A decorative graphic on a dark blue background. It features several thick, light blue lines that form a grid-like structure with rounded corners. One of these lines extends horizontally to the right and ends in a light blue arrowhead pointing towards the right. The overall design is clean and modern.

Embark

Planning Your Next Steps
After High School

Name _____

School _____

Email _____

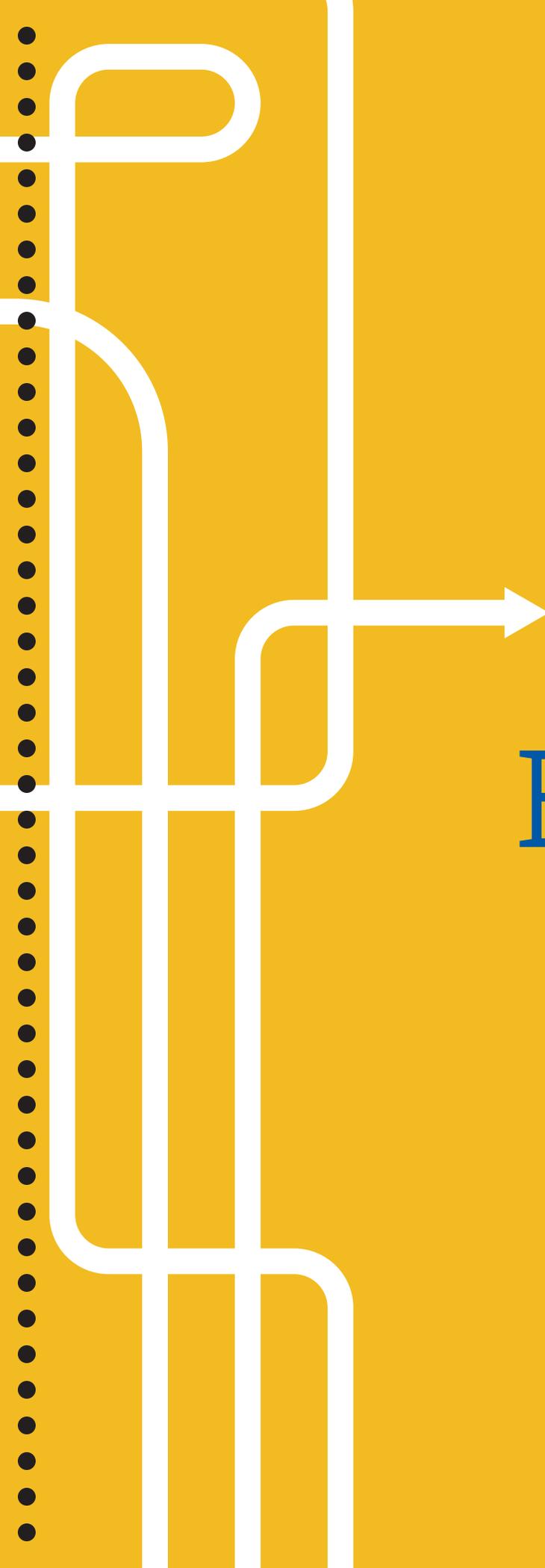
Phone _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____





Embark

Planning Your Next Steps
After High School

Table of Contents

SECTION 1

Know Yourself & Explore Your Options

- Know Yourself
- What Are My Options?

SECTION 2

College Applications

- Things to Remember
- What you can do NOW
- UNC System Minimum Requirements
- UNC System FAQs
- Match & Fit
- Applying
- Recommendations and Essays

SECTION 3

Financing Your Next Steps

- Things To Remember
- Activities
- Family Info
- RDS
- FSA ID
- Financial Aid Packages

SECTION 4

Military Enrollment & Workforce Choices

- U.S. Armed Forces Options
- Military Checklist
- Entering the Workforce
- Resumés & Cover Letters
- Workforce Checklist
- Tracking Job Applications

SECTION 5

Other Checklists & Forms

- Pre-FAFSA Info Sheet
- FSA ID Form
- Four-Year University
- Community College
- Scholarship Tracking

Section 1

Know Yourself





Know Yourself

What are my academic credentials?

Weighted GPA: _____ Unweighted GPA: _____

SAT or ACT score: _____ OR PSAT or Accuplacer Score: _____

Advanced coursework taken (or will be taken as a senior):

What is my favorite subject? What is my least favorite subject?

What non-academic strengths do I have? What are my talents/skills?

What jobs and occupations seem interesting to me? What type of education do they require?

What goals have I set for myself after high school (professional, personal)?

What Are My Options?

Vocational/ Trade School

Vocational and trade schools focus on providing necessary skills for specific jobs or trades.

Community College

Community colleges are a part of the state's public higher education system and primarily serve local students and local needs. Anyone who is a high school graduate or a GED recipient is allowed to enroll, and tuition is generally lower than 4-year colleges and universities.

4-Year Public

Four-year public colleges and universities are funded through the state and federal government, which means that their tuition and fees are generally lower than 4-year private colleges and universities. State systems offer a broad range of academic options, which attract students with all different types of interests.

4-Year Private

Four-year private colleges and universities are funded through tuition, endowments, and private donors instead of through the state and federal government. Many specialize in certain areas, such as fine arts, liberal arts, business, or the hard sciences.

Military

Through ROTC, service academies, and the G.I. Bill, students receive financial support for their education in exchange for a commitment to serve in the U.S. military.

