Welcome to College Knowledge!

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

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
• Cassidy Mills (she/her), Senior Admissions Officer & Former High School College Counselor
• Christoph Guttentag (he/him), Dean of Undergraduate Admission & Parent of 2021 college graduate

Office of Financial Aid
• David Wiltshire (he/him), Assistant Director for Communications and Financial Aid Counselor

Office of Human Resources
• Deborah Daye (she/her), Senior Benefits Analyst
Why Now?

• Decisions made now chart the course through high school and beyond

• So often we hear families say, “We wish we had known...”

• Not to overwhelm you, but to provide timely information

• Knowing what we know, this is our advice to you...
Our Program

• Admissions
  • Grades and classes
  • Standardized testing
  • Getting involved
  • Thinking about colleges

• Financial Aid
  • Types of aid
  • Application process
  • Resources

• Duke Children’s Tuition Grant (CTG) Program

Questions?
Use the Q + A box to type your questions. We will answer them at the end of the presentation.
Advice for 8th Graders

• **Finish STRONG.** Placement in some 9th grade classes might be based on grades in some 8th grade classes.

• **Finish SMART.** Make it a point to be the most organized student you can be. Take those skills with you to high school. You will NEED them!

• **Finish NICELY.** Maintain your healthy friendships.

*If you will be choosing your high school:*

• Consider the **distinctive features** of the school. Is it a good **match** for you?

• **Visit and talk** to some students you know to get a student’s view of the school. Parents, talk to parents.

*All students:*

• **Plot out the classes** you can take for all four years— and **give yourself some flexibility.**
Examples of classes usually offered beyond College Prep & Honors

**DE**
- Taken at local community colleges or universities in the surrounding area
- Taught by a college professor and often weighted the same as AP classes
- May not be an option until all AP classes are exhausted or until later years

**AP**
- Challenging, college-level courses with curricula created by College Board
- Over 2,000 colleges offer credit for Advanced Placement courses
- Exams in May, with final scores of 1 to 5

**IB**
- Challenging, college-level courses that emphasize intercultural understanding and enrichment
- 4,000-word research essay and 150 hours of service are core elements of the IB diploma
- Exams in May, with final scores of 1 to 7
- Diploma offered or singular classes (or both)
What Families Usually See: A Report Card

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Information</th>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Instructor Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American History II Honors</td>
<td>98</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology Honors</td>
<td>94</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP Psychology</td>
<td>90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English IV Honors</td>
<td>89</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics Honors</td>
<td>91</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP Calculus AB</td>
<td>82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### What Most Colleges Will See:
Your Entire Transcript & GPA (weighted/unweighted)

- Grades are important but GPA and rank aren’t everything
- **What story does your transcript tell?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade: 9</th>
<th>2011/12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90112G</td>
<td>Health/Pe (Req 9-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95202SE</td>
<td>HIGH SCHOOL SEMINAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30205</td>
<td>HONORS BIOLOGY I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10215</td>
<td>HONORS ENGLISH I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20306</td>
<td>HONORS GEOMETRY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40245</td>
<td>HONORS WORLD HISTORY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52302</td>
<td>VOCAL MUSIC I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52302</td>
<td>VOCAL MUSIC I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade: 10</th>
<th>2012/13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20245</td>
<td>Algebra II Honors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10225</td>
<td>English II Honors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30505</td>
<td>HONORS CHEMISTRY I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40525</td>
<td>HONORS CIVICS AND ECONOMICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10512</td>
<td>SPANISH I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10522</td>
<td>SPANISH II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52195WCH</td>
<td>Specialization: Women's Choir Advance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52195WCH</td>
<td>Specialization: Women's Choir Advance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade: 11</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10357X0</td>
<td>AP English Language and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11435X0</td>
<td>Spanish III Honors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43015X0</td>
<td>U.S. History Honors / US History (Honors)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52335X0</td>
<td>Vocal Music (Advanced) Honors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31107X0</td>
<td>AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42082X0</td>
<td>Contemporary Law and Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24035X0</td>
<td>Pre-Calculus Honors / HNS PRECALCULUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52335X0</td>
<td>Vocal Music (Advanced) Honors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advice for 9th Graders

• **Do the best you can!** Most colleges consider your grades from freshman year.

