

SENIOR CONFERENCES 2017 – SCRIPT

Please view the FULL Senior Conference Presentation on the Student Services Website at fvhsstudentservices.weebly.com/grade-level-presentations.html

1. WELCOME/AGENDA

Hello! Thank you for tuning into your Senior Conference! We are excited to present this video, where you will be equipped with the knowledge and resources needed to transition into your post-secondary plans. Please take a look at the agenda for today's session. We want you to understand where you stand academically, so we will review student transcripts, UNC Minimum Entrance Requirements, and a College Admissions chart to help you to make the best decision about your post-secondary plans. We will then discuss the steps required to apply to 4 and 2 year colleges.

2. Understanding graduation requirements

Take a look at the North Carolina graduation requirements. We hope that you are already familiar with these requirements, but you will see that you need 26 credits to graduate. If you have questions on understanding graduation requirements, please see your counselor.

3. Understanding your high school transcript

Now, let's look at your high school transcript. Each of you have received a copy of your High School Transcript. Your counselor has highlighted your remaining required courses needed to graduate. Please know your Graduation Requirements, remaining credits, and know how to read your transcript. Look at your Weighted & unweighted GPA, your total credits, and your class rank. If you have any questions, please contact your counselor.

****At this point in the Presentation, we paused the video to turn the student's attention to their High School Transcript. Each student was given a copy of their transcript with courses needed to graduate.**

4. Enroll, Enlist, Employed

In Student Services, we focus on the 3 E's – Enroll, Enlist, & Employ. Our goal for each of you is to have a plan where you will either Enroll in a 2 or 4 year college/university, Enlist in the Military, or be Employed in the workforce. Right now, you may be absolutely certain of your plan, or you may have no clue, or you may move from one area to the other. Wherever you fall in this process, we hope that you start planning NOW, as graduation is right around the corner!

5. Minimum Admission Requirement's & College Admissions Chart

Next, you want to determine what path is right for you. We want you to use the UNC Minimum Entrance Requirements and the current College Admissions chart as a Reality Check. We want you to choose the post-secondary options that are best for you, based on where you currently stand academically.

First, you want to determine if you meet Minimum Admission Requirements. You can see these listed on the left side of the screen. These are the MINIMUM requirements to *apply* to a 4-year UNC Public College/University. These requirements are similar to our graduation requirements, with the exception of Math & Foreign Language. You can see that minimum admission requirements require an "advanced math" beyond Math 3, and you need 2 levels of a foreign language. Please note the minimum SAT/ACT scores – 880 for the SAT and 17 for the ACT. Remember, these are minimum requirements to simply APPLY. As you can see from the table on the right, colleges are looking for applicants who hold credentials much higher than the minimum. The chart that you see lists the average high school GPA & test scores for students who attend those colleges. This is a

REALITY CHECK for you. Where do you stand? Your plan for after high school must be based on your current standing, GPA, rigor in course selections, and readiness for college.

****At this point in the Presentation, we paused the video to discuss Minimum Admissions Requirements with the students. We asked the students to think about where they stand academically, and to make decisions about post-secondary based on their own academic credentials.**

6. Steps to a 4-year College Application

Once you have determined that you meet the credentials to apply to a 4-year university, you should start your personal research! What type of college best suites you? Big vs. small, private vs. public. All 4-year universities will require several pieces to a “complete” application, so use this slide as a “checklist”. You will see that the first step on the “checklist” is Residency Determination. The online process is NEW this school year, and it is a student’s first step in the college application process. This year, you may be asked by Admissions Offices to complete the Residency Determination Process before your application can be considered complete. We will discuss RDS later in this presentation. You should also be completing the FAFSA starting October 1 2017. A “complete application” usually includes the Application itself, sending Transcripts, sending Test scores, submitting Recommendation Letters, and submitting Essays. Often, recommendation letters are *optional* and not required. If you want a recommendation letter, it is good etiquette to speak to the recommender in person and provide a Brag Sheet at least 2 weeks in advance. Please know what your college is asking you to submit!! Follow the directions EXACTLY and do not submit documents that they do not ask for. Another tip: Know your college deadlines! This includes the application deadline AND the financial aid deadline, as often these dates are different.

7. Tips on completing a 4-year college/university application

These are tips for completing a 4-year college application. Read ALL directions and follow them very closely. Do not submit information that you are not asked for! Use proper grammar – capitalize your name, address, etc. Proof-read several times. In your essays, use a more “informal” tone and speak from your heart - Do not boast or sound arrogant - Use visuals and be descriptive. Check out the “good” and “bad” example of an essay. See your counselor and/or English teacher if you need help with your essay. Do your research before asking your counselor or admissions counselor questions – do your research! Likely, the answer to your question is ON THE WEBSITE and can be easily found. You will sound incompetent if you ask questions about information that is readily available. Remember – admission counselors are reading over 20,000 applications in some cases, you must be following directions exactly.

