees (four free scores with purchase of exam)

Early deadlines (November SAT is the latest for most colleges, NOT ALL) vs. rolling admissions (match your SAT to the timeframe for consideration).

# Transcripts

**Colleges want the transcript as a definitive piece of the application.**

- What does a transcript show? Past, present, and future courses, rigor of courses, weighted and unweighted GPA, numerical averages, academic history.
- Official versus unofficial transcript: An official transcript is uploaded by us or mailed directly from the school. (Also, some schools have students self-report their transcripts for their application and then request an official transcript at the end of the school year pending acceptance into their institution)
- How to request transcripts: There is a transcript request form in the counseling office - can be completed by student or parent.
- There is a grace period for counselors to submit application materials, including the transcript, after the application due date.
- If students change classes at mid-semester some colleges will require an explanation of this change and it could affect their admissions depending on what the change entailed.

# Transcripts

- To request a transcript be sent:
  - See Mrs. Simpson in student services and fill out a form (be prepared to have the schools admissions address)
- If a student is applying to schools on the common app, you **DO NOT** have to request that a transcript be sent. Counselors automatically upload your transcript to your common app account. Also, reminder some schools just want you to self-report your transcript information vs. sending one in.
- You only need to request a transcript if you are applying to a school not on the common app (on a school's website)
- Your transcript shows the courses you are enrolled in for the entire year. Be sure to check with your counselor that your 2nd semester schedule is as accurate as possible.
- 2nd semester dual enrollment classes will not appear on the transcript sent to colleges
  - You can note the classes you plan to take a UNCW/CFCC on your applications when it asks what your senior year schedule is.

**Due to the storm, you/we are behind in the application process. Once we return to Hoggard, please see Ms. Simpson in student services ASAP to request a transcript be mailed if you are applying to schools not on the common app/Send.edu.. DO NOT EMAIL HER. She will not accept transcript requests via email.**

**\*Although some deadlines are as early as October 15th, transcripts, recommendation letters, etc. do not have to be in by that deadline. There is often a 2-4 week grace period for these documents to be sent in.**

# Supplemental Materials

Colleges want supplemental materials, which can include:

- Essays-Number of essays may vary by school if essay is needed.
- Counselor Forms/Secondary School Report
- School Profile-Available online and we provide if indicated.
- Teacher Recommendations

## FOLLOWING UP:

- Colleges send automated email reminders to students to send transcripts, test scores, and other documents, often even after these items have been submitted. Please check your common app account before reaching out to your counselor to see if these documents have been uploaded.



# Essays

- Interviews on paper!
- Please, please, please have these proofread

## Counselor Form or Secondary School Report (SSR)

- A select few schools require a SSR. Please check your schools requirements to see if they have one. If they do require one, print it out and turn it into your counselor directly.
- Not required for Common App or Coalition App schools
- Reports general student and school data

## School Profile

- We send this. School will ask us for it directly
- Snapshot of our school statistics and what course offerings we have (on website)

# Letters of Recommendation

Many colleges require one or more letters of recommendation (read the admission requirements and know for sure who needs a letter/s of rec)

- For common app schools, these are uploaded directly to common app from your teacher once you input their email address (check that they received your request!)
- Should be from *academic teacher* who knows you and can attest to your attitude, work ethic, accountability, and integrity.
- Schools prefer a letter from an *academic teacher*, unless applying to arts or technical program - sometimes a community member letter ok as secondary recommendation
- Ask teachers several weeks in advance - don't just plug in their email
- Counselor recommendation usually pertains to transcript and school report. If a school requires an actual letter from a counselor, please discuss this with the counselor assigned to your alphabet. **We do not do this automatically, you must discuss this with us.**
- Help recommenders remember you - tell them why you have chosen their recommendation
- Do not send more recommendations than the school requests.
- Electronic letter (common app) or USPS (provide a stamped envelope)
- Privacy - understand a teacher may not share their letter with you
- Allow a grace period and check for submission in your account
- Express gratitude - teachers spend their free time writing letters.

# Missteps to Avoid

## College admissions do NOT want:

- Extra letters of recommendations
- Copy and paste essays - don't send a UNC essay to NC State!
- Art portfolios, unless specifically requested
- Music demos, unless specifically requested
- Something "cute" or "memorable"
- Social media recklessness
  - Be aware of what your students post
  - Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, etc. . . Schools will check!
- Parents reaching out – students should self-advocate

# Financial Planning

Scholarship hunting is a self-propelled process that requires a lot of work on the student's and parent's parts, but can be very rewarding.

