

Heading to College?

Here's what you need to fill out RDS and FAFSA

THE WHAT:

RDS=Residency Determination Service. Has to be done to get an RCN (Residency Certification Number) for in-state tuition and grant awards.

FAFSA= Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This figures out how much federal, state, and institutional financial aid you can get.

THE WHERE:

RDS: NCRESIDENCY.ORG (POWERED BY CFNC)
FAFSA: STUDENTAID.GOV

THE WHEN:



THE HOW:

RDS REQUESTED DOCUMENTS

- Parent/Student SSN (or other unique identification number)
- Parent /Student address
- Time living in NC
- If parent filed state taxes in NC as a resident
- If parent registered a car in NC
- Student immigration info (if applicable)

**This is not a complete list, and other documents may be requested. See ncresidency.cfnc.org for more information.*

FAFSA REQUESTED DOCUMENTS

- FSA ID to sign electronically
- SSN
- Alien Registration Number (if not a U.S. citizen)
- Federal income tax returns, W-2s, etc.
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)

**If you're a dependent student, you'll need most of these for your parent(s) too.*

College Admission Checklist

A Step-by-Step Guide to Applying to College

1. GET STARTED

- Create/Update CFNC Profile.**
Your My Profile information will automatically populate the corresponding fields on your applications. Your CFNC login will be the same for NC Residency also!
- Explore Colleges and Universities.**
Go to the College Search section on [CFNC.org](https://www.cfnc.org). Filter schools based on criteria important to you and your goals.
- Save Your Favorite Schools.**
Keep your favorite schools in one place for easy access when researching and applying.
- Get your FSA ID**
Your Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID allows you to sign your FAFSA and federal education loan promissory notes.



**NC COUNTDOWN
TO COLLEGE**

3. GO APPLY

- Complete Your NC Residency (RDS).**
Your residency status determines your eligibility for state grants and in-state tuition. Visit www.ncresidency.org.
- Submit Your FAFSA.**
The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is used to determine your eligibility for federal aid & state grants. Complete your FAFSA as soon after Oct 1 as possible!
- Submit Your College Applications.**
Start your applications on [CFNC.org](https://www.cfnc.org) to take advantage of waived fees at participating NC schools during College Application Week!
- Send Your High School Transcripts.**
Be sure to send your HS transcripts to colleges that you are submitting applications. CFNC allows you to send your transcript from NC high schools to NC colleges.
- Start Applying for Scholarships.**
Apply for scholarships early and often. Some scholarships have deadlines as soon as a year before you start school, so check the for important dates!

2. PREPARE A PLAN

- Keep Track of Application Deadlines.**
Make sure you have a list of deadlines so you don't miss any important dates.
- Explore Colleges and Identify Application Fees.**
If an application fee is requested, you may still qualify to get a fee waiver. Check with your school counselor!
- Complete a Practice Application.**
Fill out the CFNC practice application to help you identify and prepare for the information you may need.
- Prepare Essays and Personal Statements.**
Have your essays and personal statements ready so they can be easily uploaded or copy-pasted to your application. Make sure to check for word counts or other requirements.
- Carefully Read the Introduction.**
Take your time and read the application introduction carefully. Each school has different requirements and instructions.
- Ask for Recommendation Letters.**
Start asking for letters of recommendation around the end of your junior year. Different schools may request more than one.



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