Work Force

Students can directly enter the work force, but many 21st century jobs will likely require additional licensing or certifications to advance or receive higher pay.

Section 2

College Applications



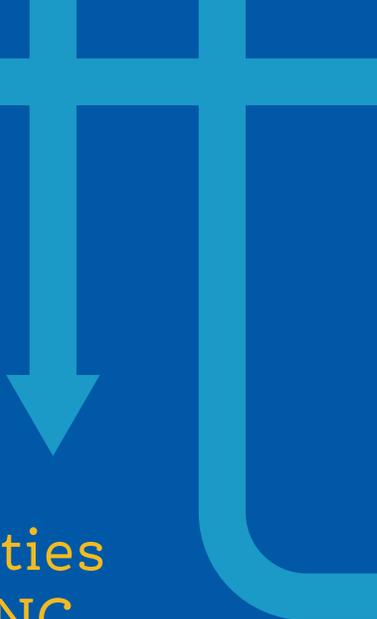
College Applications

Things to Remember

- Talk to your school counselor if you need a fee waiver for the application fee
- Each school has their own unique application process. Visit their website to learn how you should apply
- Scholarship deadlines come early! Make sure you submit your applications on time

Things you can do NOW:

- Begin a list of schools where you may want to apply
- Talk to admissions counselors and get deadlines
- Go on college tours or virtual college tours
- Attend financial aid nights
- Take the SAT and/or the ACT



Universities in the UNC System

Appalachian State University

East Carolina University

Elizabeth City State University

Fayetteville State University

North Carolina A&T State University

North Carolina Central University

North Carolina State University

UNC Asheville

UNC Chapel Hill

UNC Charlotte

UNC Greensboro

UNC Pembroke

UNC Wilmington

UNC School of Arts

Western Carolina University

Winston-Salem State University

Which college is the right fit for me?

What size college would I like to attend?

- Small (under 3,000 students)
- Medium (between 5,000 and 10,000 students)
- Large (over 15,000 students)

Type of city?

- In a small town
- In a suburb
- In a big city

Average cost of attendance?

- Below \$20,000 a year
- \$20,000-\$40,000 a year
- Above \$40,000 a year

How close to home do I want to be?

- A short drive away
- A few hours away
- A plane ride away

What would I like to study?

What clubs, sports, and activities interest me?

UNC System Minimum Requirements

The University of North Carolina minimum admission requirements are established by the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina. However, admission is a competitive process and individual campuses may have additional requirements beyond the minimums listed below. *Meeting these requirements does not guarantee admission to any specific university or program. Please check with each campus for additional information related to their specific admission requirements.* Criteria must be met by the time of enrollment at the UNC institution.

MINIMUM COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Six course units in language, including:

- Four units in English emphasizing grammar, composition, and literature
- Two units of a language other than English

Four course units of mathematics, in any of the following combinations:

- Algebra I and II, geometry, and one unit beyond algebra II
- Algebra I and II, and two units beyond algebra II
- Integrated math I, II, and III, and one unit beyond integrated math III. (The fourth unit of math affects applicants to all institutions except the UNC School of the Arts.) It is recommended that prospective students take a mathematics course unit in the 12th grade.

Three course units in science, including:

- At least one unit in a life or biological science (for example, biology)
- At least one unit in physical science (for example, physical science, chemistry, physics)
- At least one laboratory course

Two course units in social studies, including:

- One unit in U.S. history. An applicant who does not have the unit in U.S. history may be admitted on the condition that at least three semester hours in that subject will be passed by the end of sophomore year.

FAQs About UNC Minimum Requirements

- 1. IS THE GPA SCORE BASED ON THE WEIGHTED OR UNWEIGHTED GPA?**
The weighted GPA will be used to determine if the student satisfies the minimum GPA requirement.
- 2. IS THE GPA CALCULATED BASED ON ALL MY COURSES OR JUST THE COURSES FOR THE COLLEGE PREPARATORY CURRICULUM?** The GPA is the cumulative GPA based on all courses taken during high school.
- 3. IF I TAKE THE SAT MORE THAN ONCE, WILL MY HIGHEST COMBINED SCORE BE USED EVEN IF IT IS FROM TWO DIFFERENT TEST DATES?** Yes, the highest score received on any administration of the same version of the SAT for critical reading will be combined with the highest score received on math. The College Board implemented a new version of the SAT in March 2016. Scores can be combined within test versions (ex: old math and old reading), but cannot be combined between test version (ex: old math and new reading).
- 4. WHAT IF MY GPA IS OVER 2.5, BUT MY SAT IS LESS THAN 880 ON THE NEW VERSION (OR LESS THAN 800 ON THE OLD VERSION), OR MY ACT IS LESS THAN 17 - DO I MEET THE REQUIREMENT?** No, you must meet both the minimum GPA and the minimum SAT or ACT score to be eligible for admission. In rare cases, a campus may offer a student with extenuating circumstances or with a special talent a waiver from one of the requirements.
- 5. WHAT IF I GRADUATED IN 2016, BUT DON'T APPLY TO COLLEGE UNTIL 2020? WILL I NEED TO HAVE THE GPA OF 2.5 AND THE SAT OF 800?** Students 21 and older are exempt from minimum high school GPA, test score, and minimum course requirements.
- 6. IF I TAKE THE ACT, WILL MY HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SECTIONS BE USED TO CALCULATE A NEW COMPOSITE SCORE?** Yes, the highest individual scores will be used to determine a new composite score.

