



# Your Guide to Free College



**Congratulations, High School Graduates!**  
**Now on to College at RichmondCC.**

# You Have Options

As a graduating high school student of Richmond or Scotland County, you have options to earn free tuition at Richmond Community College. Let's see what they are!

## The RichmondCC Guarantee

To be eligible, you must:

- Be a legal resident and remain a resident of Richmond or Scotland counties.
- Have successfully completed at least two dual enrollment courses through the Career & College Promise program and be in good academic standing with RichmondCC.\*
- Graduate high school with at least a 3.0 unweighted GPA.\*\*
- Must start classes at RichmondCC the semester following high school completion.

*\*Good academic standing is a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 at the end of each semester.*

*\*\*Consideration will be given to students with a 2.8-2.99 unweighted GPA accompanied by a principal's recommendation.*

Continued eligibility:

- Maintain good academic standing with RichmondCC by having a minimum 2.0 GPA at the end of every semester.
- Be continuously enrolled every semester (excluding summer).
- Enroll in and complete 2 classes, or 6 hours, every semester (excluding summer).
- Students wishing to take a continuing education program must have a specific career plan on file with RichmondCC Student Services.

Deadline for SPRING graduates:

- Everything must be turned in by July 31, 2025, to be a Guarantee student.
  - o CFNC Application
  - o RDS Application (and supporting documents if needed)
  - o Submit final high school transcript
  - o Meet with a RichmondCC Academic Counselor to be admitted as a regular student, and to register for classes.

Deadline for WINTER graduates:

- Everything must be turned in by Jan. 30, 2026, to be a Guarantee student.
  - o CFNC Application
  - o RDS Application (and supporting documents if needed)
  - o Submit final high school transcript
  - o Meet with a RichmondCC Academic Counselor to be admitted as a regular student, and to register

# Federal Financial Aid

## To Get Started

To apply for federal aid as a North Carolina student, you must complete a FAFSA. You start this process by applying for an FSA ID and password online at <https://studentaid.gov/>.

## What is this information used for?

Dependent students and their parents each need a FSA ID and password. This information is used to electronically sign the FAFSA application. Keep the information on file because you use it each year to file your FAFSA. Students must complete a new FAFSA each academic year.

## Don't be afraid to call for help!

If you have trouble with the application, you can call 1-800-4-FEDAID (800-433-3243). RichmondCC's federal school code is **005464**.

## If you get selected for verification, don't worry!

Some students who file for FAFSA are selected for a process called verification. This is simply a review of the information in your application. You may need to get a transcript of your 1040 Federal Income Tax Form. To get a transcript, call (800) 829-1040 or visit IRS.gov. Also, students may need to complete a verification form. The Financial Aid Office will notify you if you are selected for verification, and you can download the verification form you need from our Financial Aid Forms page. Choose the year that applies. Once we have reviewed your financial information, we will notify you of any aid for which you may qualify.

## How do you qualify for financial aid?

In order to qualify for most financial aid, the following criteria must be met:

- You must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online or by contacting FAFSA. One application is filed each academic year.
- Additional applications are required for scholarships and work-study employment.
- You must enroll as a degree-seeking student in an eligible program.
- You must only take courses that are needed to fulfill graduation requirements in your degree program.
- You must have an official high school or GED transcript on file with our admissions office.
- You must have an official college transcript on file with our admissions office for any colleges that you previously attended.
- You must be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen.
- You must demonstrate financial need.
- You must be making satisfactory progress in your course of study.
- You must not be in default on a federally subsidized education loan.
- Your Student Aid Index (SAI) is a formula-based index number ranging from -1500 to 999999. Where your SAI falls within the SAI range helps your school determine how much financial support you may need. A negative SAI indicates you have a higher financial need. For example, if you have an SAI of -1500, you'll qualify for a maximum Pell Grant award assuming you have not exhausted your lifetime amounts and meet all student eligibility requirements.

# SCAN & GO!

**Helpful links to get you started.**

FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Assistance  
<https://studentaid.gov/>  
RichmondCC school code:  
**005464**



Complete the CFNC Residency Requirement  
[www.ncresidency.org](http://www.ncresidency.org)



Complete the CFNC Admissions Application [www.cfnc.org](http://www.cfnc.org)  
Enrollment Status, choose:  
**Freshman**





**www.ncresidency.org**

**Toll-Free Student Number:** (844) 319-3640

**Fax Number:** (919) 835-2427

**Email:** rdsinfo@ncresidency.org

**STUDENTS APPLYING FOR UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION** and seeking a residency determination for in-state tuition or state grant purposes are now required to use the Residency Determination Service (RDS).