8. Tips on Common App

For those of you who use Common Application to complete your applications: Common Application is a platform where you can apply to several colleges using a general application. We want to give you a few tips that may help you complete your Common App. Make sure that you see “check marks” in each section of your “Common App” and “My Colleges”, which means you have completed all parts of your application. Add colleges under “College Search”. Under each college you add, remember to add your “preferred start term”. Under each college, you will have the option to add a “Recommender”. Enter a TEACHER/COACH/COMMUNITY MEMBER who knows you very well. You have the option to “assign” a teacher/coach/community member to specific schools. If you are not able to assign a recommender, this may mean your college does not require a letter of recommendation and that you should not send one. Do not wait to add a “recommender” – DO THIS NOW! You do not have to submit your application, but please add your recommenders now so they have ample time to complete their recommendation. Remove colleges from “my colleges” if you decide not to apply. Please refer to help videos in the Common App for additional information.

**** At this point, we stopped the presentation to ask if students had questions.**

9. 2 year Community College Applicants

Next, we will discuss the steps to apply to a 2 year Community College. Please look at steps for admission listed on this slide. Use this slide as a checklist. You will see that the first step on the “checklist” is Residency

Determination Service & FAFSA. The RDS service is new this school year, and it is a student's first step in the application process. NC Community Colleges will require you to enter your Residency Certification Number (RCN) into your application. You will not be able to submit your Community College application until you complete the RDS and obtain an RCN. We will discuss RDS later in this presentation. All applicants to a Community College must complete the Residency Determination Service, complete an application, send transcripts, complete placement tests on campus, and submit the FAFSA. Recommendation letters and Essays are **NOT REQUIRED** for 2-year community colleges. Test Scores are also not required, but will sometimes help the student "test out" of the required placement test. You can visit the community college website to read information on "multiple measures", where you can use your test scores or certain coursework to exempt you from the placement test.

What do Community Colleges Offer?

Now that you have viewed the steps to complete a 2-year community college application, you want to know the program options at the community college level. All NC Community Colleges offer a 2-year **TRANSFER** program, where students will earn an Associate Degree in a selected discipline and then will transfer to a 4-year university. The Transfer programs is ideal for students who do not meet UNC Minimum Entrance Requirements, who have less than a 2.5 GPA, or for any student interested in saving on tuition costs. The Transfer Program is set up where students will complete "general education requirements", and then transfer to the 4-year University to obtain a Bachelors degree. It is best to complete the entire 2-year Transfer Program – 60 credit hours which usually takes 2 years. If students transfer to a 4-year University with *less than 60 credits*, there is a chance that the 4-year university will not accept all transfer credits. Enrolling in the College Transfer program will allow you to "start over" with your GPA. Take a look at the "transfer" portion of the 4-year university sites – you will see that transfer students require a strong **COLLEGE GPA**, while a high school GPA is not evaluated. Also, the college transfer program just as rigorous as a 4-year university. Have you prepared yourself academically? Have you taken Honors and AP courses? The nice thing about transfer programs is that it offer students a "fresh start" with their GPA. A student with a 1.9 GPA in high school **CAN** graduate from NC State through the community college Transfer Program, as NC State will focus on the students' **COLLEGE GPA** at Wake Tech instead of their High School GPA. Keep in mind that a student with a 1.9 High School GPA will have to work increasingly **HARDER** in the 2-year college transfer program to develop the collegiate academic skills in the areas of reading, writing, and math. This is why we stress the importance of a rigorous High School Course schedule so that you are adequately prepared for college level coursework.

All NC Community Colleges also offer programs where students can earn **ASSOCIATES**, a **DIPLOMA** or **CERTIFICATES**. These programs can be completed in as little as 3 months to 2 years. These programs will train the student to go directly to work in that particular field, and students often do not have to take the advanced math, science, and writing courses in this level of college programs. I will reference Wake Tech, but all NC Community Colleges have **WONDERFUL** programs in the areas of welding, plumbing, business management, cyber security, nursing, cosmetology, game design, simulation & game development, computer engineering, HVAC, radiography, and **SO MUCH MORE!** These programs contain state-of-the art training, a direct connection to local companies in and around NC, and have high salaries upon completion. North Carolina is lucky to have such comprehensive 2-year community colleges that will most definitely prepare your student for the reality of the working world. On this slide, you will see a link for a full list of Wake Tech programs. We advise you to explore this website or any other Community College website to understand the programs offered.

