

Counseling for Homeschoolers

By Kevin and Cindy Hyde

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and sincere. James 3:17

What you need to go to college...

This presentation addresses the complete process of taking the right courses, producing great transcripts, writing effective essays, showing extracurricular activity, finding the applications, getting recommendations, and putting it all together in hopes of competing for scholarships.

NC Public High School Grad Requirements

4 credits English

English I, II, III, IV

4 credits Math

Algebra 1&2, Geometry, Pre-calculus

3 credits Science

Physical Science (Chem/Physics), Biology,
Earth/Env Science

4 credits Social Studies

Founding Principles, Econ & Pers Finance,
Amer History, World History

1 credit Health & Physical Education

2 credits World Languages

4 credits Electives

—

22 total credits

SC Public High School Grad Requirements

4 credits English/Language Arts

4 credits Math

3 credits Science

1 credit U.S. History and Constitution

½ credit Economics

½ credit U.S. Government

1 credit other social studies

1 credit Physical Education or Junior ROTC

1 credit Computer Science (including keyboarding)

1 credit Foreign language or career and technical education

7 credits Electives

—
24 total credits

Home Schools are not bound by public standards but consider that students will be compared for college admission

Add'l Course Considerations

Foreign Language – Clemson: 3 credits

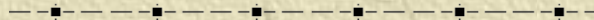
Fine Arts - frequently 1 visual or performing arts

Compare to International Baccalaureate schools:

- Theory of Knowledge
- Extended Essay
- Creativity, Activity, Service

Compare to other “advanced” students:

- Honors
- Advanced Placement
- Dual-Enrollment



Science!

North Carolina System: a physical science course (chemistry or physics), Biology, Earth / Environmental science

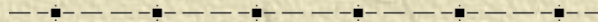
Tennessee: Biology plus either Chemistry or Physics plus a 3rd science

South Carolina: 2 credits from among Biology, Chemistry, and Physics plus a 3rd credit of advanced science

Clemson: 3 credits, 2 must be selected from Biology I, Chemistry I or Physics I

National Research Council:

- Physical Sciences
- Life Sciences
- Earth and Space Sciences
- Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science



The Graduation Project

The Graduation Project shall consist of the following four components on a common topic:

- a. A research paper in a standard format;
- b. A juried presentation to a panel;
- c. A research-based product which may be a physical or non-physical product;
- d. A portfolio documenting the activities associated with the project.

Standardized Tests

SAT - (200-800 in 2 sections)

Average scores:

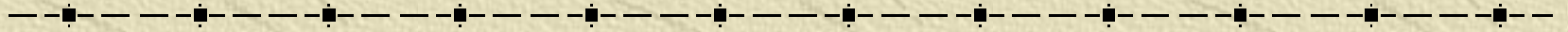
- Evidence-Based Reading and Writing: 531
- Math: 528
- Optional Essay: 3 scores ranging 2-8

ACT Test (1-36 in 4 sections plus composite)

Average scores:

- English: 20.1
- Mathematics: 20.4
- Reading: 21.2
- Science: 20.6
- Optional Writing: score ranging 2-12
- Composite: 20.7

Transcripts



Allow comparison to public/private school transcripts

Extracurricular activities are not “normal”

Extended GPA

Honors (+0.5)

Advanced Placement (+1.0)

Dual Enrollment (+1.0)

