

# CFNC Services



College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) is a free service of the State of North Carolina that helps students and families plan, apply, and pay for college and explore careers. CFNC is a partnership of Pathways, the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority, and College Foundation, Inc. Pathways includes the North Carolina Independent, Community College and UNC Systems and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. The services provided by CFNC at no cost to users include:

- A college savings system and service, North Carolina's 529 Plan;
- A state grant information and delivery system making over \$350 million per year in "gift" aid available for students attending NC public, private and community colleges;
- Online and textbook curriculum for NC educators to guide students through key steps in career and college planning. Outcomes for 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders are based on the NC Comprehensive School Counseling Standard Course of Study in six strands: Me & My Future; Academic Planning; Career Planning; Financial Planning; College Options; and College Admissions;
- Educational publications and online resources on careers and how to plan, apply and pay for college;
- An online high school course and activity tracking system to save academic and extracurricular information for future college applications and to check progress on meeting college entrance requirements. School counselors can monitor students' activity and progress;
- College entrance test preparation for ACT, SAT and GRE and a vocabulary builder;
- Career planning tools for elementary students through adults including interest inventories, learning style and personality assessments, a resume builder, job descriptions, and videos;
- Statewide training program serving over 1,000 counselors, teachers, administrators, admission officers and financial aid professionals per year;
- Online admissions applications and comprehensive college profiles for more than 110 North Carolina colleges and universities;
- *College Application Week* co-sponsored each November with Carolinas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers to provide a high visibility, focused effort to encourage graduating high school seniors to apply to college online via CFNC.org, with special attention given to reaching first-generation students;
- Electronic delivery system for high school transcripts;
- List of online learning opportunities for college credit during high school or college;
- College redirection service April 1 - August 31 for students not yet admitted to college;
- Planner for transfer students with college articulation agreement information;
- Financial literacy course for high school and college students and financial tips videos for elementary students;
- Financial aid process overview and specific information on ways to pay for college including saving, scholarships, grants, federal and alternative loans, and work-study;
- Financial aid estimator, a calculator to help determine amounts of state and federal grants students may receive under current formulas and guides them to other aid available on North Carolina campuses;
- Annual statewide *FAFSA Day* in February co-sponsored with NC Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and the State Employees' Credit Union to help students and parents complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
- Debt management publications and tools such as loan payment calculators and a salary-loan repayment calculator;
- CFNC Call Center to answer phone and email questions about careers and planning, applying and paying for college;

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## Services, continued

- CFNC Regional Representatives located in the state's seven telephone area codes and other staff to provide college access workshops, presentations and training sessions in community groups or schools for elementary-aged through adult audiences;
- Delivery system for North Carolina financial aid administrators to make state grants and other programs of financial assistance available to their students; and
- Targeted outreach services in Spanish for Latino families including publications, web resources, email and toll-free phone support and presentations.

## CFNC Statistics

### Toll-Free Calls and E-mails to CFNC Call Center in Raleigh:

- 08-09 156,241 calls; 13,496 e-mails

### Outreach to Schools and Other Community Organizations:

- 08-09 2,740 visits/presentations

### Number of Free CFNC Accounts Created on an Annual Basis:

- 2008 557,494
- 2009 576,779

### Number of College Applications Filed Using CFNC:

- 2008 345,513
- 2009 442,010

### Number of High School Transcripts Sent to Colleges Via CFNC:

- 2008 52,208
- 2009 109,455

### Admissions Special Event:

College Application Week (November)

- 2008 37,903 applications, 19,356 students, 293 high schools
- 2009 50,083 applications, 24,112 students, 421 high schools

### Financial Aid Special Event:

FAFSA Day (February)

- 2008 3,600 students, 650 volunteers, 56 sites
  - 2009 4,500 students, 750 volunteers, 65 sites
- February 2010 FAFSA Day will be available at 120 sites in 98 counties.

### Increases in FAFSA Filings and Enrollments of Needy Students as of December 31:

|         | NC FAFSAs | NC Pell Grant Recipients |
|---------|-----------|--------------------------|
| • 08-09 | 351,731   | 232,207                  |
| • 09-10 | 441,436   | 321,030                  |

### NC 529 Savings Program Growth as of December 31:

- 2008 67,405 account owners; \$367,577,558 total fund value
- 2009 80,416 account owners; \$534,808,377 total fund value

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