

College Application Process

Suggested timeline for testing and applying:

Spring of 11th grade and over the summer or ASAP: You should take the SAT and ACT after completing Algebra II or by the end of your junior year, whichever comes first. Remember, community colleges/2 year colleges do NOT require SAT/ACT. You should also be narrowing down a list of schools you are interested in, and planning visits to the campuses if at all possible.

Fall of 12th grade:

- Retake the SAT or ACT (whichever you did best on) early in the fall.
- Apply to college! You do NOT need to wait for SAT/ACT scores to come in. Apply and send your scores later if necessary. It is a good idea to be DONE applying to schools before winter break.

General College Application Process

1. APPLY! Applications should be done during the fall of your senior year; the earlier the better! Most college applications can be done online:
 - Through CFNC.org (North Carolina colleges and universities)
 - Through individual college or university websites (any college or university)
 - CommonApp.org allows you to apply to many colleges at once (good for out of state schools)

*Many schools charge an application fee; if you qualified for an SAT or ACT fee waiver, you can receive up to two admission fee waivers per fee waiver used.
1. Request your transcript be mailed using the request book in the Counseling Office.
2. Gather and send additional required information
 - If needed, ask teachers or counselors for letters of reference. Give them at least two weeks to complete the forms or letters!
 - Request SAT or ACT scores (through their websites) to be sent to the colleges you are applying to. *Union County no longer puts SAT or ACT scores on transcripts, and if they are there already, they are not considered official by most schools.*
 - If essays, supplemental application materials, or interviews are required, make sure they are submitted on time.
3. Start looking for financial aid and scholarships : Utilize the scholarship newsletter that comes out at FHHS every month, scholarships websites, and individual college and university scholarships.

File your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). It becomes available January 1 of each year.

- Your parents should have their taxes ready to be filed earlier than normal; this tax information is used to fill out the FAFSA.
 - Go to: www.fafsa.gov for more information on the FAFSA. See your counselor with questions!
4. You will receive a letter or email from the colleges you apply to regarding your acceptance. Keep in touch with the Admissions Department at the college if you don't hear anything by posted deadlines.
 - If attending COMMUNITY COLLEGE/2 Year: You will need to take a Placement Test once accepted and before you register for classes. Visit the college website to find information about test times & locations.
 - Once accepted to any college you should receive an admissions packet, which will outline dates for orientations and class registration, along with information about financial aid available to you (grants, scholarships, loans).