



Class of 2023
Senior Handbook

NC Graduation Requirements

Each student has their own *Ashbrook 4 Year Plan* shared with them in their Google Drive. Students are encouraged to complete this resource with historical courses and grades from their student PowerSchool account. This enables students to track the courses they have passed, but also any outstanding graduation requirements.

For more information on graduation requirements → <http://bit.ly/GCSGradReq>

Weighted Grade Point Average (GPA) Scale

(Students entering 9th grade 2015-16 and beyond)

<u>Regular Courses</u>	<u>Honors & AP Prep</u>	<u>Advanced Placement & College Courses</u>
A = 4	A = 4.5	A = 5
B = 3	B = 3.5	B = 4
C = 2	C = 2.5	C = 3
D = 1	D = 1.5	D = 2
F = 0	F = 0	F = 0

Honor Graduates

Seniors are eligible for graduation honors based on their final cumulative weighted GPA. Honor cords can be purchased from Mr. Guzauskas in May during the cap and gown distribution. (These are the levels in which you can wear a cord at graduation.)

Summa cum laude → 4.3+

Magna cum laude → 4.0 – 4.299

Cum laude → 3.7 – 3.99

Post-Graduate Options

4 Year School → Bachelor Degree

Create a list with at least two dream schools, two target schools and two safety schools.

2 Year School → Associate Degree

Usually have rolling admissions or periodic application deadlines. Timeline for applying is more fluid than a 4-year university.

Career and Technical School → Career Specific Certifications

Military → Enlist, ROTC, and Service Academies

Employment → Entry Level Careers, Internships, etc.

Apprenticeship → Classroom instruction and on-the-job training

Gap Year → Service learning experience or program

Career Development Coordinator

Mrs. Poarch klpoarch@gaston.k12.nc.us

School Counselors

Mrs. Bennett lkbennett@gaston.k12.nc.us

Mr. Rice dtrice@gaston.k12.nc.us

4-Year College Application 2021/2022 Timeline

August

- ❑ Log in to your **CFNC.org** account. (Technical difficulties? <http://bit.ly/ContactCFNC>).
Be sure to begin applying through CFNC to in-state schools.
- ❑ If the school you wish to apply to is not listed on CFNC, then create a **CommonApp.org** account. (Non-Common App school applications may be open; Verify college websites to confirm.)

September

- ❑ Create a **GoingMerry.com** account for scholarship information. Check your *Senior Canvas* for new scholarships posted throughout the school year.
- ❑ Complete the **Senior Survey** when posted to Canvas. Opportunities can then be sent to you.
- ❑ *Early Graduate Request Form* due by September 30. See your counselor with more questions.

October (CFNC Countdown to College Month)

- ❑ **Senior Meetings** - Will be held October 3 - 7, by request only.
- ❑ **10 Days of CFNC** - Information regarding the application process will be posted each day for ten days, so students will be ready when College App Week begins on October 17!
- ❑ **NC Residency Determination Service** - Visit ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyinfo/ and complete with a parent/guardian.
- ❑ **FAFSA** (*Free Application for Federal Student Aid*) - Now available! Reminder: Early bird gets the worm! <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- ❑ **College Application Week** (October 17 7:30 AM - October 21 5:00 PM) - Many NC colleges and universities waive their application fees (List is available Oct 1 on CFNC.org)

November

- ❑ **Early Action** and **Early Decision** - Application deadline (Admission decision sent to you in December)
- ❑ **ASVAB Exam** - Pre-registration is required. Visit your grade level Canvas for more details. Fall test administration on Nov 14, 2022 and results review on Nov 18, 2022. Spring test administration on Feb 13, 2023 and results review on Feb 16, 2023.

January/February

- ❑ **Regular Decision** → Application deadline (Admission decision sent to you in March/April)

March

- ❑ *Keep your grades up!* While senioritis is real, so is a college reconsideration! Offers are contingent upon your final transcript. Finish strong!

April

- ❑ All admission decisions should be in by mid-April. If you have been offered a spot on a waitlist and you would like to pursue it, please do so immediately.