****At this time, we directed students to the WAKE TECH WEBSITE and showed them how to search for programs and find admissions information.**

Now, we would like to show you the Wake Tech website where you can explore all programs of study. You can filter your search by degree, career cluster, or area of interest. Let's take a closer look at a specific program. For example, let's say that I want to explore a Health Science program. I would click on the Health Science division, and you can see **ALL** programs under this area. If you click on a specific program, you can see the admissions requirements, degree options, and the contact at Wake Tech. Now, let's go back and look at a college transfer pathway, such as Associate of Arts. You can see that this program site advises you on the

courses needed to fulfill this pathway. Please spend time on the Wake Tech website, or any other community college website, to better understand the programs they have to offer.

10. Transcripts

No matter if you apply to a 2 or 4 year college, you will be asked to send your TRANSCRIPT. Please note that WCPSS has procedures for YOU, the student, to send your transcript. **COUNSELORS DO NOT SEND TRANSCRIPTS.** No matter what the college/university tells you via email or mail, **YOU MUST FOLLOW THE WCPSS PROCEDURES.** Please note the transcript procedures for Scholarships & NCAA Clearinghouse. As you can see, sending transcripts to in-state colleges require you to use CFNC.org.

**** At this point, we paused the presentation to go to CFNC.org to show students how to send a transcript.**

Let's go to that website so you can see the steps to sending a transcript. Login to cfnc.org, click on "apply to college" and then "request a transcript". Ensure that your information is entered correctly – your name here should match **EXACTLY** to your WCPSS records, and you must enter your NC School ID number. Then, check mark the boxes for the college/universities where you want to send your transcript, and click "request my transcript". If you receive an error when you click "request my transcript", this means that your name or ID number is incorrect. To check if you successfully sent your transcript, you can go back to "Application Hub" and click on the "plus (+) icon" next to each college/university to view the status of your transcript. You can see if the transcript was "downloaded by the campus" if there are questions with your college/university.

11. Test Scores

Test Scores are required to be sent to 4-year college/universities, but are not necessarily required for a 2year community college. Again, **STUDENTS SEND TEST SCORES.** Counselors do not send test scores. To send ACT scores, students must do so through their ACT online account. Since you all took the ACT in 11th grade, you have an ACT ID and a score! Please review the steps listed on this slide. To access your ACT scores from the test taken during your junior year, visit the act.org website and "register" for an account using your ACT ID number. You can get your ACT ID on your official Score Report that was mailed home to you, or from Ms. Lyle in Student Services. To send SAT scores, students must do so through their Collegeboard account. This can be done at the time of SAT registration or after the test date for a small fee. For students attending Wake Tech or another community college, please check with the college if you need to submit test scores. Often, 2 year community colleges can use the SAT/ACT score to test you "out" of the Accuplacer. This is the placement test used by most community colleges that will place students into "pre-college curriculum" or "college-level" courses. If you need to re-take the ACT or SAT this year, you must register online and you can send your scores at the time of registration.

12. RDS - Residency Determination Service

The Residency Determination Service (RDS) is a new online process for students this year. All students are required to complete the RDS process in order to be eligible for in-state tuition and NC grants. You will receive a Residency Certification Number (RCN) upon completion of RDS. Each NC private, public, and community colleges are doing RDS differently. Please refer to the slide in front of you, and click on the links to read more information on RDS.

****At this point, we paused the presentation to show the students the RDS website. To access RDS, you should go to cfnc.org and click on "Residency Determination" on the left.**

This takes you to the online site. You can start the RDS process and read the FAQ section for help. Please see your counselor if you have any questions.

13. FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid

All students, no matter if you attend a 2-year or 4 year college/university, must complete the FAFSA. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is federal document that helps colleges/universities to understand your family's financial information. The FAFSA will gather information about your family, your parent income, and other circumstances that affect your ability to pay for college. Then, the college will determine your

“financial need” based on your FAFSA, and will award you Grants and/or Loans. It is important to know that the FAFSA opens on **OCTOBER 1 2017**. This means that if you want Financial Aid in 2018/19 when you will be in college, you must begin & complete the FAFSA on or around **October 1** if you want to ensure you are eligible and receive the federal funds needed to help you pay for college. Keep in mind that your parents will use their **2016** tax information to complete the FAFSA. We will not go into details about the FAFSA here, as we have an outstanding Financial Aid Counselor at FVHS named **Tori Sharpe**, who can help you and your parents with the FAFSA. At the end of this senior information session, you will have the opportunity to sign up to meet with **Tori Sharpe**, who is available on **Wednesdays** in Student Services.

