

The background of the entire page is a photograph of Christopher Newport University's main building. It is a large, multi-story red brick building with white columns and a prominent golden dome. A wide set of white stairs leads up to the entrance. In the foreground, a green lawn is populated with many students walking and sitting on benches. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE

.....
Finding the college that's right for you

College SEARCH

- ☐ Determine which factors are most important to you (see list at right)
- ☐ Research schools using the suggested resources noted on this page
- ☐ Seek information on specific programs of interest to you, including majors, minors and advising tracks
- ☐ Build a tentative list of colleges that meet your criteria
- ☐ Visit colleges on your list
- ☐ Narrow your search to those schools to which you plan to apply
- ☐ Think long term. What do you want to do after college? Find a school that offers undergraduate research, internships and other opportunities beyond the classroom that will prepare you to meet your graduate school or professional goals.
- ☐ College is more than just classes and studying; student life is also important! Explore the various clubs, organizations, athletic offerings and leadership opportunities your potential schools provide.

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

- Size
- Location
- Cost
- Areas of study
- Campus life/culture
- Facilities/amenities
- Admission requirements

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Online

Chegg.com
CollegeConfidential.com
CollegeView.com
College websites
cnu.edu
Social media/student blogs
blogs.cnu.edu

In Print

College materials — *Join mailing lists!*
captainsbridge.cnu.edu
The Princeton Review
U.S. News & World Report
Forbes

In Person

Campus visits
College representative visits at your high school
High school counselors
Local college fairs
On-campus interviews

College Search Tip #1

Own your college search. Finding the “right fit” requires doing your homework – discovering all of what each school might offer you, their campus culture in and outside the classroom, facilities, and more. Prioritize the characteristics you desire in a college and use this list throughout your search.

Robert Lange
Dean of Admission





College PREP

- ☐ Select rigorous classes — Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) and dual-enrollment — that you can succeed in and that meet the expectations of your top college choices
- ☐ Take advantage of opportunities to engage in available leadership and service activities
- ☐ Participate in summer programs that promote your academic and co-curricular interests
- ☐ Choose extracurricular involvement that demonstrates a commitment to purpose

Standardized TESTING

- Check to see if the SAT or ACT is required for admission or if you can apply test-optional.
- Find out if the SAT or ACT is required for scholarship consideration.
- Many schools will super score, which means they will consider your highest combination of subscores on multiple SAT or ACT results. CNU super scores multiple SATs, not ACTs.
- Since most schools consider your highest equivalent score on the SAT or ACT, it is in your best interest to take each at least once.
- Verify if optional writing sections are required at the schools to which you are applying.
- Check available test dates and register at sat.collegeboard.org/register and actstudent.org/regist.
- Take practice SAT and ACT tests available in your high school guidance office and online.
- Investigate school- and community-sponsored test preparation, online resources, and private testing centers.

What Colleges Look for: The CNU PERSPECTIVE

You are more than your test scores and grades. That's why our holistic admission review considers your entire background as together we determine if Christopher Newport University is the "right fit" for you.

Overall Academic Record

We expect to see a cumulative record of academic success. Christopher Newport considers such factors as the rigor of your high school curriculum and observable trends in your performance.

- **Cumulative GPA:** We evaluate your class standing using your cumulative weighted and unweighted GPA. If your school does not use a 4.0 scale, we recalculate your GPA based on a 4.0 scale. Class rank is considered only if provided by your high school.
- **Curriculum rigor:** We consider what classes you have chosen to take within the context of course offerings at your high school. To be competitive for admission, students need to have taken a college preparatory curriculum, such as the Advanced Studies Diploma offered in Virginia. A program is considered rigorous if it includes significant college-level coursework, such as AP, IB or dual-enrollment.
- **Grade trends:** We expect you to work to your full potential. Are your grades consistent year to year? Did you have a rocky academic start in ninth grade but improve over time? Have your grades gotten better each year or seen a downward trend? If you have a glaring inconsistency in your grades, we encourage you to explain why in the additional information section on the Common Application. **Remember: Based on the application schedule, your junior-year grades are of utmost importance.**
- **SAT or ACT:** If you submit test scores from both the ACT and SAT, we use the highest equivalent score when making an admission decision. If you have tested more than once, we consider your best ACT composite score or a super score of your highest SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math sub scores.