May

- ❑ **May 1** → **National Decision Day!** Commit to the college of your choice!
- ❑ Complete the **Senior Exit Survey** to designate the college where your final transcript will be sent (Only if you applied through *Common App!* CFNC will do this automatically.)
- ❑ **Ordering Final Transcripts** - Students are allotted *five free transcripts* during their high school years. (Must indicate 'current student' on form.) Submit orders via <http://bit.ly/GCSScribOrder>. The sixth transcript and/or after the first day of school, following graduation, transcripts then cost \$10 each.

College Application Components: Test Scores

When applying to colleges/universities, one requirement may include an ACT or SAT score. (Every North Carolina junior is given the ACT for free during an academic school day. If you need an additional score, such as the SAT or a new ACT score, you'll need to register, pay and take this on a chosen date of your choice.)

ACT and SAT test scores need to be sent to colleges before the application deadline. *Ashbrook High School does not report ACT or SAT scores to colleges.* It is the student's responsibility to send all official score reports from College Board or ACT to each college. (Log in to your collegeboard.org or ACT.org account for more information on how to send score reports.)

(If you qualify for a fee waiver, please see Mrs. Tafoya in Student Services to begin the process. Eligibility → <http://bit.ly/SATFeeWaivers>)

the SAT

2022/2023

Test Date	Register By
August 27, 2022	July 29, 2022
October 1, 2022	September 2, 2022
November 5, 2022	October 7, 2022
December 3, 2022	November 3, 2022
March 11, 2023	February 10, 2023

Register online at www.collegboard.org

the ACT

2022/2023

Test Date	Register By
September 10, 2022	August 5, 2022
October 22, 2022	September 16, 2022
December 10, 2022	November 4, 2022
February 12, 2023	January 6, 2023
April 15, 2023	March 10, 2023

Register online at www.act.org

College Application Components: Transcripts

Unofficial - If you need a copy of your unofficial transcript, please contact your school counselor. If you need to submit an official transcript for college admission, please follow the details below based on your college selection(s).

CFNC.org - Most North Carolina students have created CFNC accounts prior to entering high school. (Usernames and passwords are recoverable through CFNC. If additional technical issues arise, please contact CFNC for help with your login information.) Official transcripts can be sent, five at a time, for free to participating colleges, whether you applied through CFNC or another portal. (Ex. State schools, Gaston College, etc.)

CommonApp.org - If the college you are applying to isn't a participant of CFNC or is outside of NC, then this is an alternative application portal. Your school counselor will upload an official copy of your transcript once you generate a request by applying to a college.

GCS Scribder - Submit transcript requests for colleges/universities not listed on CFNC. Students will receive up to five free official transcripts throughout high school. (ex. For sending to private schools and/or those schools not applied to through CFNC or CommonApp.)

Types of Admission

ED - Early Decision: Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early. Commitment: BINDING

EA - Early Action: Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date. Commitment: NON-BINDING

REA - Restrictive Early Action: Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm. Commitment: NON-BINDING

Regular Decision: Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time. Commitment: NON-BINDING

Rolling Admission: Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle. Commitment: NON-BINDING

Priority Admission: Students submit an application by a specified date to be considered for admission, scholarship money, honors programs, etc. Please choose this option only if the college does indeed have a priority deadline. Commitment: NON-BINDING

Deferred Admission: Students who apply early action/decision will get a decision from the college in December/January. If the student receives a deferred admission decision, that means the application will be considered in the regular decision pool and will receive a decision in April.

College Application Components: Recommendations

Rights

Applications will ask you if you want to waive your right to review your recommendations and supporting documents. By waiving your right, you are ensuring that colleges know your letter is confidential. Admissions officers give most weight to letters that provide an honest and qualified assessment of the applicant. If you don't waive your right, you could accidentally signal to admissions officers that you don't trust your recommender or that the recommendation is less candid or genuine.

Teacher Recommendations

Check the college's website, under the admissions section, to determine if they require teacher recommendations and if so, how many. Ask the teacher that you feel knows you the best and is willing to write a positive letter on your behalf. No one other than the teacher and the college will read this letter as they are considered confidential information. Most colleges will request the recommendation from the teacher electronically. You will need to supply their name and email address in the application to ensure they receive the recommendation form. **Give your recommenders at least a 2-week window to write your recommendation.** Also, don't forget to write a thank you note to your teachers for the time they took to write your letter.

Counselor Recommendations

Letters of recommendation are a team effort. We draw information from the student's cumulative academic record, personal interactions with the student, letter of recommendation questionnaire (student and parent), and extracurricular profile to form a comprehensive letter of recommendation. We do not release letters to students or parents as the letters are considered confidential between Ashbrook High and the college.

