**Freshman Academic Vocabulary**

**Credit -** A creditisa unit of measurement awarded for fulfilling course requirements.

Students earn at least four credits each semester and eight for the year. Students must earn 28 credits to satisfy the requirement for a high school diploma.

**Grade Point Average (GPA) -** The GPA indicates the overall performance of a student. The GPA is essential for college acceptance.

**Weighted GPA -** A weighted GPAreflects additional quality points for advanced coursework.

**Unweighted GPA -** An unweighted GPAdoes not reflect additional weighting for advanced coursework.

**Honor Courses -** Honor coursesare high school classes with an academically rigorous and fast-paced curriculum. The weight for honor courses is an additional .5 quality point.

**Graduation Requirements -** The graduation requirements area set of courses required for high school graduation.

**College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) -** CFNC is a free service of the State of North Carolina which promotes higher education and assists students with education planning, career planning, and applying and paying for college.

**PowerSchool -** PowerSchool isa password-protected system that allows students and parents to access records such as attendance, grades, and grade point average.

**Canvas -** Canvas isa learning management system used by high school teachers to post assignments, announcements, discussion boards, and resources for students.

**Transcript -** A transcript gives a detailed record of a student’s marks or grades.

**Sophomore Academic Vocabulary**

**North Carolina Diagnostic Assessment and Placement (NCDAP) -** The NCDAP is the placement test used by community colleges in North Carolina to assess a student’s college readiness in English, reading, and math, and identifies which course(s) best fit a student’s academic skill level.

**Pre American College Test (PreACT) -** The PreACTsimulates the ACT testing experience within a shorter test window on all four ACT test subjects: English, math, reading and science.

**Pre Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) -** The PSAT is a practice test for the SAT that measure readiness for college and gives students access to scholarships opportunities.

**College Board -** College Board isa not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunities. Their website allows students to research colleges, universities, careers, majors, and scholarship opportunities. Students can also find preparation for a variety of tests including the SAT, PSAT, AP, and register for the SAT through College Board.

**Major -** A major is a primary focus of study. For example, one may plan to major in business.

**North Carolina Virtual Public Schools (NCVPS) -** NCVPS is an online tool for students to take high school courses.

**Self-Service -** Self-Service isan online tool that allows students to view their unofficial transcript and view their progress toward earning a two-year degree.

**Junior Academic Vocabulary**

**Semester hours -** Semester hours equate to credit-recognition by a college or university that a course of study has been successfully completed. Ex: ENG 111 equals 3 semester hours (SH)

**Semester -** A semester is the length of an academic term. A school with this system generally will have a fall semester and a spring semester (each about 15 weeks long), along with a summer term.

**American College Testing (ACT) -** The ACT isa college readiness assessment for high school achievement and college admission. Colleges use ACT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships. The ACT is comprised of tests in English, reading, math, and science with an optional writing portion.

**Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) -** The SAT is a college placement test comprised of math, reading, writing and language with an optional writing portion.

**Senior/Super Senior Academic Vocabulary**

**Articulation Agreement -** An articulation agreement isa statewide agreement governing the transfer of credits between NC community colleges and NC public universities.

**Associate Degree -** An associate degree is atwo-year college degree from a community college, university, college, or career school. BCCC’s associate degrees require 60-61 college credits.

**Bachelor’s Degree -** A bachelor’s degree is afour-year college degree from a university or college. Typically, a bachelor’s degree requires 120 plus hours.

**Class Rank -** The official class rank is calculated using the weighted grade point average in which quality points are provided for passing grades in courses.

**Doctorate Degree -** A doctorate degree isthe highest academic degree that is earned after a master´s degree.

**Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) -** FAFSA is used to determine eligibility for Pell Grants and federal student loans.

**Open Admission -** Open admission is a policy of accepting any high school graduate, regardless of his/her grades, until all spaces in the incoming class are filled.

**Residency Determination Services (RDS) -** RDS is a centralized service for determining residency for students. It is used to verify a student's residency status for evaluation and tuition purposes.

**Retention Rate -** The retention rate is the percentage of a school’s first time, first-year undergraduate students who continue at that school the next year.

**Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) -** The SAT is a college placement test comprised of math, reading, writing and language with an optional writing portion.

**SAT Subject Tests -** The SAT Subject Tests are content-based college admission tests that allow a student to display achievement in specific subject areas: English, history, math, science and languages**.** Students may be required to take one or more SAT Subject Test to attend certain universities.

**Scholarships -** A scholarship ismoney awarded to students based on academic performance or other achievements to help pay for educational expenses. Scholarships generally do not require repayment.

**Transfer Student -** A transfer student is a student who enrolls in a college after having attended another college.

**Wait List -** The wait list isa list of applicants who may be admitted to a college if space becomes available.

**Work-Study -** A work-study isa federal student aid program that provides part-time employment while a student is enrolled in school to help pay educational expenses.