College Advising Corps (CAC) is the largest college access nonprofit in the country. CAC works to increase the number of low-income, first-generation college, and underrepresented high school students who enter and complete post-secondary education. This is achieved through an in-school model that places recent college graduates to serve as full-time college advisers in underserved high schools. By partnering with over 30 institutions, CAC deployed over 800 college advisers to serve across 19 states in 2021-2022.

The University of North Carolina Wilmington College Advising Corps (UNCW CAC) launched Summer 2021 as one of College Advising Corps' newest programs. The first cohort of advisers were placed in four partner schools to serve during 2021-2022 academic year.

UNCW College Advising Corps recruits and trains recent college graduates to serve as advisers in partner schools throughout Eastern North Carolina. Advisers participate in an intensive 4-week summer training program to gain the college advising skills needed to effectively serve. Advisers gain valuable professional, leadership, and advocacy experience as they work to create more equitable access to post-secondary education.

Mission
The mission of UNCW College Advising Corps is to empower low-income, first-generation college, and underrepresented high school students in Eastern, NC to identify and pursue post-secondary education opportunities.

Vision
Educational equity for all

The Need
Nationally, the student-to-counselor ratio is over 482:1, leaving many students with as little as 20 minutes a year with a college counselor. Students in underserved communities often lack the guidance and support they need to prepare for college, apply to best-fit schools and for financial aid, enroll, and graduate from their post-secondary institutions.

UNCW College Advising Corps is committed to ensuring higher education opportunities for all students. We believe that everyone has the right to pursue a better life. Equal access higher education can boost economic mobility, invigorate low-income communities, and help relieve the high societal costs of racism and inequality.
Our Advising Model
College Advising Corps uses a near-peer advising model by hiring and training recent college graduates to serve in partner high schools. This near-peer approach allows our advisers to share current college knowledge with the students they serve. Advisers report to their assigned high school daily and use a whole school approach, educating students and their families on a variety of college topics. This is accomplished through 1-on-1 advising, presentations, and workshops. College advisers work closely with students and families as well as school staff and administrators to implement a college-going culture in their schools.

What We Do:
We understand that the college application and financial aid process can be a challenge, especially for students who are the first in their families to pursue a college education. That’s why our college advisers assist their students with the entire college application process, from start to finish.

The services that College Advisers provide include:
- One-on-one advising sessions with students and their parents/guardians
- Comprehensive college application support, including assistance with the RDS (Residency Determination Service)
- Assistance with FAFSA, CSS Profile, and scholarship completion
- Admissions and financial aid award comparison and best-fit decision-making
- Host college themed workshops to educate students and families on the college application process
- Present in-class presentations on various college topics
- Assist students with obtaining fee waivers for college applications and standardized tests
- Register students for standardized tests and connect them to preparation resources
- Promote community-based resources
- Assist with college-enrollment steps
Where We Serve

Current School Partners 2021-2022
- South View High School, Cumberland County
- South Columbus High School, Columbus County
- Jones Senior High School, Jones County
- West Craven High School, Craven County

Tentative Expansion for 2022-2023
- West Columbus High School, Columbus County
- Pasquotank County High School, Pasquotank County

Become an Adviser
Want to learn more about serving as an adviser? Complete an interest form and register for one of our virtual information sessions below:

- Wednesday 2/23/22- 4:00pm- Register Here
- Friday 2/25/22- 12:00pm- Register Here
- Wednesday 3/2/22- UNCW Virtual Career Fair: Group Information sessions held every 30 minutes from 1:00pm-4:00pm. Register on Handshake.
- Wednesday 3/8/22- 4:30pm- Register Here

We hope that you will join College Advising Corps in activating the next generation of leaders to propel one million low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented students to college by 2025.

Ready to change the lives of students in Eastern NC?
Adviser Benefits

- Living Stipend ($29,870-$30,766 for 11 months of service)
- AmeriCorps Education Award-$6,495 (can be used for continuing education or loan forgiveness)
- Free Health Insurance
- AmeriCorps Membership
- Professional development
- Make a difference!

MEET THE TEAM

Alfonso Cristobal-Alonzo
College Adviser at South Columbus High School
"Working for the UNCW College Advising Corps has allowed me to assist those who were in similar situations as myself. Being a first-generation student helped me understand the difficulties my students would face when applying to schools, FAFSA, and scholarships. From the moment I graduated high school, I knew I wanted to pay forward the help I received, and I have been able to do this through my role as a college adviser."

Jacob Ferguson
College Adviser at West Craven High School
"There is nothing quite as eye-opening as working in the education field. Knowing that the work you do is benefiting the lives of others for the better has a lasting effect on a person. That lasting effect leaves me coming home feeling fulfilled. That fulfillment allows me to live without regret for the work that I do. The work that I do not only motivates me to be a better person but also motivates the students that I work so closely with."
MEET THE TEAM

Michael Priest
College Adviser at Jones Senior High School
“A student went from not knowing whether he had the capability to even apply for college to submitting his FAFSA, RDS, and college applications within a day of each other. He received two acceptances, with one being to his dream school. I enjoy being able to assist students with creating a future for themselves.”

Emma Chandler
College Adviser at South View High School
“Working for College Advising Corps has changed my life for the better! It has not only led me to develop great relationships within my high school but has also given me quality experience in the education field. This experience has confirmed my calling as a School Counselor!”

Veronica Tapia
Program Director
“The purpose and fulfillment I felt serving as a College Adviser is unparalleled to any other professional experience I’ve had. Now, I get to witness advisers in our program have similar opportunities as they facilitate change in their communities.”

Contact Us
Veronica Tapia, Program Director for UNCW College Advising Corps
tapiav@uncw.edu
910-962-3939

Partnerships
Our program is hosted at the University of North Carolina- Wilmington and is funded by College Advising Corps, GEAR UP NC and AmeriCorps