Welcome to College Admissions 101!

Presented by:
Office of Undergraduate Admissions
Office of Financial Aid
Office of Human Resources
Presenters

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
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Office of Financial Aid
- David Wiltshire (he/him/his), Financial Support Counselor

Office of Human Resources
- Deborah Daye (they, them, us), Benefits Specialist
Our Program

• Admissions
  • Holistic Review Process
  • How to get ready for College
  • Decision Plans/ Timelines

• Financial Aid
  • Types of Aid
  • Application Process
  • Resources

• Duke Children’s Tuition Grant (CTG) Program

Questions?

Use the Q + A chatbox to type your questions. We will answer them at the end of the presentation.
College Admissions

What are colleges looking for and at?
The Admissions Review Process

- Curriculum
- Grades
- Testing
- Letters of Recommendation
- Extracurricular Activities
- Essays
- Interview
- Artistic Supplements
- Demonstrated Interest
The Admissions Review Process

- How have you challenged yourself within the curriculum that your school offers?
- How have your performed in your core academic classes over the course of your four years in high school?
  - *Note: Colleges look at grades, not just GPA.*
- Something to ask: If you have submitted testing, will it be super-scored?
  - Can you self-report your scores?
The Admissions Review Process

- **Letters of Recommendation**
  - Counselor letter will provide overall context to your place within the school community.
  - Teacher recommendations Ideally should be from 11th or 12th grade core academic subject.

- **Extracurricular Activities**
  - How do you spend your time?
  - Well-Rounded vs Pointy
  - Do what you love, show us where you have an impact
  - Clubs, sport, family obligations, p/t work, long commutes – tell them!

- **Essays**
  - Be authentic – these should sound like a 17/18 year old wrote them!
  - Where your personality can shine through
  - Proofread!
  - School specific essays should be just that – *school specific*
The Admissions Review Process

**Interview**
- May or may not be offered/required
- An opportunity to learn more about the school and also to share more about yourself
- Recommended if you are offered the opportunity!

**Artistic Supplements**
- May or may not be offered/considered
- A chance to submit a portfolio in order to showcase a talent
- You do not always need to be planning to major in that area to have an arts supplement considered

**Demonstrated Interest**
- May or may not be considered
- Some schools may track your interactions – have you visited, emailed the Admissions Officer, gone to the high school presentation?
- Keep in mind demonstrated disinterest, as well
How do I prepare in my junior and senior of high school?
How to get ready for College

Wherever you are in your college search process:

• Considerations during your Junior and Senior year
• Creating a College List and learning about “fit”
• Staying organized
Junior Year Timeline

**Fall**
- Meet with your counselor to talk about course selection and the start of the admissions process
- Start building your college list
- Participate in activities outside of the classroom
- **Stay on top of your academics- use resources, be an active participant in classes, etc.**
- Review results of your ACT and/or PSAT scores
- Schedule SAT or ACT testing (if applicable)
- Research colleges and register for virtual/in-person college visits
- Keep your grades up
- Request teacher letters of recommendation in-person
- Register for senior year classes with support from your counselor
- AP/IB testing if applicable
- Continue testing (if applicable)
- Keep your grades up!
Senior Year Timeline

**Fall**

- Meet with your counselor and finalize college list
- Finish taking the SAT/ACT (if available)
- Complete FAFSA, CSS Profile if applying for financial aid
- For Early Action/Decision – it’s time to apply!
- **Keep your grades up**

**Winter**

- Finalize Regular Decision applications and submit!
- Monitor your email and applicant portals for updates
- Interview (if applicable)
- Complete scholarship applications (if applicable)
- **Keep your grades up**

**Spring**

- Time to make a decision – try to visit the colleges you are considering
- Make your choice by May 1 (Regular Decision)
- Follow the matriculation steps
- **Keep your grades up!**
The COVID-19 Context

• Lots of questions/concerns!

• Colleges/Universities are *aware* and they are *responding*

• Academic review – pass/fail classes, online learning and restriction of options

• Testing Policy changes, virtual opportunities, and flexibility in review
  • Test-Optional increases
  • On-line information sessions, tours, programming
  • Pass/Fail classes, curriculum changes
  • Lack of extracurricular activities, cancelled opportunities

• Essays and Additional Information
  • The Common Application has added an additional optional essay
  • Additional Information about the impacts of COVID-19 on you and your family can be shared with schools
Testing

SAT
Scoring: 400-1600
Timing: 3 hours (+ 50 min optional essay)
Sections:
Evidence-based reading & writing
Math
Optional essay (separately scored)
No guessing penalty

ACT
Scoring: composite score of 1-36
Timing: ~3 hours (+ 40 min optional essay)
Sections:
English
Reading
Math
Science
No guessing penalty

TEST OPTIONAL
More than 900 four-year colleges do not use the SAT or ACT to admit substantial numbers of bachelor-degree applicants.