Program Match & Fit

When applying to college, it is important to give yourself multiple options.

SAFE

Schools where you feel confident that you can be accepted.

FIT

Schools where your scores fall within the average for admitted freshman.

STRETCH

Schools where admittance may be more challenging.

What to know before applying

Deadlines

Early action and **early decision** deadlines are normally around the first of November; however, they can fall as early as October. *Early action* is *non-binding*. Being offered *early decision* is *binding*, which means the student must enroll if admitted. Decisions are normally posted around the first of December.

Regular decision is the normal application process that the majority of schools use. It normally falls around the first of January. Decisions are normally posted around the first of March.

Rolling admission is a process where applicants are invited to submit their applications within a large window of time. Decisions are normally posted between 2 and 8 weeks after the application is received.

Scholarship deadlines vary depending on the scholarship and the organization behind it.

Tips & Reminders

Writing an Essay

When writing your personal essay, it is important to remember to be honest. Writing a story that is not your own may seem like a good idea, but college admissions officers can often spot a false story. When finished, remember to make edits and have someone proofread it. The essay is also a great opportunity to explain what is unique about you! Help admissions offices get to know the you that doesn't come through on a transcript. What are your strengths and triumphs? What challenges have you faced? What about their school makes you feel like you might be a good fit?

Teacher Recommendations

When asking for a teacher recommendation, ask teachers that know you well and can speak to why you're a good applicant. Provide your teacher with a copy of your resumé, and always give your teachers enough notice to complete it.

Resumés

When crafting your resumé, write with your strengths in mind, however, do not overcrowd it. Your resumé should include your name, phone number, and email address at the top of the page and should not be longer than a page. Review *Resumé Basics* in Section 4 of this book.

Activity

Provide your recommending teacher with a copy of your **resumé** before you leave for the summer between your junior and senior years. It gives them some time to familiarize themselves with your strengths and begin to prepare your recommendations for fall.

What I Need to Apply:

- Completed Application
- Personal Essay
- Resumé
- Official Transcript
- Teacher Recommendations

Writing a Personal Statement

DO choose an area that focuses and draws attention to what is unique about you.

DON'T try to cover too much in one essay. It's not a resumé. It's your personal story that should highlight you!

DO be creative and draw attention to subjects not already covered by other parts of the application.

DON'T turn in your essay without proofreading it. Your English teachers and school counselors are excellent resources!

DO write in your own voice. Stay away from clichés people have used many times before.

DON'T plagiarize. You don't need to. Everyone has something interesting to share.

Letters of Recommendation

DO choose someone who knows you well, interacts with you regularly, and can affirm your character.

DON'T ask for a letter of recommendation at the last minute. You could miss your deadline, and it is considered rude.

DO provide your recommender with a resumé or list of your interests and accomplishments. If your recommendation has to come in a specific format, make sure you let them know.

DON'T forget to follow-up to make sure that they have everything they need: forms, addresses, website links, stamped/addressed envelopes, etc.

DO always write a thank you note!

Section 3

Financing Your Next Steps

**THIS IS HIGHLY SENSITIVE AND PERSONAL INFORMATION.
PLEASE WAIT UNTIL YOU CAN STORE YOUR BOOK RESPONSIBLY
AND SAFELY AT HOME BEFORE FILLING OUT THESE CHECKLISTS.**



Financing Your Next Steps

Things to Remember

You have to apply for financial aid every year.

A **LOAN** is money that is borrowed from the government or banks. You are expected to pay loans back with interest.

A **GRANT** is money that is given to you by the government or a private organization. You do not need to pay grants back.

A **SCHOLARSHIP** is money that is awarded to you by the institution you are attending or a private organization. You do not need to pay scholarships back.

A **PELL GRANT** is money provided by the federal government to college students who demonstrate financial need. Pell grants do not need to be paid back. To earn a Pell Grant you must be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen and will need to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

Activity

Log onto FAFSA4Caster to help determine an estimate of the amount of financial aid you will receive once you fill out the FAFSA.

Go to **SECTION 5: CHECKLISTS** for more information on what you'll need to get your FSA ID and to fill out your FAFSA.



Things to Remember

You can begin your FAFSA on October 1st of your senior year.

You can receive up to four college application fee waivers if you receive a fee waiver for the SAT or ACT.

You can list up to 10 colleges and universities on your FAFSA.

In North Carolina, you must go through the Residency Determination Service process to qualify for in-state tuition.

Never pay anyone to fill out your FAFSA for you!

If you need assistance reach out to your **SCHOOL COUNSELOR, CFNC**, or your local community college or four-year university **OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID**.

Family Corner

Understanding Student Loan Debt

STAFFORD LOAN

Money directly loaned from the federal government.

SUBSIDIZED LOAN

A loan that you are not responsible for paying off until your graduate, and that the government pays interest on while you are in school. They are reserved for students with financial need.

UNSUBSIDIZED LOAN

A loan that you are responsible for paying back all of the interest. You do not have to start paying this back until after you graduate. All students are eligible for this loan.

Loan Payment Calculator: <https://www.cfnc.org/>

Understanding for-Profit Colleges

WHAT IS IT?

For-profit colleges are higher educational institutions owned by private, profit-seeking businesses.

WHAT SHOULD STUDENTS LOOK OUT FOR?