In order to process your application, you need to submit a valid Residency Certification Number (RCN). This number can be obtained by completing the residency application using RDS. If you have already completed the residency application, you can retrieve the RCN by logging in to your RDS account or contacting RDS directly.

## Information Needed – Parents/Guardians

Regardless of your age, if your parents/guardians pay at least half of your support (mortgage, rent, utilities, etc.), the list below represents potential information and documentation that may be requested of both of the parents/guardians as part of the RDS online interview request:

- Full Legal Names
- Social Security Numbers
- Driver's License Numbers
- Date of Birth
- Warranty Deed
- Rental/lease agreement
- Federal/state tax return
- Vehicle Registration
- W-2
- Voter Registration
- Marriage Certificate
- Military Leave and Earning Statement (LES)
- Permanent Resident Card
- Approved I-130/140/360
- Federal tax form to confirm dependent status for parent with approved I-140/I-130
- Immigration Court order
- I-797 Notice of Approval from USCIS
- Conditional Green Card

## Information Needed – Student

The list below represents potential information and documentation that may be requested of the student as part of the RDS online interview request. The list represents potential types of information that may be requested and is not intended to be all-inclusive:

- Full Legal Name
- Date of Birth
- Social Security Number
- Driver's License Number

## To Get Started

Log onto [www.ncresidency.org](http://www.ncresidency.org)



# One More Requirement

## CFNC Admissions Application Must Be Completed

The screenshot shows the CFNC.org website. The header includes the CFNC.org logo, the tagline 'Helping you plan, apply, and pay for college', and the College Foundation of North Carolina logo with the phone number 866-866-CFNC(2362). Navigation links include 'Sign in | Create My CFNC Account', 'About CFNC | Contact Us | Resources/Videos | Need Help? | Advanced Search', and a search bar. The main navigation bar has tabs for 'My CFNC', 'Plan', 'Apply' (highlighted), 'Pay', and 'Save (NC 529)'. Below this, a sub-navigation bar shows 'To College', 'For Financial Aid', and 'Residency Determination'. The 'Apply' section is active, showing a sidebar with links like 'Application Hub', 'Complete a Practice Application', 'Get Recruited', 'College Application Month', 'Apply For Financial Aid', and 'Apply Residency Determination'. The main content area has a heading 'Apply' and three sections: 'Apply To College' (with a photo of students), 'Apply For Financial Aid' (with a photo of a person at a desk), and 'Request Residency Determination' (with a photo of a building interior). A 'Click to use Flash' button is also visible. The footer contains copyright information and links to 'Site Map', 'Privacy Policy & Terms of Use', and 'Accessibility & Technical Support'.

## To Get Started

Log onto <https://www.ncresidency.org/>  
Under Enrollment choose: **Freshman**



## Keep track of your Residency Certification Number.



[www.ncresidency.org](http://www.ncresidency.org)

Your Residency Certification Number  
(RCN): \_\_\_\_\_

Toll-Free Student Number: (844) 319-3640

Fax Number: (919) 835-2427

Email: [rdsinfo@ncresidency.org](mailto:rdsinfo@ncresidency.org)

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. What is the RichmondCC Guarantee?

Richmond Community College guarantees two years of free tuition and fees at RichmondCC for residents of Richmond and Scotland County.

## 2. What are the deadlines to be considered a RichmondCC Guarantee student?

- The deadline for spring graduates is July 31, 2025.
- The deadline for winter graduates is Jan. 30, 2026.
- After the deadlines have passed, you will not be eligible to be classified as a Guarantee student.

## 3. Should I apply for financial aid? Should I complete a FAFSA?

- All students are strongly encouraged to apply for financial aid. While completing the FAFSA is not required, there are up to \$1,400 in new forms of aid in addition to Federal Pell funds that you may qualify for that would assist with your books and other costs
- If eligible for full Pell Grant funds, you will not be classified as a Guarantee student. You will be classified as a traditional student. (However, you may have access to more funding.)
- If you are eligible for partial Pell Grant funds, please speak with a Financial Aid Representative to determine the best option for you. <https://studentaid.gov/>

## 4. What are the eligibility requirements?

- Be a legal resident and remain a resident of Richmond or Scotland County.
- Have successfully completed at least two dual enrollment courses through the Career & College Promise program and be in good academic standing with RichmondCC by having a minimum 2.0 GPA for your college classes.
- Graduate high school with at least a 3.0 unweighted GPA. Consideration will be given to students with a 2.8-2.99 unweighted GPA accompanied by a principal's recommendation.