Complete the following when requesting a letter of recommendation (for college or scholarships):

Ashbrook Student - Letter of Recommendation Questionnaire

Ashbrook Parent - Letter of Recommendation Questionnaire (Optional, but super helpful to recommenders!)

Ask potential recommenders if they are able to write a letter of recommendation for you. (*Remember, give them at least a two-week notification.*)

Share via Google Docs both Student and Parent Questionnaires with your recommender(s)

Always follow-up with a thank you note!

Ashbrook Student - Letter of Recommendation Questionnaire

Student Name:

Cell Phone Number:

Email Address:

Colleges/Universities you intend to apply to, along with the college application deadline:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

Intended Major or Career Interests:

- 1) What are your personal strengths? What are your academic strengths?
- 2) Describe what makes you unique and/or something you are passionate about.
- 3) How have you used your time outside of school? Attach an Extracurricular Profile. (Examples: Hobbies, organizations, community service, employment, etc.)
- 4) What is your most rewarding academic experience for you at Ashbrook High School?
- 5) Describe two significant events in your life and how they have had an impact upon you.
- 6) What three things would you want a college admissions committee to know about you?
- 7) Is there anything on your transcript that you feel needs clarification? If yes, please explain.
- 8) Is there anything else that you want us to know about you, or anything that we may not otherwise know that would help to distinguish you from the next applicant?

College Application Components: Additional Items

Application

Sent directly to the college/university by the student via methods previously specified. Make sure you complete all items and review for correctness!

Essays

Your essay reveals something important about you that your grades and test scores can't - your personality! It can give admissions counselors a sense of who you are, as well as showcasing your writing skills. Be personal, specific, and honest. It is a good idea to show a draft to someone you trust: parent, counselor or teacher for proofreading and feedback.

Payment

Applications are not complete until your payment has been received. If you used a fee waiver then CollegeBoard will provide you with waivers for four college applications.

Supplemental Materials

If applicable, interview and supplemental materials (art portfolio, supplemental essays, graded papers, peer recommendation) can be requested or accepted by a college/university. Students should mail these materials directly to the college/university.

Playing College Sports?

→ Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at <http://bit.ly/NCAAEligibilityCenter> ←
(Understand the difference between D1, D2, and D3.) Your school counselor will upload your transcript, but you are responsible for sending your ACT or SAT scores. Also, utilize the core course GPA calculation resource to help determine your eligibility.



College Visit Checklist



Information to know prior to visit (check college/university website):

Admission requirements
Required standardized test scores
Does the school offer your intended major or degree?
Application deadlines
How much will it cost?
What is the school population?
Register online for a tour

Questions you may want to ask during your visit:

Admissions

What are your criteria for your admission decisions?
How would you describe your ideal college applicant?
What is the retention rate from freshman to sophomore years?
Are interviews required?
What are your most popular majors?
Do you offer semester abroad and Internships?

Classroom

What is your average class size for freshmen and sophomores?
What is your average class size for upperclassmen?
Are your classes taught by professors or are teaching assistants conducting classes/labs?
When must I choose a major?
What student services are offered (tutoring, career counseling, study workshops, etc.)?

Financial Aid

What is the total cost per year?
What financial aid options are offered?
What is your financial aid deadline?
Estimate the percentage of work study, loans grants and scholarships awarded in your financial aid packages?

Housing

What type of housing is available?
Is student housing guaranteed all four years?
Would I have a roommate or live alone?
How are roommates selected?
How safe is the campus and surrounding area?







Questions for the Student Tour Guide:

What year are you?
Did you start here as a freshman?
What other colleges did you consider?
What do you like best about the school?
What is your major?
What are the professors like?
How's the food?

Do you live in a dorm room now?
What kind of activities are there for freshmen?
How did you choose your roommate?
Does campus have good security?
Who teaches your classes?

Be sure to dress appropriately! You want to make a great first impression. And remember to have fun!

Additional Resources

CollegeBoard Big Future College Search	
CollegeBoard Complete Your Journey Scholarship	
CFNC.org - Technical difficulties accessing your account?	
FAFSA (<i>Free Application for Federal Student Aid</i>)	
Khan Academy SAT Test Prep	
NC Graduation Requirements	
Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center	