For-profit colleges are often more expensive, with much of the money brought in going towards advertisement. It is often worth noting that at many for-profit institutions, credits taken may not transfer, and degrees earned are often overlooked by employers.

ARE THERE ANY BENEFITS?

For-profit colleges are often seen as a more attractive option for non-traditional students and may make a degree seem more attainable than community colleges and non-profit colleges.

Understanding North Carolina's Residency Requirements

WHAT IS IT?

The RDS is the Residency Determination Service, a state funded program that determines a student's residency for tuition purposes.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The RDS determines whether a student is eligible for in-state tuition and state grants. If a student does not establish residency in the state that they are applying to college, they will not qualify for in-state tuition.

WHAT IF THEY SAY I'M OUT OF STATE?

If you believe that your residency status is incorrect, you can appeal the RDS **within 30 calendar days of the initial determination.**

That is 30 days (including weekends!) to appeal...

What is Residency & RDS?

The state of North Carolina partially subsidizes the cost of North Carolina public college and university tuition for all students whose domicile, or permanent legal residence, is in North Carolina. Residency determination establishes if students should have in-state or out-of-state tuition. Because North Carolina residency status is governed solely by North Carolina statute, lack of eligibility for in-state status in another state does not guarantee in-state status in North Carolina. The resident statute mandates ***only those who can demonstrate a minimum of twelve months of uninterrupted domicile (legal residence) in North Carolina are eligible for in-state tuition.***

The Residency Determination Service (RDS) was established in coordination with the

University of North Carolina System (UNC), the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS), the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA), and the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (NCICU) as the centralized service for determining residency for students. This service enables a student to use residency determination for admission to multiple NC public colleges and universities and demonstrate residency for state aid consideration.

In order to receive in-state tuition, you MUST complete the RDS process and receive an RDS number.

Go to: <https://ncresidency.cfn.org/residencyInfo/> for more information!

First Steps!

The first step to completing your FAFSA is to create an FSA ID (a username and password). Your FSA ID gives you access to Federal Student Aid's online systems and serves as your legal signature. Only create an FSA ID using your own personal information and for your own exclusive use.

To create an FSA ID, go to fsaid.ed.gov

How to Obtain Your FSA ID

- Log onto fsaid.ed.gov & click on "Create an FSA ID."
- Create a password & verify that you are at least 13 years old.
- Provide required personal data, such as your name, Social Security Number, date of birth, and contact information. Then provide an answer to a security question of your choice.
- Review your information, read, and accept the terms and conditions on the FSA ID site.
- Check your email for a message that contains a security code that you can use to verify your email address. You can add fsaid@ed.gov to your address book to insure that message go straight to your inbox. **Never use your high school email address to create your FSA ID. Your could be locked out of it at graduation!**

When you file the FAFSA, these are the items to have at hand (for yourself and your parents).

- Most recent W-2 forms
- Most recent Federal Income Tax Forms
- Most current statements from all accounts (checking, savings, investments, etc.)
- Child support paid or received
- Value of investment farms and businesses
- Other prior year benefits (workers comp, military, clergy, or veteran amounts)

Financial Aid Packages

After you've applied to your target schools and completed the FAFSA, you'll begin to receive financial aid packages from each college.

You may receive your packages in a letter through the mail or email, or online through your college student account. Review these offers carefully to ensure that you understand your potential out-of-pocket expenses. Your school counselor can help with that. It is also important that your parents/ guardians review your award letter(s) to help you make this important decision. The financial award offers you receive from each school you have been accepted to will vary. Your "net" or out-of-pocket cost to attend each school is likely to be an important factor in deciding which school to attend.

After you decide which school to attend, carefully respond to that school's financial aid offer; you will be asked to "accept or decline" each component of your aid package. You can accept some offers but decline others, if you won't need it. Always accept "free" money – like scholarships and grants. Accepting work-study, if it's been offered, is a good idea. It doesn't obligate you to find and take a work-study job, but accepting it will allow you to go that route, if you want to. Think carefully, and review the terms closely before you accept any loans offered, as these must be repaid, with interest. (*adapted from NAU Gear Up*)



Military Enrollment & Workforce Choices



Joining the U.S. Military

This section includes resources for anyone interested in joining the U.S. military immediately after high school. Time in the military can teach you about service to our nation and offer you valuable structure. You can also learn a trade, gain a career, get workforce experience and earn benefits. If you're not yet sure which branch to join, consider speaking with a recruiter in your area for the most up-to-date information on enlistment.

A **MILITARY RECRUITER** can help answer questions about service, providing a positive but realistic assessment of opportunities. A recruiter's job is to find qualified candidates for his or her respective service and provide the candidates with information about – and reasons for – joining the military. Students interested in military service are advised to talk with a recruiter for the branch of the military in which they are interested. Your high school counselor can tell you when military recruiters will be at your high school.

The **ARMED SERVICES VOCATIONAL APTITUDE BATTERY (ASVAB)** is a multiple-choice test, and it is administered by the United States Military Entrance Processing Command, and used to determine qualification for enlistment in the

United States Armed Forces. This is one test that you'll need to take and just like any other test, it is recommended that students prepare for the ASVAB. Learn more about the ASVAB, and how to prepare for it, by visiting your local military recruiter, your school counselor or by going to the website www.official-asvab.com

Each military branch has its own version of the **RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (ROTC)**. The ROTC is a college program offered at colleges and universities across the country. Universities that offer ROTC may offer it for one, some, or all of the military branches. In exchange for a paid college education and a guaranteed post-college career, cadets are prepared to become officers in the military and commit to serving upon graduation.