## 5. How do I apply for the RichmondCC Guarantee? How do I know if I'm a Guarantee student?

You will apply to the college as a traditional student; however, there is no longer a separate application for the RichmondCC Guarantee. Eligible students will automatically receive a packet from the Director of K-12 Partnerships with information on the next steps.

## 6. What must I do to continue as a Guarantee student?

- Maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA with RichmondCC each semester.
- Enroll in and complete at least 2 classes (or at least 6 credit hours) every semester excluding summer.
- Be continuously enrolled each semester excluding summer.

## 7. Do I have to register for a certain number of hours if I am a Guarantee student?

Yes, students must register for at least 2 classes OR at least 6 credit hours every semester excluding summer. Students wishing to take a continuing education program must have a specific career plan on file with RichmondCC Student Services.

## 8. What happens if I withdraw from or fail a class with the Guarantee program?

- If your grade point average drops below a 2.0 at the end of any semester, you are no longer eligible to be a RichmondCC Guarantee student.
- You can withdraw from classes, but you must successfully complete at least two classes (or 6 hours) each semester, or you will no longer be a Guarantee student.

# Frequently Asked Questions *continued...*

**9. Does the RichmondCC Guarantee cover the cost of books?**

No, the RichmondCC Guarantee only covers the costs of tuition and fees.

**10. Will the Richmond CC Guarantee cover summer classes?**

The RichmondCC Guarantee will pay for classes for up to two summer semesters.

**11. Can I lose my status as a RichmondCC Guarantee student?**

Yes, you may lose your status as a RichmondCC Guarantee student by:

- Failing to maintain a 2.0 GPA each semester
- Withdrawing from all of your classes
- Not returning the following semester (excluding summer)
- Not completing at least 2 classes or at least 6 credit hours each semester (excluding summer)
- Disciplinary actions which results in suspension or expulsion

**12. Can I attend another college/university after high school and still be a Guarantee Student?**

No, RichmondCC must be your first choice after high school graduation. Students will not be able to skip a semester then return the following semester as a Guarantee student.

**13. If a student loses his or her status as a RichmondCC Guarantee student, can he or she get it back?**

No, once you lose your status you cannot get it back.



# RichmondCC Programs

Choose the right educational path for your career plans!

## **BUSINESS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Accounting & Finance

- Bookkeeper
- Tax Preparer
- Payroll Accounting

Business Administration

Entrepreneurship

Marketing

Healthcare Manager

Information Technology

- IT Support – Healthcare
- Cyber Security
- Software & Web Developer

## **ENGINEERING & TECHNICAL TRADES**

Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration Tech.

Electric Utility Substation & Relay Technology

Mechatronics Engineering Technology

## **HEALTH SCIENCES**

Associate Degree of Nursing

Emergency Medical Science

Medical Assisting

Nursing Assistant – Pre-Nursing

Practical Nursing

## **PUBLIC SERVICES**

911 Communications & Operations

Criminal Justice Technology

Early Childhood Administration

Early Childhood Education

Early Childhood Preschool

Social & Human Services

- Addiction & Recovery
- Child Advocacy Studies
- Mental Health
- Social Services
- Generalist

Infant/Toddler Care

## **UNIVERSITY TRANSFER**

Associate in Arts

Associate in Arts – Teacher Preparation

Associate in Science

Associate in Science – Teacher Preparation

## **CO-ADMISSION AGREEMENTS\***

Students who enter a co-admission program are guaranteed admission at both RichmondCC and the partnering university. RichmondCC has co-admission agreements with the following universities:

- App State University - Aspire Appalachian
- East Carolina University - Pirate Promise
- Gardner-Webb University - Bulldog Bound
- Lees-McRae College - GAP
- N.C. A&T University - Aggie Plus
- N.C. State University - C3
- Pfeiffer University - Pfeiffer Pact
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill - C-STEP
- University of North Carolina at Pembroke - BraveStep
- University of North Carolina at Wilmington - PathWays
- Wingate University - Gateway Scholarship

*\*Different application dates apply to each agreement.*

## **Continuing Education Classes**

Basic Law Enforcement Training

Truck Driver Training

Child Advocacy Studies

Electric Lineman

Construction Trades

Industrial Systems Technician

Machining

Welding

Plumbing

Surgical Technician

Pharmacy Technician Training

Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic

Income Maintenance Caseworker

Forklift Operator Training

Medical Billing & Coding

Medical Office Administrative Assistant

Quickbooks

Pilot (Escort) Vehicle Operator

Freight Dispatching

Small Engine Repair