

# NC College Connect

## What is the type of admissions redesign?

**Direct Admission:** High school students are proactively notified by a state postsecondary agency or system of their acceptance to at least one two- or four-year institution based on academic criteria (e.g., GPA) and can select the institution(s) of their choice by completing a simplified application without an application fee.

## In which state is it based?

North Carolina

## What state postsecondary agency or system sponsors the program?

NC College Connect was created in partnership with the University of North Carolina System, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS), North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA), College Foundation, Inc and the Office of the Governor.

## When was the program first started?


The program was piloted in 2024 and scaled in 2025.

## Does the student or state agency/system initiate the admissions process?



Eligible public high school students entering their senior year will receive an official NC College Connect letter in the mail offering admission for the 2026-27 academic year. Students can also check their eligibility by visiting [NCCollegeConnect.com](https://NCCollegeConnect.com) and logging into the portal or speaking with their high school counselor.

## What are the central characteristics of the program?

North Carolina public high school seniors with a weighted GPA of 2.8 or above and who meet the general NC College Connect requirements are automatically admitted to select North Carolina colleges and universities. Eligible students will need to log into the NC College Connect portal to see a tailored list of colleges and universities where they have been offered admission.

 <p><b>Program Scope</b></p>	Does the program include <b>all high school districts or only a portion?</b> Is <b>opt-in</b> required?	All North Carolina public high school seniors can participate in the program.
	Does the program support admission to <b>four-year institutions, two-year institutions, or both?</b>	Both four-year and two-year institutions participate.
	Which <b>institutions</b> are participating in the program?	Participating UNC System institutions include Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, North Carolina Central University, University of North Carolina Asheville, Charlotte, Greensboro, and Pembroke, Western Carolina University, and Winston-Salem State University. Additionally, 29 North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities are also participating, as well as the North Carolina Community College System (all 58 colleges).

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<p><b>Eligibility Criteria and Application</b></p> 	<p>What are the <b>academic eligibility criteria</b> for students?</p>	<p>While the minimum weighted GPA for eligibility is 2.8, a few participating institutions require a higher GPA for direct admission, so meeting the 2.8 GPA minimum does not guarantee direct admission to all NC College Connect institutions. Students are matched to a select list of participating NC College Connect colleges and universities based on their weighted GPA and meeting NC College Connect requirements, including the completion of required courses and safety questions related to student behavior.</p>
	<p>Are students <b>still required to apply</b> to postsecondary institutions?</p>	<p>No, they simply complete an NC College Connect form, which includes contact and demographic information, to accept admission at each of the NC College Connect institutions of their choice. For each institution where a student completes an NC College Connect form, students will receive direct communications about next steps, such as enrollment and financial aid opportunities.</p>
	<p>Is the <b>application fee waived</b>?</p>	<p>Most NC College Connect forms submitted through the NC College Connect portal will be free, but for some institutions, students will be required to pay an application fee ranging from \$20 to \$75 alongside the forms. However, applying to any North Carolina community college is always free, and application fees to North Carolina independent colleges and universities submitted through the NC College Connect portal are waived. Most participating institutions will accept approved fee waivers (such as the ACT fee waiver).</p>
<p><b>Data and Policy</b></p> 	<p>What is the <b>data source</b> for the program?</p>	<p>NC College Connect uses existing student data that includes student high school transcript data from the North Carolina Student Information System (NCSIS) from every public high school, traditional districts, or charter schools.</p>
	<p>Did the state or system <b>adopt policy</b> related to the program, and if so what does the policy include?</p>	<p>No, it was developed as a partnership across postsecondary systems in the state.</p>

Information above is up to date as of December 2025