• **Communicate with your teachers.** Let them know if you could use some extra help, or if you want to be more academically challenged.

• Ask when you will select your 10th grade courses, and already have an idea of what you like to take.

• Think about extracurricular activities to join next year or how you can continue what you have already started. **Do what you care about!**
Look inward

• What are you interested in; what do you care about?

• How are you spending your time outside of the classroom?

• It’s not just about what you do but how you do it and why you do it

• “Well-rounded” versus “angular”
Advice for 10th Graders

• Do the best you can!

• Beware of the **sophomore slump**.

• Remain thoughtful about your **courses and extracurricular activities**.

• Your **circle of friends** might also be changing.

• This **college thing** is looming...
Tests to Expect

**ACT**
- Grade 11 (all public & charter school students) + 12
- English, Math, Reading, and Science (1-36)
- Composite (overall) Score: 1-36

**SAT**
- Usually Grade 11 + 12
- Scoring Range: 400-1600
- Two sections: Reading & Writing (200-800) + Math (200-800)
- *Optional* essay scored separately

**PRACT**
- Grade 8/9/10
- Math, Science, English, and Reading
- Scoring Range (1-36)
- Based on ACT

**PSAT**
- Grades 10 and/or 11
- Reading & Writing, Math
- Scoring range (320-1520)
- National Merit Scholarship
- Based on SAT
Test-Optional

• Test optional means that you do not need to submit SAT or ACT scores to be considered for admission to a particular school. So while you may submit test scores if you want, you are not actually required to do so.

• Covid-19 & Test-Optional
  • 1,400+ U.S. Four-Year Colleges and Universities will not require ACT/SAT scores for fall 2023 entry

• Other terminology
  • Test-flexible
  • Test-blind

• www.fairtest.org
How Should I Spend My Summers?

- Traveling?
- Internship?
- Camp?
- Volunteering?
- Visiting colleges?
- Studying for the SAT/ACT?
- Hobbies?
- Working?
- Doing whatever I want?
Thinking about colleges...
One Size Doesn’t Fit All

4-year Private College

4-year Public College

Gap Year

2-year College then Transfer

Job

Military
Our advice when beginning to look at colleges

• **Start locally.** There are so many different kinds of colleges in our area (HBCUs, women’s colleges, two-year, public, private). Get a feel for what visiting a college is like.

• No need for a “formal” visit yet if you’d rather not.

• If you will be visiting an area already (vacations, family gatherings, etc.) we do recommend seeing some of the local colleges.

• **Peel the name off the college** and focus on its attributes:
  - Single-sex or Coed
  - Population Size
  - Academic Programs
  - Residential Life
  - Clubs & Activities
  - Diversity
  - Location
  - Affordability
  - Admissions Standards

Then, **discuss what you liked and what didn’t appeal to you.**
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)
Step 3: Fill out the College Board Profile (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). This may also be called a “Student Aid Index” (SAI).

Financial aid is often awarded based on need:

Total Costs
- EFC or SAI

_________

Need
Types of Financial Aid

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**!
Duke
Children’s Tuition Grant (CTG) Program

2021-2022
Overview

- Program Outline
- Employee Eligibility
- Child Eligibility
- Application Process
- Calculations
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
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 2020
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 2020
Verifying your Eligibility (cont.)
Verifying your Eligibility (cont.)

[Image of Duke Human Resources website with a section on verifying eligibility and benefit plans]

Updated 2020
Child Eligibility

- Children include:
  - Biological
  - 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.

Updated 2020
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.
Important Application Process Information

- First-time applicants must provide supporting documents*:
  - Biological 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
Let’s talk numbers...
2021-2022 Academic Year

Maximum Tuition Grant Payment 21,782.00 per semester

Maximum Tuition Grant Payment $43,564.00 per academic year (July 1 – June 30)

CTG Deductible $3,510.00 per semester
CTG SEMINARS

• Monthly Seminars:
  
  [https://forms.hr.duke.edu/benefits/tuition](https://forms.hr.duke.edu/benefits/tuition)

  • A representative from Duke Benefits will discuss eligibility requirements, taxability of benefits, how the benefit is calculated, and how to apply for the program as part of the free webinar.
Questions?
Thank you for coming!