

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
- 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 – virtually and in-person when possible
- 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
- Outcomes

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Online

Niche.com

Schev.edu

YouVisit.com

College websites
cnu.edu

Social media

  [ChristopherNewportU](#)

 [christophernewportuniversity](#)

 [@CNUAdmission](#)

In Print

College materials — *Join mailing lists!*

In Person

Campus visits

College representative visits at your high school

High school counselors

Local college fairs

On-campus interviews

Off-campus events

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. Christopher Newport 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, actstudent.org/register and cltexam.com
- Take practice 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 Christopher Newport University 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 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 GPA. 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 must 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 or Coalition Application. **Remember: Based on the application schedule, your junior-year grades are of utmost importance.**
- **SAT or ACT or CLT:** If you submit test scores from different tests, 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 subscores.

GPA AND SAT/ACT

The average GPA for our 2023 freshman class was a 3.8 (4.0 scale). The 2023 freshman class had an average SAT score of 1192 and average ACT of 27.

TEST-OPTIONAL

Students may choose to apply as test optional; strong standardized test scores may make you more competitive for admission and merit scholarships, but they are not required. We consider SAT, ACT and CLT scores if submitted as part of our holistic review.





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 and Coalition 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 February to rising high school seniors applying as first-time freshmen. We offer both in-person and virtual interviews.

Schedule your interview online:

 cnu.edu/interview

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 get to know 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, community service and COVID 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

APPLYING TO CNU

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



APPLY ONLINE:

 cnu.edu/apply

SCHOLARSHIP CONSIDERATION

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

Priority consideration is given to applicants who complete the required essay and interview by December 15.



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 studentaid.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 (which require a supplemental essay) on the Common Application or Coalition Application. Remember: The FAFSA is a free application, so be wary of any website or service requiring submission fees.



When to Apply for Financial Aid

State, federal and university financial resources are limited. Each year, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens early fall and should be submitted as soon as possible. Christopher Newport sets a priority filing deadline each award year. Be sure to check the priority deadline on our website when submitting your application for admission. We recommend that you submit the FAFSA as soon as you are able in order to receive an early aid package. The FAFSA is based on prior-year income, so your tax information should already be complete and available to report when the FAFSA opens. We strongly encourage all students to apply for financial aid, even after the priority deadline has passed, in addition to merit scholarships at the colleges you apply to.

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
Director of Admission Operations





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

4,500 students; 1,150 freshmen.

FACILITIES

Nearly \$1 billion in new construction in recent years has created 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 of our students.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Students are enrolled from every region in Virginia, 29 other states and 23 foreign countries.



INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

NCAA Division III
Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference
New Jersey Athletic Conference (football only)
24 varsity teams

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

MALE-FEMALE RATIO

46 percent male; 54 percent female

RACIAL DIVERSITY

Minority students comprise 25 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.