GPA RANGE

The middle 50 percent GPA range for our 2016 freshman class was 3.5–4.0 (4.0 scale). This means 25 percent had high school GPAs above this range, and 25 percent had GPAs below it.

TEST-OPTIONAL

Students who achieve at least a 3.5 GPA in a rigorous college-prep curriculum, or who rank in the top 10 percent of their graduating class, may apply to Christopher Newport as test-optional.





Additional Factors

A record of high school involvement can positively impact your application. Our students demonstrate leadership ability, a commitment to service, diverse talents and extracurricular experiences. Through applicants' essays, recommendations and interviews, we can recognize traits that help distinguish your admission application.

- **Essay:** An essay or personal statement of approximately 650 words is required on the Common Application. Two additional short-answer essays are required for scholarship consideration for the President's Leadership and Honors Programs.
- **Recommendations (strongly encouraged):** Send us one to three recommendations, preferably from your school counselor and core-subject teachers.
- **Personal interview (strongly encouraged):** An interview is a great way to personalize your application and demonstrate your interest in Christopher Newport. Interviews are required for scholarship consideration.

INTERVIEWS

Interviews are available June through March to rising high school seniors applying as first-time freshmen.

Schedule your interview online:

 interview.cnu.edu

College Search Tip #2

We want to get to know you! An interview is a great way to enhance your admission application and stand out from the crowd. By meeting with you one-on-one, our University Fellows learn more about your personality, experiences and goals – traits not described in your transcript or test scores. While not required for admission, a successful interview will strengthen your application.

Ashley Hutcheson
Assistant Director of Admission



Writing the COLLEGE ESSAY

ADMISSION OFFICERS READ THOUSANDS OF ESSAYS EACH YEAR.
SO HOW CAN YOU MAKE YOURS STAND OUT FROM THE REST?



The following tips should help make the process easier and more rewarding:

- Personalize your essay and be yourself, helping us get to know you as an individual
- Stay to the recommended length
- Use your own language — be genuine and true to your own voice, but grammar and sentence structure rules still apply
- If you choose to describe an obstacle you've encountered, explain how you overcame it and how it has made you who you are — don't just focus on the obstacle itself
- It's OK to show emotion; however, this is not your private journal
- Read your essay aloud, use spell check, proofread your writing, and have someone else review your essay — a second pair of eyes is always helpful
- Have fun writing your college essay — show your personality and don't be afraid to make us laugh!

And remember not to do the following:

- Don't tell us what we can read on your application — go beyond those facts to help us get to know you personally
- Don't plagiarize
- Don't focus your essay solely on someone else — we want to meet you!
- Don't mistakenly name an unintended college or university in your essay

College Search Tip #3

While we receive essays on a wide variety of themes, the most common subjects our prospective students write about include sports and community service experiences. While you are free to write about any of the themes suggested on the application, think outside the box if possible. Unique essay topics stand out from the crowd.

Yoma Miller
Associate Director of Admission



Choosing an APPLICATION PLAN

Early Decision

By applying Early Decision, you agree to enroll at a school if offered admission. While you may apply to other colleges, you agree to withdraw all other applications if admitted. If you feel a school is the right fit for you, **applying Early Decision will give you the best chance for admission**. Applying Early Decision demonstrates your passion for and commitment to a specific school, which most colleges take into account when reviewing your application. At Christopher Newport, for example, the competitive nature of our overall applicant pool necessitates selecting among highly qualified students. We give every possible consideration to Early Decision applicants. Remember that **Early Decision is binding** and will require an earlier enrollment verification deposit for admitted students.

