

The College Search Simplified

WHO: Student should be doing primary research — this is his/her college education. Parents should be involved, having active discussions about schools, choices, monetary considerations and monitoring progress.

WHAT: Actual usable information that will help facilitate the college planning process.

- 1) Use the College-Choice Worksheet from CFNC to help determine the traits most important to you in a school.
- 2) Take an interest inventory or career assessment if you have not already:
 - a. <https://secure.ncmentor.org/InterestSurvey/>
 - b. <http://www.careerkey.org/english>
 - c. http://www.princetonreview.com/cte/quiz/career_quiz1.asp
- 3) Your major is the primary reason for selecting a school, so make sure that your major(s) is available at the schools your research. For help in finding a college that has your intended major(s), look for the Index of Majors on: www.princetonreview.com/ .
- 4) If you are looking for a North Carolina school, use www.cfnc.org to help you research schools that relate to your specific interests. For schools outside of NC, refer to www.collegeview.com or www.collegeboard.com. If you do not have internet access, please use The College Handbook, located in your Student Services office or your Media Center.
- 5) Using the table in this handbook (p ??), fill in the information using the resources listed above.

WHEN: All through the junior year.

WHERE: Some at school, some at home. Not just one or the other.

HOW: Using the tools listed above, as well as contacting colleges directly for information. Please refer to the next two pages for school websites and phone numbers.

There is a huge difference between this “paper” tour of a college that you will create by doing your research, a virtual tour that you might be able to take online and a real, personal tour of the college. Please visit colleges so that you get a true feel for the campus and the level of regular activity. Schedule that visit when school is in session — summer is great for travel, but not to get the real feel for a school.

Did you know that you can first go to a Community College and still finish a four-year degree on time? Did you know that you cannot learn firefighting at a four-year LTNC system school, but that our UNC system Community Colleges have this curriculum? Make sure that your college choice very accurately reflects your individual career goals and intentions! Two-year schools present some very attractive options for students who are not ready to pay the costs of a four-year university, or might like to explore other vocational interest options, even while accumulating college-transferable credits.