TYPE

Four-year public university

Areas of STUDY

■ Major ▲ Minor ● Concentration

- Accounting
- ▲ African American Studies
- ▲ American Studies
 - Constitutional Studies
 - Humanities
 - Social Science
- ▲ Anthropology
- ▲ Applied Physics
 - ▲ Asian Studies
- ▲ Art History
- Biochemistry
- ▲ Biology
 - Biology – Cellular, Molecular and Physiological
 - Biology – Integrative
 - Biology – Kinesiology
 - Biology – Organismal and Environmental
 - ▲ Business Administration
- ▲ Chemistry
 - ▲ Child Life
 - ▲ Childhood Studies
 - ▲ Civic Engagement and Social Justice
- ▲ Classical Studies
- ▲ Communication
 - Computer Engineering
- ▲ Computer Science
- ▲ Criminology
- ▲ Cybersecurity
 - ▲ Data Science
 - ▲ Dance
 - ▲ Digital Humanities
 - ▲ Discrete Mathematics
- ▲ Economics
 - Mathematical Economics
- Electrical Engineering
- English
 - ▲● Literature
 - ▲● Writing
- ▲ Environmental Studies
 - ▲ Film Studies
 - Finance
- ▲ French
- ▲ German
 - Global Commerce and Culture
 - ▲ Greek Studies
- ▲ Health, Medical and Wellness Studies
- ▲ History
 - ▲ Human Rights and Conflict Resolution
 - ▲ Information Science
 - International Affairs
 - Interdisciplinary Studies
 - ▲ International Culture and Business
 - ▲ Judeo-Christian Studies
 - ▲ Latin
 - ▲ Latin American Studies
- ▲ Leadership Studies*
 - ▲ Linguistics
 - Management
 - Marketing
- ▲ Mathematics
 - Mathematics – Computational and Applied
 - Biology and Life Sciences
 - Economics
 - Electrical Engineering
 - Physics and Engineering
- ▲ Medieval and Renaissance Studies
- ▲ Middle East and North Africa Studies
- ▲ Military Science (ROTC)
- ▲ Museum Studies
- Music
 - Composition
 - Creative Studies
 - Music Studies
 - Performance
 - Pre-Certification Choral
 - Pre-Certification Instrumental
- Neuroscience
- Philosophy
 - Pre-Seminary Studies
 - Studies in Religion
- ▲ Philosophy and Religion
- ▲ Philosophy of Law
- ▲ Political Science
- ▲ Psychology
- Social Work
- ▲ Sociology
- ▲ Spanish
- ▲ Studio Art
 - 2D and 3D Media
 - ▲● Graphic Design
 - ▲● Photography and Video Art
- ▲ Theater
 - Acting
 - Arts Administration
 - Design/Technical Theater
 - Directing/Dramatic Literature
 - Musical/Theater
 - Theater Studies
- ▲ U.S. National Security Studies
- ▲ Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies
- ▲ Writing

Advising TRACKS

Pre-Health
Pre-Law
Pre-Med

Bachelor's to Master's Five-Year PROGRAMS

Applied Physics and Computer Science
Environmental Science
Teaching
Other Graduate Study
Master of Financial Analysis

Certificate Program

Data Analytics for the Social Sciences

 cnu.edu/academics

*approved as a second major only



Flagship Programs and OPPORTUNITIES

Luter School of Business
cnu.edu/business

Master of Arts in Teaching
cnu.edu/teacherprep

Pre-Health
cnu.edu/prehealth

Pre-Law
cnu.edu/prelaw

Pre-Med
cnu.edu/premed

Internships
cnu.edu/internships

Learning and Living Communities
cnu.edu/learningcommunities

Service
cnuengage.org

Study Abroad
cnu.edu/studyabroad

Undergraduate Research
cnu.edu/research

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 and one-time study abroad scholarship, as well as priority housing in a PLP Learning Community and priority course registration.



cnu.edu/plp

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 and one-time study abroad scholarship, as well as priority housing in an Honors Learning Community and priority course registration.



cnu.edu/honors





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

Windward Scholars

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

Ferguson Enterprises Performing Arts Scholarship

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

Computer Science and Engineering Scholarship

Awarded to students who intend to major in computer science, computer engineering or cybersecurity



cnu.edu/scholarships



Schedule a VISIT

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 visit campus — either in-person or virtually!

Campus Tour: Walk around campus with a current student to learn more about life as a Captain.

Virtual 360 Campus Tour: From the David Student Union to inside the Luter School of Business, join one of our tour guides on an immersive trip around campus.

 cnu.edu/visit

Virtual Campus TOUR

Check out our virtual tour to preview campus and hear from current students. Visit online or download our app to explore our campus virtually. With 360-degree views and cinematic experience, you can choose your path as you travel throughout campus.

 youvisit.com/cnu

YOU | VISIT

youvisit.com/cnu

 Download on the
App Store

Christopher Newport - Experience Campus in VR

 GET IT ON
Google Play

Experience CNU in VR





Photo © The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Busch Gardens
WILLIAMSBURG, VA



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.



Photo © Virginia Beach Convention Center

FOR MORE COLLEGE
PLANNING TIPS
CHECK OUT OUR VIDEOS:
cnu.edu/collegeplanning