Early Action

Early Action is a **nonbinding option** and a great choice for students very interested in a school but still considering multiple colleges. By applying Early Action a decision will be made long before the traditional spring notification date. At Christopher Newport, we will re-evaluate any deferred Early Action applicants during Regular Decision review. This gives you the opportunity to provide updated senior-year academic information to strengthen your application.

Regular Decision

Regular Decision is **also nonbinding** and provides the most time to submit your application; however, it has the latest notification date and is the most competitive.

CHANCE OF ADMISSION

At Christopher Newport, our admit rate (percentage of applicants admitted) decreases from Early Decision to Early Action and again significantly during Regular Decision. Historically, a quarter of our freshman class is reserved for students admitted through Early Decision each year.

College Search Tip #4

It's easier to be competitive for Early Decision and Early Action admission than Regular Decision. Your best chance for admission is Early Decision; however, if the awarding of an academic scholarship or the ability to compare financial aid awards plays a role in your college choice, we recommend applying through the nonbinding Early Action program.

Kelly Scallion
Associate Director of Admission





CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY

Application Type	Deadline to Apply	Notification Date	Binding
Early Decision	November 15	December 15	Yes
Early Action	December 1	January 15	No
Regular Decision	February 1	March 15	No

APPLYING TO CNU

THE COMMON
APPLICATION

APPLY ONLINE:

 admission.cnu.edu

SCHOLARSHIP CONSIDERATION

Christopher Newport's Early Decision applicants are the first students considered for our scholarship programs: the President's Leadership Program and Honors Program.

Preference is given to applicants who complete the required essay and interview by the December 15 priority deadline.



Financial Aid and THE FAFSA

When reviewing college financing decisions, gather as much information as possible to make the most informed choice you can. Do your homework and research all financial aid options — those available at specific institutions and from outside sources.

Be smart! Assess the value of the degree you will earn and the educational experience you imagine. Many students apply to multiple colleges and must compare financial aid packages. Published tuition and fees are only part of the story — investigate other costs along with available financial aid.

Applying for Financial Aid

To apply, complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**, available online at fafsa.ed.gov. The FAFSA will gather income and other information about your household to determine an estimated family contribution (EFC). Your EFC will be used to determine your eligibility for federal and state aid. At Christopher Newport, we don't require any additional forms; however, you must indicate interest in our merit-based scholarships on the Common Application (which require a supplemental essay). Remember: The FAFSA is a free application, so be weary of any website or service requiring submission fees.



When to Apply for Financial Aid

State, federal and university financial resources are limited. Each year you should apply as soon after October 1 as possible. However, to be considered for all available aid, **we must receive your student aid report from FAFSA by our priority filing date of March 1.** At Christopher Newport, students meeting the preferred filing deadline of December 15 will receive their award package earlier. You may start your FAFSA even if your household hasn't filed your taxes by using estimates and the prior prior year's information. Applications received after March 1 are processed on a first-come, first-served basis subject to aid available at that time. **All students are strongly encouraged to apply for financial aid, even after the March 1 priority receipt date.**

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

Scholarships	Loans
Grants	Work-Study

FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

Need-based: require you to demonstrate financial need

Non-need-based: available regardless of need

College Search Tip #5

Create a financial plan to pay for college. How much has been saved to date? Do you qualify for financial aid? Would a part-time job make college more affordable? Also, don't forget to ask your school counselor about scholarships funded by outside and local sources.

Curtis Davidson
Senior Associate Director of Admission





CNU AT A GLANCE

CAMPUS

260 acres, adjacent to the 550-acre Mariners' Museum and Park, the Noland Trail, and the James River.

CAMPUS LOCATION

Newport News, Virginia, between historic Williamsburg and Virginia Beach.