- Merit-based v. Need-based
- Early action – merit scholarship pool
  - By applying to those early deadlines, your student is often automatically considered for merit based scholarships.
  - Need based- based on the FAFSA typically
- Our website <http://www.hoggardstudentservices.com/scholarships.html>
  - Be sure to check out the “active” and “archived” scholarships tabs
- College website (office of Financial Aid)- Schools often have school specific scholarships.
- Local, state, national
- Scholarships can change year to year, especially local
- Places of employment, alumni, first generation

# Financial Planning, continued

## FAFSA Free Application for Federal Student Aid [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov)

- Federally-based scholarships, grants, loans, work studies
- Never pay for FAFSA
- Have tax returns ready!
- FAFSA Week @ UNCW October
  - There are usually local FAFSA days at UNCW where they will help you fill out the FAFSA.
- Check with SECU about assistance with FAFSA

## CSS Profile

- Required by some schools for school-based and merit funds
- Check with your schools to see if they require

# Roles in the College Application Process

## The Student:

- Know your deadlines
- Pay fees - application is not submitted until fee paid!

*(Fee waivers available based on need for some schools - see counselor)*

- Transcript Requests
- Teacher Recommendations
- Request Test Scores
- Secondary or Supplemental forms

## Teacher:

- Teacher recommendation

## Student Services Office:

- Send Transcripts and school profile
- Secondary School Reports (SSR) -- if required
- Counselor recommendation -- if required

## Parents:

*Three roles for parents in the college application process, as suggested by*

### *College Times Magazine*

- Coach
- Consultant
- Executive Assistant

# Admissions Decisions

Generally your student will receive an email or a letter regarding a college's admission decision.

- **Accepted**
  - If accepted Early Decision your child needs to withdraw all other applications.
  - Most colleges don't need commitment until late April or early May
- **Deferred**
  - If early action or early decision, then basically you've gone into the regular admission candidate pool.
  - If deferred regular decision, they probably want more information to evaluate you.
  - Check and see if they specifically ask for new test scores or mid-year grades.
- **Waitlist**
  - School has made offers of admission for all its spaces, but if people don't accept, they will start pulling from the waitlist
- **Denied**
  - Admission has not and will not be offered; if there is no back-up plan, your counselor can help you create one.

# Community College Two-Year Schools

- North Carolina Community College System (58 institutions)
  - Associate's Degree
  - Transfer Programs - UNC System Schools
  - Certificate/Licensure/Technical
  -
- Louisburg - on-campus housing
- Miller Motte
- 
- Applications
- Testing - SAT, ACT, Accuplacer
- Registering for Classes

## Pros

- Tuition is less expensive
- Student wants a job that doesn't require a 4 year degree
- Can live at home (no rent, save money)
- Able to keep part-time jobs
- Can continue with dual enrollment programs

## Cons

- No on-campus housing
- Miss "going away" experience
- Some credits may not transfer
- Might still live at home
- Student aid (if not "degree-seeking")
- Managing rent, bills, etc.

□




# Military Opportunities

Military recruiters all armed services branches visit Hoggard weekly

- High School Diploma required
- ASVAB required, offered here at Hoggard and also individually with area recruiters
- Benefit of joining (Leadership, training, education, travel, etc.)

\*\*The student should contact Mr. Jawitz, School Counselor, for more information.

# Other Post-Secondary Options

- Job force
    - Going into the workforce right out of high school.
  - Gap year
    - Taking a year off after high school to explore other opportunities like traveling.
  - Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, Job Corps
- 

# Helpful Websites

□ <http://www.commonapp.org/>

□ <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>

Visit these sites to apply to multiple colleges in one application.

□ <http://www.cfnc.org>

Helps you plan, apply, and pay for colleges in NC

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

Helps you plan, apply, and pay for colleges around the country

□ <http://www.hoggardstudentservices.com/>

Please continue to check our website for new important information.

TWITTER: [www.twitter.com/JTH\\_Advising](http://www.twitter.com/JTH_Advising)

□

Hoggard Counselors will meet with Seniors in groups once we return to school in October. Please be patient as we try to see a large number of Seniors in a small time period.

