Navigating FAFSA and RDS for High School Seniors Preparing for College

Both FAFSA and RDS are required and need similar information for completion. Below is a breakdown of what these two items are and the information needed to complete them.

**FAFSA** - Complete the FAFSA (**Free Application for Federal Student Aid**) to determine your eligibility for federal and state financial aid. You will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) upon completion.

**RDS** - Use RDS (**Residency Determination Service**) to receive an RCN (**Residency Certification Number**) to determine your eligibility for in-state tuition and state grant awards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Why?</th>
<th>Possible eligibility for federal and state financial aid for college</th>
<th>Possible eligibility for in-state tuition and state grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where?</td>
<td>fasfa.gov</td>
<td>ncresidency.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Step?</td>
<td>Get FSA ID (<strong>Federal Student Aid Identification</strong>) – student and parent/legal guardian</td>
<td>Complete RDS online</td>
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<td>When?</td>
<td>FSA ID before Oct. 1; FAFSA as soon as possible after Oct. 1</td>
<td>Ideally before student applies to NC colleges and universities</td>
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### Minimum Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Type</th>
<th>Entrance Requirement</th>
<th>Testing Scores and GPA</th>
<th>High School Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NC Community Colleges</td>
<td>“Open Door” admissions policy: Anyone 18 or older or who has attained a high school diploma or its equivalent. (High school equivalent tests include GED, HI SET or TASC)</td>
<td>Placement Test OR Standardized Test Scores: English ACT Reading 20 OR English 18 SAT Writing 500 OR Critical Reading 500 Math ACT Math 22 OR SAT Math 500</td>
<td>You may be exempt from placement testing and remedial courses if your high school grade point average is 2.6 or above, and you’ve taken appropriate high school courses.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NC Independent Colleges and Universities</td>
<td>Entrance requirements vary among institutions.</td>
<td>Check the website or call the admissions office for more details.</td>
<td>Detailed information available using College Search tool on CFNC.org.</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina</td>
<td>• Minimum requirements for admission established by the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina • Individual campuses may have additional requirements beyond the minimums • Meeting these requirements does not guarantee admission</td>
<td>For most students under 21: High School GPA: 2.5 cumulative weighted Test Scores: SAT: 800 old / 880 new, ACT: 17</td>
<td>For most students under 21: High School Courses: 6 units of language (English and other language) 4 units of math 3 units of science 2 units of social studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: These requirements are subject to change at any time.