SC Uniform Grading Policy is clear guidance

Extended GPA

SC

Uniform
Grading
Scale

Transferring
grades without
numbers

A=95

B=85

C=75

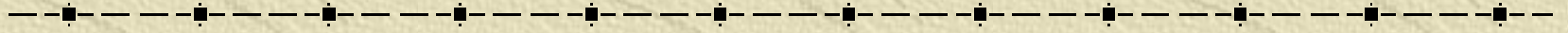
D=65

F=51

10 Point Grading Scale

South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale Conversions				
Numerical Average	Letter Grade	College Prep Weighting	Honors Weighting	AP/IB/Dual Credit Weighting
100	A	5.000	5.500	6.000
99	A	4.900	5.400	5.900
98	A	4.800	5.300	5.800
97	A	4.700	5.200	5.700
96	A	4.600	5.100	5.600
95	A	4.500	5.000	5.500
94	A	4.400	4.900	5.400
93	A	4.300	4.800	5.300
92	A	4.200	4.700	5.200
91	A	4.100	4.600	5.100
90	A	4.000	4.500	5.000
89	B	3.900	4.400	4.900
88	B	3.800	4.300	4.800
87	B	3.700	4.200	4.700
86	B	3.600	4.100	4.600
85	B	3.500	4.000	4.500
84	B	3.400	3.900	4.400
83	B	3.300	3.800	4.300
82	B	3.200	3.700	4.200
81	B	3.100	3.600	4.100
80	B	3.000	3.500	4.000
79	C	2.900	3.400	3.900
78	C	2.800	3.300	3.800
77	C	2.700	3.200	3.700
76	C	2.600	3.100	3.600
75	C	2.500	3.000	3.500
74	C	2.400	2.900	3.400
73	C	2.300	2.800	3.300
72	C	2.200	2.700	3.200
71	C	2.100	2.600	3.100

Essays

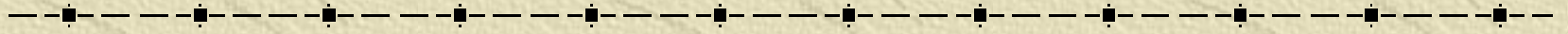


Make it interesting

Give concrete examples

Emphasize own experiences

Extracurricular Activity



Shown on application, not on transcript

Demonstrating leadership

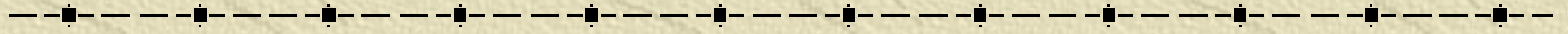
Community service

Interesting hobbies

Athletics

Employment

Recommendations



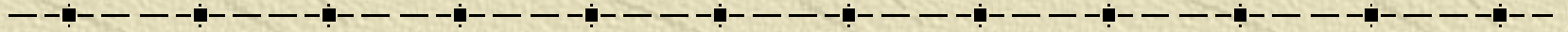
Possibly difficult for totally home-schooled student

Plan ahead for people to give recommendations

Give summary if necessary

Remind of deadlines

Interviews



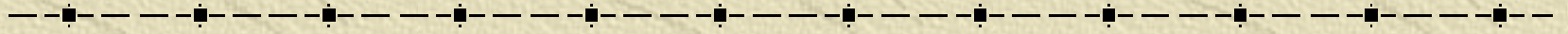
Not always included in selection process

Dress appropriately

Practice the “elevator speech”

Research the school or scholarship

Finding Scholarships



- Schools may include scholarships with application
- Honors program may have scholarship implications
- Membership organizations
- Employers
- Reserve Officer Training Corps / Military Academies
- FastWeb scholarship search
- Sports

Sports Scholarships



2% of high school athletes get a sports scholarship

Average scholarship is less than \$11,000/year and must be renewed

Note that sports involvement takes time away from academics at college

Core courses required in high school with 2.3 GPA

Register with NCAA Eligibility Center

Keeping Your Options Open

You may not know right now what you want to do with the rest of your life.

Starting Salaries

Engineering	\$69,000
Computer Science	\$67,000
Math & Sciences	\$62,000
Business	\$58,000
Humanities & Social Sciences	\$57,000
Communications	\$52,000
Education	\$40,000

Have the prerequisites just in case!

Putting It All Together



Start early

Don't necessarily eliminate expensive schools

Pursue a well-rounded background

Practice for admission tests

Pay attention to deadlines

Helpful Web Sites

College Foundation of North Carolina <https://www.cfnc.org/>

SAT Test <http://www.collegeboard.com/>

ACT Test <https://www.act.org/>

Guide for College Financial Aid <https://finaid.org/>

FastWeb Scholarship Search <https://www.fastweb.com/>

The Common Application <https://www.commonapp.org/>

Coalition for College <https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>

SC Uniform Grading Policy
<https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/state-accountability/uniform-grading-policy/>