14. Scholarships

Many of you are interested in applying for Scholarships. Merit-Based Scholarships are based on criteria, such as leadership, GPA, test scores, or extra-curricular accomplishments. Need-Based Scholarships are based on the financial need within your family. Often students ask “How can I get a Scholarship?” The **BEST** and **FIRST** place to start is with your FAFSA, as this can give you **FREE** money in the form of grants. There are many scholarships out there. On the student services website, you will see a Scholarship page, where you can view scholarships that we get word of at FVHS, and you will see a few helpful scholarship websites. We do not receive and post **ALL** scholarship – you must do your own research! After this session, you will be able to sign up to meet with **Mr. Bob Lee**, the FVHS Volunteer Scholarship Advisor. Mr. Lee is a retired teacher and has a wealth of knowledge with regards to finding and applying to scholarships. Mr. Lee is at FVHS on **Thursdays** and his email is fvhs.scholarships@gmail.com.

****At this point, we paused the presentation to go to the Student Services Website. We showed the students how to access the Scholarship portion of our website.**

Now we will show you the Scholarship section of the Student Services website. You can view the **2017/18** Scholarship Listing, helpful websites, and Mr. Lee’s information. Please see Ms. Biller if you have any questions on Scholarships.

15. Military

Now I’d like to discuss **ENLISTING** in the Military. Joining the military is a very important step in a young person’s life. FVHS works very closely with local military recruiters in all branches, and they are often visible in **Courtyard A** during lunches. If you would like to set up a meeting with a recruiter, please see **Dr. Emily Jessee**, the FVHS Career Development Coordinator, in **Room 101** or visit her website www.fuquaycareers.weebly.com and view the military recruiter schedule. Enlisting in the military is often a transition to taking college classes. When you enlist in the military, you are often asked to choose a “career focus”, where you will be trained in that specific job and offered the opportunity to take college classes for **FREE** while you are enlisted. If you are interested in pursuing the military, you should sign up to take the **ASVAB** test on **November 1** at FVHS. The **ASVAB** is a military entrance exam as well as a career skills inventory. Although it is required for the military, the **ASVAB** is great for **ALL** students as it provides useful feedback with occupations in line with your interest and skills. **ROTC** Programs are military programs offered at 4-year universities. If you are interested in **ROTC**, you should check out college websites and speak to college admissions. If you are interested in the military, make sure to research **ALL** branches to find the best program for you. Students can join the military as full-time or part-time. If you have any questions on entering the military, please set up a meeting with **Dr. Emily Jessee** in room **101**.

****At this point, we paused the presentation to visit Dr. Jessee’s website: www.fuquaycareers.weebly.com. This website can also help you find the military recruiters schedule, and learn about opportunities outside of the classroom. Dr. Jessee is our Career Development Coordinator, and she can be found in Room 101.**

16. Employment

Now I would like to discuss **EMPLOYMENT** after high school. If you are planning to join the workforce directly out of High School, you will want to create a Resume. You will also want to be well-versed in Interview questions –

What skills will you bring to this company? What skills do you have that will transfer to this job? What experience do you have that will help you in this job? What are your strengths and weaknesses? Why should we hire you? CFNC has many resources for you to develop job skills and resume. Remember, people of ALL ages are looking for employment. You will be competing with individuals who already have college degrees and often have years of work experience. Often there are over 500 applicants for ONE JOB. So, what SEPARATES you from them, and what makes your job application UNIQUE compared to the others? Again, why should we hire you? If you need help developing a Resume or with any employment skills, please set up a meeting with Dr. Emily Jessee in Room 101.

17. Student Tips

Now, for some general tips. Parents, DO NOT complete your student applications. STUDENTS, DO NOT allow your parent to complete your application. Students, you MUST be the sole contact for college admissions. Colleges DO NOT speak to parents. You are an adult and you must take initiative with regards to your college options. If you have questions, contact the admissions at that college. DO NOT allow your parents to contact Admissions. ADHERE TO DEADLINES – admission deadlines, financial deadlines, teacher recommendation deadlines (give us 2 weeks!). PROOF READ ALL APPLICATIONS FOR CORRECTNESS. The last thing you want to do is submit your application with an incorrect name, wrong zip code, or wrong number. You are an adult, so BE RESPONSIBLE and check over your applications before clicking “send”. PLAN AHEAD – your lack of planning does not equal my emergency. CHECK YOUR EMAIL regularly, as information will be sent to you and you must respond in a timely manner.

18. Next Steps

Check out the upcoming dates. You will see a FAFSA Day on October 28, and College Application Day at FVHS on November 14. After this video, we will be working in small groups with your seniors. Counselors will be going over the “Next Steps Checklist” and will give individualized attention to each student’s post-secondary plan. Each student has been given a copy of their High School Transcript and the “Next Steps Checklist”, which is available on the Student Services website for your access. Please use this video and the “Next Steps Checklist” to help you to get ready for after high school! Check out ways to stay connected to Student Services this school year. We hope you have a fantastic Senior Year, and please let your counselor know if you have any questions!