CARS ON CAMPUS

Ample on-campus parking for all students, including freshmen.

CLASS SIZE

Average class size: 24; nearly 60 percent of classes have 19 or fewer students.

CLUBS & STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

More than 200 academic, social, athletic, and other clubs and student organizations.

ENROLLMENT

5,000 students; 1,200 freshmen

FACILITIES

Nearly \$1 billion in new construction in recent years has built a beautiful campus with world-class facilities.

FACULTY

Nearly 90 percent hold a PhD or highest degree in their fields. Our professors were called "dedicated and caring" in a *Washington Post* survey.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION*

Students are enrolled from every region in Virginia, 28 other states and 38 foreign countries.



HIGH SCHOOL GPA*

Middle 50 percent range: 3.5-4.0 (4.0 scale)

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

NCAA Division III

Capital Athletic Conference

New Jersey Athletic Conference (football only)

23 varsity teams

Nearly every year we have the top winning percentage among all Virginia schools.

MALE-FEMALE RATIO*

43 percent male; 57 percent female

RACIAL DIVERSITY*

Minority students comprise 21 percent of the student body.

RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

Modern and spacious residence halls. All freshmen, sophomores and juniors are required to live on campus.

SCHOLARSHIPS

More than 400 renewable freshman scholarships awarded each fall to Honors, Leadership, performing arts and pre-med scholar students.

STANDARDIZED SCORES*

Middle 50 percent SAT range: 1080-1230
(Critical Reading and Math)

Middle 50 percent ACT range: 23-27

TYPE

Four-year public university

*** For freshman class entering fall 2016**

Areas of STUDY

■ Major ▲ Minor ● Concentration

- Accounting
- ▲ African-American Studies
- ▲ American Studies
 - Constitutional Studies
 - Humanities
 - Social Science
- ▲ Applied Physics
- ▲ Asian Studies
- Biochemistry
- ▲ Biology
 - Biology – Cellular, Molecular and Physiological
 - Biology – Environmental
 - Biology – Integrative
 - Biology – Organismal
- ▲ Business Administration
- ▲ Chemistry
 - ▲ Childhood Studies
 - ▲ Civic Engagement and Social Entrepreneurship
- ▲ Classical Studies
 - Classical Languages
 - Classical Studies
- ▲ Communication Studies
 - Computer Engineering
- ▲ Computer Science
 - ▲ Dance
 - ▲ Digital Humanities
- ▲ Economics
 - Mathematical Economics
- Electrical Engineering
- English
 - ▲ ● Literature
 - ▲ ● Writing
- ▲ Environmental Studies
 - ▲ Film Studies
- Finance
- Fine Arts
 - ▲ ● Art History
 - ▲ ● Studio Art

- ▲ French
- ▲ German
 - ▲ Greek Studies
- ▲ History
 - ▲ Human Rights and Conflict Resolution
- ▲ Information Science
 - Information Systems
 - Interdisciplinary Studies
- ▲ International Culture and Business
- ▲ Judeo-Christian Studies
- ▲ Latin
- ▲ Latin American Studies
- ▲ Leadership Studies
- ▲ Linguistics
- Management
- Marketing
- ▲ Mathematics
 - Mathematics – Applied and Computational
 - Biology and Life Sciences
 - Computational Chemistry
 - Economics
 - Physics, Dynamics and Engineering
- ▲ Medieval and Renaissance Studies
- ▲ Middle East and North Africa Studies
- ▲ Military Science (ROTC)
- ▲ Museum Studies
- Music
 - Choral Music Education
 - Composition
 - Instrumental Music Education
 - Jazz Studies
 - Performance
- Neuroscience
- Philosophy
 - Pre-Seminary Studies
 - Religious Studies

