Transition to College Guide

As the first in your family to attend a four year institution, you’re probably wondering what’s next? Well, future college graduate, take comfort in knowing that you are not alone. In the last two years more than 1,500 first generation students have enrolled at NC State. We recognize how exciting, yet overwhelming, this time can be so we put together a guide to help you transition to NC State more comfortably. Use the information provided to stay on track to enroll, succeed and graduate from NC State. Go Pack!

A Note for Your Parent(s)/Guardian(s) & Family

Parents and family play a key role in your success. When you come to NC State, you and your family become part of the Wolfpack family. We want your parents to be involved in your education. We encourage them to be your #1 fan, supporting and cheering you on until you cross the stage on graduation day. If your parents want more information about how to support you during your time at NC State they can contact the Office of Parents and Families Services at (919) 515-2441 or https://emas.ncsu.edu/pfs/.

Getting a college education is absolutely the best way to prepare for the future. With a college education you will have more career choices, better job opportunities and dramatically increase your earning potential. Today’s average high school graduates earn $22,900 per year, while college graduates earn $40,500 per year. Over a lifetime a graduate earns almost $1,000,000 more. (http://www.dccap.org/hs-students/preparing-college)

It is never too late to be considered for State and Federal Resources, so be sure to submit your FAFSA, even if you don’t meet the March 1 priority deadline.

Paying for College & Applying for Financial Aid

To apply for need-based financial aid, you will need to submit the FREE Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1 at http://www.fafsa.gov [NOT .com – You should NEVER pay to apply for financial aid].

NC State University Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid (http://financialaid.ncsu.edu) offers merit-based scholarships, some require that you demonstrate financial need.

Completing the FAFSA is necessary for you to be considered for financial aid (pell grants, scholarships, need based aid and loans)

To fill out the FAFSA you will need:
- Tax information for you and your parent/guardian
- Your social security number or Alien Registration Number
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
- NC State’s FAFSA code: 002972

Fill out the form using tax information from the year prior to the academic year. If you are applying for aid for the 2016-2017 school year, use 2015 tax information. You MUST reapply for financial aid each academic year.

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NC State offers an interest free monthly payment plan http://go.ncsu.edu/payment-plan
Helpful Financial Aid Websites

- Student Loan Tips https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/loans
- NC State University’s Work Study http://financialaid.ncsu.edu/types-of-aid/work/

Housing & Dining

Staying on campus at NC State provides many advantages. Each year, about 80% of incoming students decide to live on campus, however on-campus housing is not required at NC State. Completing the housing application is free and the sooner you complete it the more options you have. As you fill out the application you will see options for staying in a Living and Learning Village. Our Living and Learning Villages are small, interest-based living communities that engage students both inside and outside the classroom. Village life will help you become acclimated to campus life while also providing guidance, social activities and access. Your dining options are endless at NC State. Sign up for one of our many meal plans to take advantage of the three dining halls and multiple eateries on campus.

- http://housing.ncsu.edu/why-live-on-campus
- http://housing.ncsu.edu/village-choices
- http://www.ncsudining.com

Confirm Your Enrollment by May 1

A non-refundable $200 Advanced Enrollment Deposit, which goes towards your first semester of tuition is required to reserve your space in the incoming class. Instructions for paying your enrollment deposit can be found on your wolfPAW account: http://wolfpaw.ncsu.edu

New Student Orientation & Parent Orientation

As soon as you have confirmed your enrollment, be sure to sign up for first-year student orientation! New Student Orientation is where you can interact with an advisor, college faculty and staff, prepare for your classes and meet future classmates. Your parents can join you to attend Parent Orientation. Keep in mind that these dates will be during the summer, so you will need to clear your calendar to be sure you can attend your specific session. You must participate in orientation in order to begin classes at NC State.

- New Student Orientation and Parent Orientation http://newstudents.dasa.ncsu.edu/orientation

HOWL Can You Get to Know the Wolfpack?

Explore the opportunities and resources NC State provides. All students will need academic and social support at some point in college. Get started early by connecting with offices that are here to support you. Even if you did not need a tutor in high school, begin meeting with academic support staff once you arrive on campus. Part of being a successful student is knowing when to ask for help and where to go for assistance. Leave your mark as a Wolfpack Trailblazer – use these resources to create your ideal college experience and maximize your potential:

- Chaplain’s Cooperative Ministry http://chaplains.dasa.ncsu.edu
- Multicultural Student Affairs http://oied.ncsu.edu/MSA/
- Safety http://housing.ncsu.edu/campus-safety
- TRiO Student Support Services Program (SSS) http://trio.dasa.ncsu.edu
- Transportation http://go.ncsu.edu/transportation
  - All NC State students have FREE access to campus and area bus lines
- Undergraduate Tutorial Center http://tutorial.ncsu.edu/

Take Advantage of your Summer

- Take placement tests (in May)
- Attend New Student Orientation (mandatory)
- Summer START – take 8 credit hours while getting to know your future classmates and campus http://summerstart.dasa.ncsu.edu
- Send your official final transcript to Undergraduate Admissions
- Follow the checklist you received in your acceptance packet http://newstudents.dasa.ncsu.edu/checklist