The **DELAYED ENLISTMENT PROGRAM (DEP)** (also called the Delayed Entry Program or the Future Soldiers Program, depending on the military branch) is where those who want to enlist in the United States Armed Forces are placed before they ship out to Basic Training or "boot camp." Students who plan to join the military immediately following high school will likely enlist through the DEP.

Military Checklist

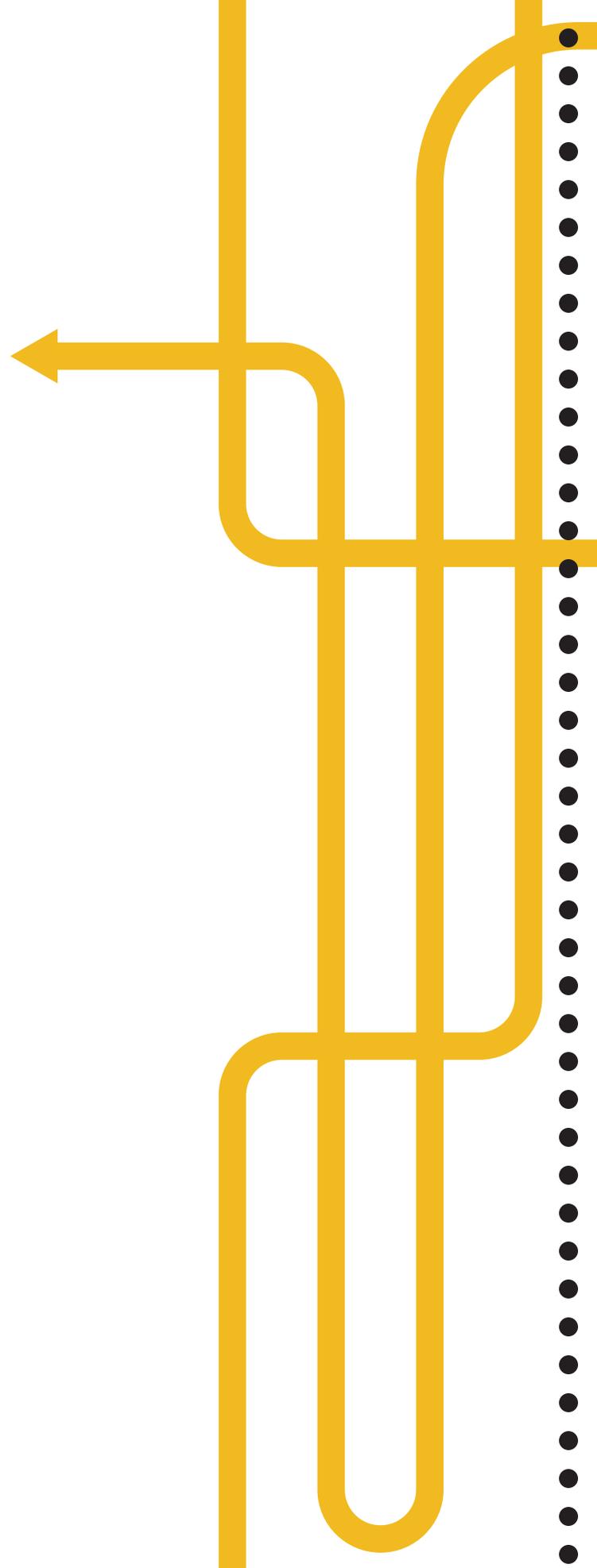
I plan to join the:

- Army Navy
 Air Force Marines
 Coast Guard

Action	Recommended Timeline	My Date
Schedule appointment with recruiter	Fall	
Take or re-take ASVAB	Fall	
Discuss DEP with recruiter	Fall	
Complete Physical Examination with Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS)	As directed by recruiter	
Review ASVAB scores with School Counselor	Spring	
Research potential careers for service	Spring	
Meet with Enlistment Counselor to determine career prospects	As directed by recruiter	
Take the Oath of Enlistment	As directed by recruiter	
Prepare for Basic Training	Spring	
Other		

Preparing to Enter the Workforce

If you plan to begin working immediately after graduation, you can expect that most jobs that you apply for will require either a resumé or application, and perhaps both. Use the forms in this section to get organized as you apply for jobs so you don't miss out on a vital opportunity! By using the information on these pages you will have everything you need to fill out a job application and create a resumé. As always, be careful that you store your personal information in a secure place!



Full Legal Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Permanent Mailing Address: _____

Current Mailing Address (if different from above): _____

Permanent Phone Number: _____ Cell Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____

Social Security Number: ____-____-____

Name of School Most Recently Attended: _____

City/State of School: _____

Date of Graduation (month & year): _____

GPA: _____ SAT/ACT Scores (if applicable): _____

Athletics, Clubs & Organizations: _____

Community Service: _____

Honors & Awards: _____

Work Experience (starting with the most recent employer, if applicable): _____

List Three References, including their phone number and relationship to you:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

How to Create a Resumé

With a resumé, what you list on it matters, but so does how it looks! It's your first impression with your future employer, and you want it to be a good one. If your resumé is poorly formatted, hard to follow or has typos, it reflects poorly on you as a potential employee. Here are some basic elements you should include in your resumé:

HEADING: Include your name, address, email address and phone number. Make it stand out by using large, clean font. Make sure your email address sounds professional.