Research the impact of COVID-19 on the testing policies of the schools you want to apply to. Some, including Duke, have committed to being Test Optional for the 2021-22 application cycle.
How Should I Spend My Free Time?
College Admissions

What should I consider when deciding where to apply?
So many colleges, which do I choose to apply to?
Academics First

**LIKELY**
- A college where your academic credentials fall comfortably **above** the college’s range for average first-years
- You can be *reasonably certain* that you will be admitted
- Consider GPA, Test Scores and Rank when looking at your chances

**TARGET**
- Your academic credentials fall well within the college’s range
- There are no guarantees, but it is not unreasonable to be accepted to several of your Target schools

**REACH**
- A college where your academic credentials fall below the college’s range for the average first-year
- Do not approach Reach schools like a lottery – more applications does not mean a higher likelihood of acceptance
- *Double Reach* schools are long shots for everyone
You should be happy to attend EVERY college on your list!
**Additional Factors to Consider**

### Distance from Home
- What is your preference?
- Family Preference?
- Consider finances when thinking about distance.

### School Size and Vibe
- Urban, Suburban, College Town
- Campus/Off-Campus Culture
- How many students? What are the class sizes?

### Activities/Opportunities
- Study Abroad and Research
- Sports and On-Campus Clubs
- Greek Life, Service Work, Internships

### Costs and Financial Aid

### Diversity, Community and Support

### Academic Offerings and Advising

- Great resources include: Petersons.com, The College Board, school databases like Naviance and SCOIR, your school counselor, older friends/siblings, social media
- Be careful not to rely on just one source, especially “Best Of” lists or rankings. Do your research and think about what is important to you!
Get Organized

Consider creating a spreadsheet or electronic system to organize information. This is also an efficient way to show your parents how you’re completing your tasks!

*Note: It is safe to assume that every school is different!*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Testing</th>
<th>Essay(s)</th>
<th>Transcript</th>
<th>Misc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STATE UNIV.</td>
<td>NOV. 15</td>
<td>DONE!</td>
<td>NONE REQUIRED</td>
<td>REQUESTED ON 10/15</td>
<td>SUBMITTED APP ON 10/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAJOR COLLEGE</td>
<td>JAN. 2</td>
<td>DONE!</td>
<td>FINISHING SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY</td>
<td>MAILED BY SCHOOL ON 10/15</td>
<td>OVERNIGHT VISIT CONFIRMED FOR 10/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DREAM SCHOOL</td>
<td>JAN. 15</td>
<td>LAST SUBJECT TEST IN OCT.</td>
<td>DONE!</td>
<td>REQUESTED ON 12/10</td>
<td>INTERVIEW SCHED. FOR 1/15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Types of Four Year College Applications

• The Common Application
  • Accepted by more than 700 colleges
  • You complete one application and send it to multiple schools.

• The Coalition Application
  • Accepted by 113 colleges
  • Available for use for all high school grades.

• Universal College Application
  • Accepted by 16 colleges
  • You complete one application and send it to multiple schools.

• College Specific Applications
  • Some colleges only accept their own applications.

Don’t Forget About Supplements!
There are no application deadlines; colleges accept applications and applicants throughout the year.

Applications typically are due in November, but students are not required to commit to attending a particular college until May 1. Some schools may add restrictions to their Early Action plan.

Students are permitted to apply early decision to only one college and admitted students are bound to attend that school.

Most applications are due between January and February. Students are notified in April, have until May 1 to commit to a school.
Stay Connected

• Devote one email address to all things college-related and check it often!

• Log in! Utilize college-specific technology.

• Track your applications via online portals, if offered. It is up to YOU to make sure your applications are completed.

• Parents: consider creating a “college free zone” – a time (like during car rides, dinner) when college admissions talk is off limits.

• Students: do answer your parents’ questions!
What you need to know: Financial Aid

David Wiltshire, Financial Aid Counselor
Karsh Office of Undergraduate Financial Support
Duke University
The Financial Aid Application Process

Step 1: Identify your schools & their priority deadlines *(often Dec. 1 or earlier)*
Step 2: Fill out the FAFSA ([www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov))
Step 3: Fill out the College Board Profile ([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)), if needed
Step 4: Send in any additional requested information to your schools
Step 5: Check your email!
How does it work?

The application process identifies an “Expected Family Contribution” (EFC).

