

College is Affordable

College works.



For more information on North Carolina colleges and how to pay for college, go to CFNC.org/collegeworks.



How can your family afford college?

There are three types of financial aid you can use to reduce and manage the cost of a college education.

- Reduce the cost with grants and scholarships, which provide money from the state or federal government or private organizations that you don't have to pay back. Most of these are based on family income, not on grades, athletic ability, or other special qualifications.
- Manage the cost with part-time work-study jobs. These are available on campus or in the community, and are designed to fit into your college schedule and provide additional income to help with college expenses.
- Manage the cost with student loans, most of which are funded by the federal government. These must be repaid, but only after you are no longer in college.

Think college costs too much? Think again.

The amount you have to pay for college will be based on your family income.

- Families making less than \$30,000 per year often pay very little for college, since they generally qualify for income-based grants and scholarships.
- Many middle-income families also qualify for income-based state, federal, and college grants and scholarships. If they have saved for college with a plan such as the NC 529 Plan, families can benefit from the tax advantages of income tax credits and deductions available at the state and federal level.
- Families with higher incomes will pay a higher portion of college costs, but may still qualify for some financial aid, federal tax credits, or state college savings tax advantages.

Which college is right for you?

Every educational institution charges tuition and fees, but these costs differ at each school. You also will need to consider other costs of going to college, such as housing, food, books, and other study materials. These costs will be basically the same wherever you go.

There are great colleges in North Carolina.

- **58 public community colleges**—campuses near every county in the state. Tuition and fees are very low at these schools.
- **16 public universities**—part of the University of North Carolina. The State of North Carolina helps fund these schools to keep costs reasonable for students and families.
- **36 private nonprofit college and universities**—across the state. Their published prices for tuition and fees may be higher than those for public institutions, but private colleges often can give more financial aid.

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