EDUCATION: List all degrees completed or in progress. As a high school student, include your GPA if it is 3.0 or above and list courses that reflect your work ethic and high aspirations, such as AP or dual enrollment courses and any courses relevant to the position for which you are applying. After you complete your college degree, do not include your high school information.

EXPERIENCE: Include your job title, the employer, the location (city and state, at minimum), and the dates of employment for each job listed. Include a brief description of your achievements/responsibilities. Ideally, volunteer work is listed separately.

HONORS/AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS:

Optional – Include the name of the organization that bestowed the honor/award and the date. Only include scholarships based on merit, not financial need.

SPECIAL SKILLS/HIGHLIGHTS:

Optional – List any unique, relevant or necessary skills not reflected in education or experience (e.g., foreign language fluency, computer program expertise, etc.).

REFERENCES: Be sure to get permission from anyone you use as a reference, before using their name, and provide them with a copy of your resumé. Do not use relatives as references.

But What is a Cover Letter?

Not every job offers you the chance to write a cover letter, but if you can, then do! Cover letters give potential employers a sense of who you are and the skills you possess, as well as provide context for valuable information from your resumé and application. If a cover letter is required to apply for a job and you don't include one, your resumé or application, no matter how good, will not even be considered.

Workforce Checklist

My career interest areas or job prospects include:

Action	Recommended Timeline	My Date	Notes
Research training required for field of interest	Fall/Winter		
Research community college options/programs	Fall/Winter		
Create / update resumé	Winter/Spring		
Prepare for job applications	Winter/Spring		
Research job openings	Spring		
Ask people to serve as references	Spring		
Apply for jobs	Spring		
Inform School Counselor of job placement	Spring		
Other			
Other			

Tracking Job Applications

Company Name	Job title	Pay	Link to job posting/ application	Date applied	Contact name/ number/ email	Response	Interview date/time	Offer



Section 5

Other Checklists and Forms



Pre-FAFSA Info

By completing this form, you will have a convenient place for all of the information you need to create your FSA ID online and to complete your FAFSA.

This is personal, identifying information. Please keep it in a safe and secure place.

Student Email _____ Cell Phone: _____
Not your high school email.

Parent Email _____ Cell Phone: _____

Are you a North Carolina resident? Yes No

Month/Year you began living in North Carolina: _____

Are your parents North Carolina residents? Yes No

Month/Year your parents began living in North Carolina: _____

Your Social Security number: _____ - _____ - _____

Your parents' Social Security number:

Parent 1: _____ - _____ - _____ Parent 2: _____ - _____ - _____

If you are not a U.S. citizen,
what is your permanent resident card A #: _____

What are your parents' dates of birth?

Parent 1 D.O.B. _____ Parent 2 D.O.B. _____

Do you have a driver's license? Yes No

Your Driver's License #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

What is the month & year your parents
were married, divorced or separated? _____

What is the highest level of school your parents completed? *(circle one for each parent)*

Parent 1: Middle school High School College or beyond Other/unknown

Parent 2: Middle school High School College or beyond Other/unknown

FSA (Federal Student Aid) ID Form

The first step to completing your FAFSA is to create an FSA ID (a username and password). Your FSA ID gives you access to Federal Student Aid's online systems and serves as your legal signature. Only create an FSA ID using your own personal information and for your own exclusive use.

Complete this form as you create your FSA ID, so you have the information when you need it to log in later. To create an FSA ID, go to fsaid.ed.gov

When you file the FAFSA, these are the items to have at hand (for yourself and your parents).

- Most recent W-2 forms
- Most recent Federal Income Tax Forms
- Most current statements from all accounts (checking, savings, investments, etc.)
- Child support paid or received
- Value of investment farms and businesses
- Other prior year benefits (workers comp, military, clergy, or veteran amounts)

Student Information

Email Address: _____

Do not use your official school email. You may lose access after graduation.

Username: _____

Password: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Social Security Number: ____-____-____

Challenge Question: _____

Answer to Challenge Questions _____

Answers are case sensitive.

Significant Date Answer (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

Parent Information (if applicable)

Email Address: _____

Username: _____

Password: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Social Security Number: ____-____-____

Challenge Question: _____

Answer to Challenge Questions _____

Answers are case sensitive.

Significant Date Answer (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

Four Year University

If you are attending a four-year college or university (including ROTC programs and military academies) complete this form:

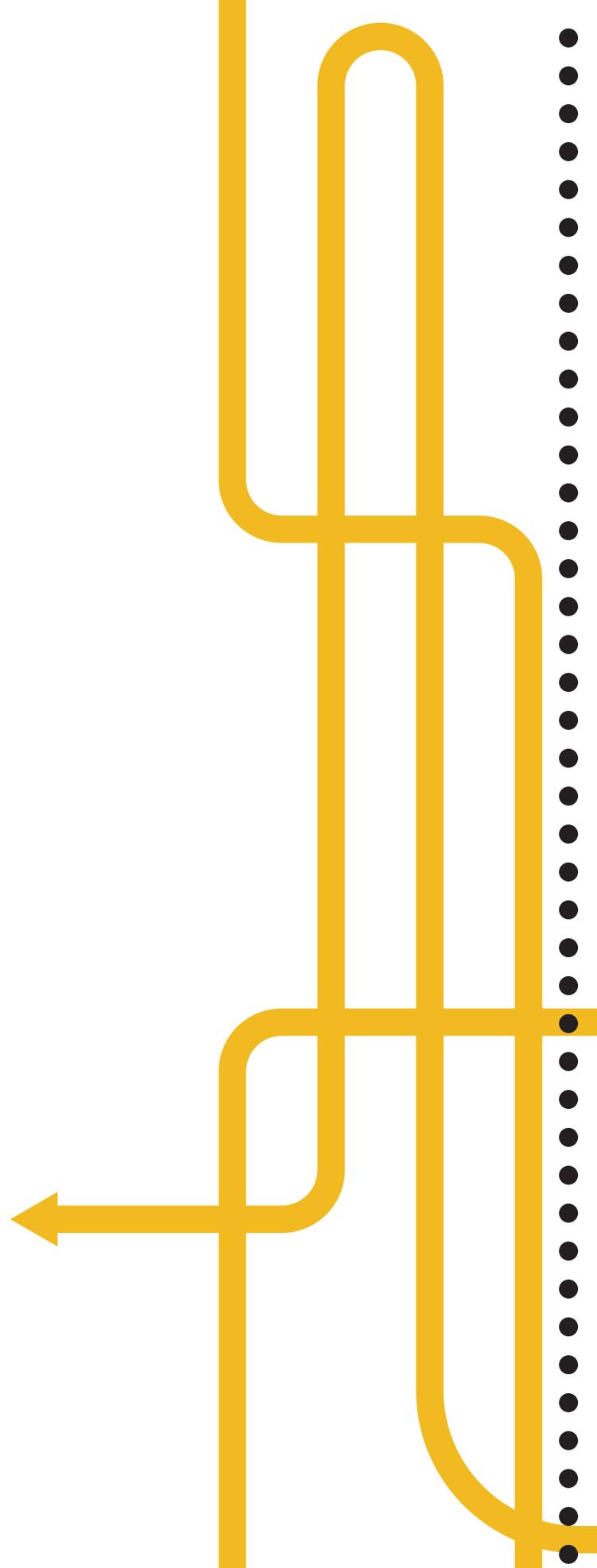
Top 3 Schools of Choice:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Majors I'm Interested in:



Steps for BEFORE you decide where you are going to attend college

Action	Recommended Timeline	My Date	Notes
Get college application fee waiver(s)	Aug – Sept		
Complete college applications	Aug - Sept		
Request/mail transcripts	Within 1 week of completing college application		
Take or re-take ACT/SAT	July – Dec		
Apply for RDS number	Aug – Oct		
Appeal RDS, if necessary	WITHIN 30 DAYS OF YOUR RESIDENCY DECISION! (weekends included)		
Ensure ACT/SAT scores are reported to schools	Aug – Dec		
Explore ROTC programs	Aug – Dec		
Obtain FSA ID	July – Sept		
Complete FAFSA	Oct - Sept		
Complete Scholarship applications	Aug - May		
Review admissions letters and financial aid packages	Oct - April		

Steps for AFTER you decide where you are going to attend college

Accept admission to your school of choice	As early as you know. Typically, by May 1		
Pay, request a waiver or defer enrollment deposit at selected school	After accepting admission. Spring		
Register for Orientation	After accepting admission. Spring		
Apply for Housing (if applicable)	After accepting admission. Spring		
Learn about TRIO/Summer bridge programs and apply	After accepting admission. Spring		
Inform school counselor of your decision and awards	Spring		

Community College

If you are attending a two-year community college to complete an associate's degree, a certificate or plan to transfer to a four-year university complete this form:

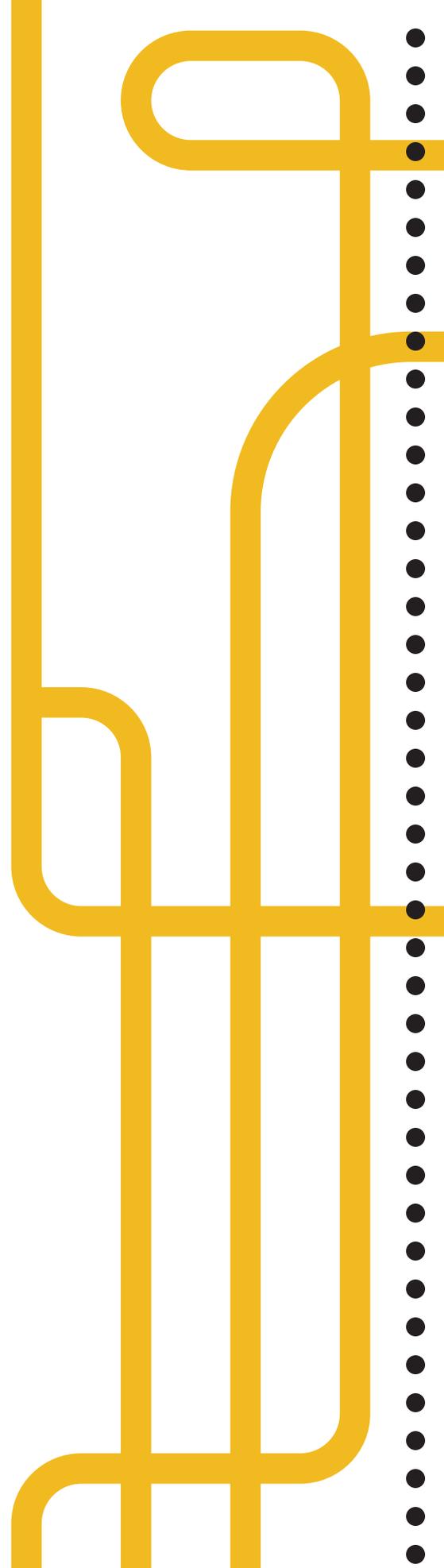
Top 3 Schools of Choice:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Majors I'm Interested in:



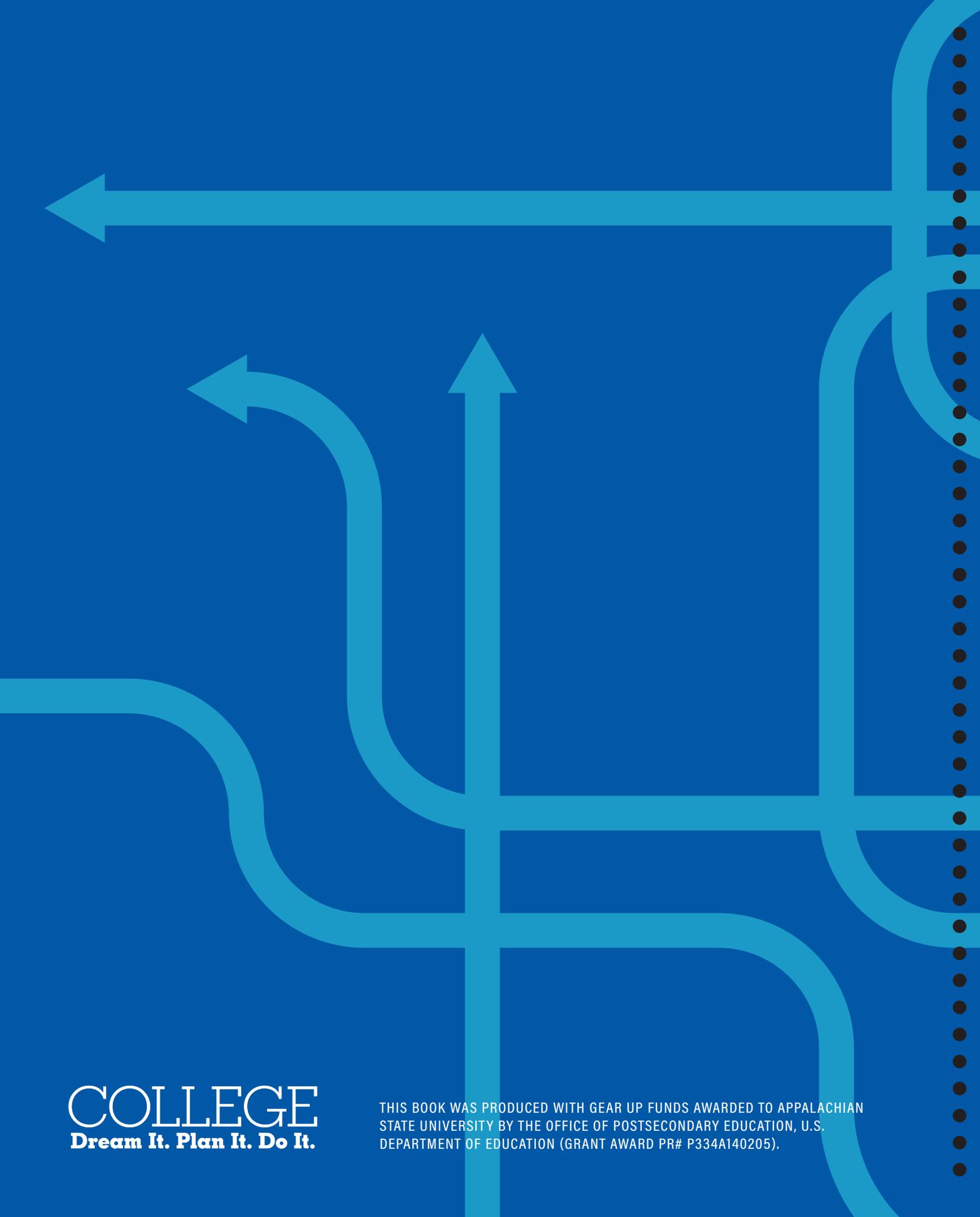
Steps for BEFORE you decide where you are going to attend college

Action	Recommended Timeline	My Date	Notes
Get college application fee waiver(s)	Aug – Sept		
Complete college applications	Aug - Sept		
Request/mail transcripts	Within 1 week of completing college application		
Take or re-take placement exams	July – Dec		
Apply for RDS number	Aug – Oct		
Appeal RDS, if necessary	WITHIN 10 DAYS OF YOUR RESIDENCY DECISION! (weekends included)		
Obtain FSA ID	July – Sept		
Complete FAFSA	Oct - Sept		
Complete scholarship applications	Aug - May		
Review admissions letters and financial aid awards	Oct - April		

Steps for AFTER you decide where you are going to attend college

Accept admission to your school of choice	As early as you know. Typically, by May 1		
Talk with your academic advisor	Mar – May		
Apply for Housing (if applicable)	After accepting admission. Spring		
Explore your program of study and register for classes	Spring		
Learn about TRIO/Summer bridge programs and apply	After accepting admission. Spring		
Inform school counselor of your decision and awards	Spring		





COLLEGE
Dream It. Plan It. Do It.

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