Financial aid is often awarded based on need:

Total Costs
  - EFC

Need
What types of financial aid are out there?

- Need-based grants
- Parent and student loans
- Work Study
- Merit scholarships (institutional or external)
- Duke tuition benefit often reduces need-based grant aid dollar for dollar
Tips of the Trade

• Meet the *priority deadline*. This will ensure that your award letter is provided with notification of admission.
  • Don’t wait until you are admitted to file an application. If you do, you may miss scholarship opportunities at some schools, or your award letter may be delayed.
• Ask *how students are contacted for missing information*.
• Complete all questions *accurately*.
• Keep a *copy of all documents* for your records.
• When you have received your offer, ask your financial aid office about *financing options available*, such as payment plans and loan options.
Helpful Resources

• **The college’s financial aid office website.** This is also where you can access the Net Price Calculator for an estimate of your financial aid award.

• **College Foundation of North Carolina.** Go to www.CFNC.org for financial aid tips, information about scholarships and grants, loan calculators, etc.

• **Talk to a financial aid counselor** at the colleges where you apply.

• **Do not forget your college counselor!**
Overview

- Program Outline
- Employee Eligibility
- Child Eligibility
- Application Process
- Calculations

Updated 2021
Program Outline

• The Children’s Tuition Grant Program provides a grant for undergraduate tuition expenses incurred by children of eligible employees for full-time study at any approved, accredited institution of higher education (college or university).
  • Degree-granting program at the associate or bachelors level
    • NC public colleges and universities excluded
  • Child's pursuit of the “first” undergraduate degree
    • Second undergraduate degrees and graduate study excluded

• Eligible employees may receive:
  • Up to the maximum grant for each academic year, July 1 – June 30
  • Up to the maximum of 16 semesters
  • Up to the maximum of 8 semesters for any one child

Updated 2021
Employee Eligibility

ALL of the following criteria must be met:

• Employee must be in a full-time, benefits eligible position (working at least 30 hours per week); and

• During current term of employment, have at least 5 years of consecutive, full-time service as a regular full-time employee; and

• Employee must be either:
  • A current Duke University or Duke University Medical Center employee who has completed the five year service credit while employed within the University or Medical Center; or
  • A Duke University, Duke Medical Center, or Duke Hospital employee hired prior to January 1, 1999 with no break in service (this group will retain tuition benefits even after transferring to the Health System); or
  • A member of Local 77 who works within Duke University Health System

• Please note that the Children’s Tuition Grant Program is NOT available to new employees in the Health System (Employees hired after 01/01/1999 working with Duke Hospital, Duke Regional, Duke Raleigh, PRMO, Duke Primary Care, Duke Cancer Center, Duke Homecare and Hospice, and all other areas/units included as Duke University Health System).

Updated 2021
Verifying your Eligibility

Eligibility can be verified through your Duke@Work account. If the Children’s Tuition Grant Application link is visible in Duke@Work, then the programming logic has determined that you are currently eligible to participate in the CTG program. If you do not yet meet the eligibility requirements for this program, the link will not appear. Since a status change (e.g., reduction in hours worked, rate of pay classification, transfer to another entity, or termination of employment) could affect eligibility, we are unable to confirm a staff member’s future eligibility for this program.

Updated 2021
Child Eligibility

• Children include:
  • Natural
  • Adopted
  • Stepchild
  • Child of HR registered Same-Sex Spousal Equivalent

• Child eligible up until first semester or quarter after the 26th birthday (there is no age limit for eligible employees hired prior to January 1, 1999)
Application Process

1. Parent completes Page 2 and sends entire application (pages 1-3) to child’s school of attendance.

2. School sends completed application (all pages) directly to Duke Benefits via mail. Faxes will NOT be accepted.

3. For schools with “release of information” restrictions, parent must provide supporting documentation (bill/invoice, student schedule, financial aid summary, etc.)

4. If approved, Duke pays school directly and notifies parent of tuition grant payment amount.

**Please check the website to ascertain if your dependent’s school is participating in the online application process via Duke@Work.**

Updated 2021
Important Application Process Information

• Application - available by mid June
• Fall Semester - payments begin July 1\textsuperscript{st}
• Spring Semester – payments begin December 1\textsuperscript{st}

Note: Applications should be completed and forwarded to school as soon as possible. Payment processing requires at least 7-14 business days from receipt of completed application and if applicable, supporting documentation.