- ▲ Philosophy and Religious Studies
- ▲ Philosophy of Law
- ▲ Photography and Video Art
- ▲ Political Science
- ▲ Psychology
- Social Work
- ▲ Sociology
 - ▲ ● Anthropology
 - Criminology
- ▲ Spanish
- ▲ Theater
 - Acting
 - Arts Administration
 - Design/Technology
 - Directing/Dramatic Literature
 - Music/Dance
 - Theater Studies
- ▲ U.S. National Security Studies
- ▲ Women's and Gender Studies

Advising TRACKS

Biotechnology and Management
Pre-Health
Pre-Law
Pre-Med

Five-Year Master's PROGRAMS

Applied Physics and Computer Science
Environmental Science
Teaching (MAT)



Flagship Programs and OPPORTUNITIES

Luter School of Business
schoolofbusiness.cnu.edu

Master of Arts in Teaching
teacherprep.cnu.edu

Pre-Health
prehealth.cnu.edu

Pre-Law
prelaw.cnu.edu

Pre-Med
premed.cnu.edu

Internships
ccp.cnu.edu/internships

Learning Communities
learningcommunities.cnu.edu

Service
engage.cnu.edu

Study Abroad
studyabroad.cnu.edu

Undergraduate Research
research.cnu.edu

SCHOLARSHIP

Programs

PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (PLP)

As part of PLP, each student earns a minor in leadership studies. Through challenging courses, public service, personal development, foreign study and other targeted opportunities, PLP empowers leadership students to make a difference — to become caring, knowledgeable and effective leaders for America and the world. **Each student receives an annual residential scholarship (including a study abroad stipend), as well as priority housing in a PLP Learning Community and priority course registration.**



presidentsleadership.cnu.edu

HONORS PROGRAM

This unique program offers students more freedom to customize their academic experience for their personal and professional aspirations by reducing the liberal learning core requirements. This allows more time for interdisciplinary seminar-style courses and challenges students by means of study abroad, independent research, internships, jobs and volunteer experience relevant to their passions. **Each student receives an annual residential scholarship (including a study abroad stipend), as well as priority housing in an Honors Learning Community and priority course registration.**



honors.cnu.edu





ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Riverside Medical Group Scholars

Chosen from among the top incoming Pre-Med Scholars and mentored by Riverside Health System physicians with clinical experiences through summer medical rotations, as well as other medical education activities

Rocovich Scholars

Selected from students admitted to PLP who have indicated pre-med as their intended field of study

Ferguson Enterprises Performing Arts Scholars

Awarded to outstanding students based on special talent and potential demonstrated during audition performance

Bonner Service Scholars

A four-year developmental program that educates, equips and inspires students to engage with our local community and beyond through a partnership with the national Bonner Foundation

Biotechnology and Management Program

Designed for students admitted to the Honors Program who are interested in majoring in one of the life sciences and minoring in business, with additional coursework and a focus on entrepreneurship and biotechnology



scholarships.cnu.edu





Schedule a VISIT

Come see why Christopher Newport is an incredible place — an excellent education, amazing opportunities and a community dedicated to your success. There is no better way to experience all we have to offer than to schedule your visit to our beautiful campus. We have daily information sessions and tours, overnight visits, Open Houses, and special visits for admitted students throughout the year.



campusvisit.cnu.edu





Photo © The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation



Photo © Busch Gardens Williamsburg

Our LOCATION



Located in Newport News, Virginia, Christopher Newport is in the heart of one of the most historic — and beautiful — areas of the United States and conveniently located amid popular Virginia attractions. When you venture off campus, you'll find unlimited activities for all interests as well as cultural and historical treasures within a short walk or drive. The area offers so much to do, and our mild, four-season climate makes venturing outdoors a year-round pursuit! Plus, we make exploring our region easy because freshmen can have cars on campus.





Office of Admission

1 Avenue of the Arts
Newport News, VA 23606-3072



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U.S. Postage
PAID
Richmond, VA
Permit No. 449

CHECK OUT OUR
VIRTUAL TOUR:
i.cnu.edu/virtualtour