Updated 2021
Important Application Process Information

- First-time applicants must provide supporting documents*:
  - Natural child - copy of birth certificate
  - Adopted child - adoption papers
  - Stepchild – parents’ marriage certificate
  - Child of Same-Sex Spousal Equivalent - partnership affidavit

*Please do not send the documents until application has been submitted to school

- Application and recertification of employee eligibility is required each semester/quarter that child attends school

Updated 2021
Designated Aid vs Undesignated Aid

• Designated Aid - Scholarships and/or grants student receives to pay for core tuition only

• Undesignated Aid - Scholarships and/or grants student receives to pay for any eligible educational expenses (i.e. room & board, tuition, fees, etc.)

Note: Classification of scholarship or grant as designated or undesignated is “not” determined by Duke
Let’s talk numbers…  
2021-2022 Academic Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Tuition Grant Payment</td>
<td>21,781.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>per semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximum Tuition Grant Payment</td>
<td>$43,563.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>per academic year (July 1 – June 30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CTG Deductible</td>
<td>$ 3,510.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>per semester</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Updated 2021
North Carolina Public Colleges and Universities

- Tuition $3,509.50
- Less: CTG Deductible ($3,510.00)*
  $0.50

*The CTG deductible is more than North Carolina “public” colleges and universities. Once the per semester deductible is satisfied, there is no payable benefit to any of the UNC system colleges or universities. Therefore, the Tuition Grant benefit can only be used at an in-state private college or university or an out-of-state public or private college or university.

Updated 2020
<table>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>$28,725.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less: CTG Deductible</td>
<td>($3,510.00)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$25,215.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke Tuition Grant - Max Per Semester</td>
<td>$21,781.88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
No Scholarship(s)

Tuition $17,790.00

Less: CTG Deductible ($3,510.00)

Duke Tuition Grant Payment $14,280.00

Student Account Balance (Tuition less Duke Tuition Grant) $3,510.00 (plus Room, Board & Fees)

Updated 2021
Undesignated Scholarship(s)

Tuition: $19,260.00

Undesignated Scholarship(s) = $1,382.50
Room, Board & Fees = $6,300.00
(Note: Undesignated Scholarship is “less than” R,B&F)

Less: Undesignated Scholarship(s) Impact on Grant* = ($0.00)
Less: CTG Deductible = ($3,510.00)

Duke Tuition Grant Payment = $15,750.00

Tuition + Room, Board & Fees = $25,560.00
Less: Scholarship(s) + Duke Tuition Grant Payment = ($17,132.50)
Student Account Balance = $8,427.50

* The Undesignated Scholarship(s) less than the amount of Room, Board & Fees have no impact on the tuition grant payment but the deductible still applies.

Updated 2021
Undesignated Scholarship(s)

Tuition $20,045.00

Undesignated Scholarship(s) = $8,750.00

Room, Board & Fees = $5,315.00

(Note: Undesignated Scholarship is “greater than” R,B&F)

Less: Undesignated Scholarship(s) Impact on Grant* ($3,435.00)

Less: CTG Deductible ($3,510.00)

Duke Tuition Grant Payment $13,100.00

Tuition + Room, Board & Fees $25,360.00

Less: Scholarship(s) + Duke Tuition Grant Payment ($21,850.00)

Student Account Balance $3,510.00

* The Undesignated Scholarship(s) more than the amount of Room, Board & Fees impact/reduce the tuition grant payment and the deductible still applies.

Updated 2021
Designated Scholarship(s)

Tuition $23,865.00

Designated Scholarship(s) = $17,500.00

Less: Designated Scholarship(s) ($17,500.00)

Less: CTG Deductible * $ 0.00

[Note: CTG Deductible of $3,510 is covered by designated scholarship(s)]

Duke Tuition Grant Payment $ 6,365.00

Tuition $23,865.00

Less: Scholarship(s) + Duke Tuition Grant Payment ($23,865.00)

Student Account Balance Room, Board, & Fees

* The Scholarship(s) designated for tuition only is/are applied towards meeting the CTG deductible and the amount, if over the CTG deductible, is deducted from the tuition grant payment.

Updated 2021
Undesignated and Designated Scholarship(s)

Tuition

Designated Scholarship(s) = $4,250.00
(Note: Designated Scholarship is “greater than” CTG Deductible)

Undesignated Scholarship(s) = $7,793.00

Room, Board & Fees = $6,675.00
(Note: Undesignated Scholarship is “greater than” R,B&F)

Less: Designated Scholarship(s) ($4,250.00)
Less: Undesignated Scholarship(s) Impact on Grant ($1,118.00)
Less: CTG Deductible ($0.00)

**Duke Tuition Grant Payment**

Tuition + Room, Board & Fees $32,857.00
Less: Scholarships + Duke Tuition Grant Payment ($31,809.00)

**Student Account Balance** $1,048.00

Updated 2021
Thank you for coming!!