

First Year Spring Admits: Welcome to UNCW!

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THE BASICS

What is the First-Year Spring Admit program?

The First-Year Spring Admit program (FYSA) through the Office of Admissions is designed for students to start their UNCW career in the Spring semester, enabling them to spend their fall semester traveling, working, or taking classes at a community college or four-year university.

Each year, UNCW has become increasingly selective and is unable to bring in all of the talented students we want to in the Fall. Because space becomes available in the Spring semester when some UNCW students are studying abroad or graduating, Admissions offers a select group of students the opportunity for entrance at that time.

While it is difficult to predict exactly how many students will take advantage of this opportunity, we usually have a group of more than 100 students. The First-Year Spring Admit group that entered in the January of this year has made a successful academic transition to UNCW and report that they were warmly welcomed into the student community.

Why was I selected for this program?

During application review, Admissions identifies students who might not fit UNCW's academic profile precisely but who possess the leadership skills and academic preparation to make them successful at UNCW. Should you have questions about your admission as a First-Year Spring Admit, please contact Admissions at (910) 962-3243.

ADVISING AND REGISTRATION

What is the University College?

During your first semesters at UNCW, you will be a part of the [University College](#), an academic office where your academic advisor will assist you with your transition to UNC Wilmington. As part of the University's commitment to excellence in undergraduate education, University College was created to provide academic advising and support to UNCW students from the time of their admission until they declare their major, which is usually in their sophomore year. The primary focus of the University College is to ensure that students:

- make a successful transition to UNCW,
- are retained in good academic standing, and
- identify and declare an appropriate major.

Through its advisors and academic support programs, the University College works with students in their formative semesters to assist them in developing their interests, skills and talents to the fullest extent.

When will I meet my advisor?

You will meet with academic advisors during January orientation to plan and register for your Spring courses. Soon after your Orientation, you will be assigned an academic advisor who will continue to advise you throughout your freshman, and possibly, sophomore year. Most often, your academic advisor will also be your First-Year Seminar instructor.

Although your advisor is available to meet with you as requested, students are required to meet with their advisor at least once each semester to do educational planning for registration.

If you have questions about academics or course selection during the Summer and Fall before you attend UNCW in the Spring and need to speak to an advisor, contact University College at (910) 962-3425 or email uc@uncw.edu.

How do I learn more about the January Orientation?

Visit [Transition Programs](#) to register for Orientation online and to learn more about what Orientation entails. At Orientation, you will attend numerous sessions about UNCW student resources and student life, as well as take UNCW placement tests and meet with an academic advisor to build your spring UNCW course schedule.

When do I register for my spring classes and how does this work?

You will register for Spring classes on Day 2 of the required January Orientation. Students will be assigned to small groups for general information and one-on-one assistance to plan and register for spring courses. Academic advisors will help you navigate the University Studies course requirements, possible prerequisite courses for your intended major, transfer credits, and will approve your schedule. In order for advisors to best assist you, please complete the [FYSA Information Sheet](#) by August 1 and bring unofficial copies of your transcripts with you to advising at Orientation.

Students will also have an opportunity to participate in Early-Registration and register for some classes before attending Orientation. For more information, see below.

What is Early-Registration?

Students who register for January Orientation by a particular deadline will have an opportunity to participate in Early-Registration in December. During Early-Registration, students will be given a link to an online tutorial, will have access to pre-register for classes prior to Orientation, and will be able to contact advisors with questions.

Please note: Students must register for Orientation by a certain date in order to participate. More information will be given to students via UNCW email, Transition Programs, and the FYSA newsletter and emails. All students are still required to attend the advising session at Orientation, regardless of Early-Registration. At Orientation, students will be able to complete registration and work with advisors to finalize schedules.

Students who do not participate in Early-Registration will still have classes available to them at Orientation.

Will there be classes available for me to take in the spring semester?

Yes, there will be classes available, and your advisor will help you decide what courses you should take at UNCW to meet your University Studies requirements and prepare you for entrance into the academic program or major of your choice.

Will I still be able to graduate in four years even though I start in January?

Students who take advantage of bringing college credit into UNCW and who use each semester wisely will be able to graduate in four years. If students choose to take fewer courses during some semesters, they would need to take additional classes during summer sessions in order to stay on track to graduate when they planned.

What placement tests do I take at UNCW?

UNCW requires a math placement test and a foreign language placement test.

The math placement test will be taken during your January Orientation, and the results will identify which math course would be appropriate for you to take at UNCW. [Learn more about the math placement test.](#)

The foreign language placement test is available to you online. You should take the foreign language placement test before Orientation. [Learn more about the foreign language placement test.](#)

If the college you attend during summer and/or fall requires a placement test to allow you to take a specific course there, you will need to take their placement tests, and advisors there would provide you with the information you would need for their placement test requirements.

TRANSFER COURSE PLANNING

Do I have to take college classes before entering UNCW in January?

If you plan to graduate within four years, it would be prudent to take advantage of the Fall semester before entering UNCW in order to accumulate credit hours. If you choose to take classes, we would encourage you to do so at a community college or university near you. Some students prefer to do an internship or work during the fall; this is your choice, but it may affect your graduation date.

What courses should I take during the summer or fall semester at another university?

You would likely choose to take courses elsewhere that would also meet the [University Studies requirements](#) (general education requirements) and/or prerequisites for your major (if known). [Click here for a list of UNCW majors with requirements](#), although most majors do not require that students start their major coursework until after their first semester. Taking courses that will transfer to UNCW as University Studies is a good way to get started on UNCW coursework and stay on track towards graduation.

To find out if a course is a match for a UNCW college course, use the online [Transfer Credit Equivalency tool](#). The FYSA website also includes a [step-by-step guide to selecting courses](#) and advisors are available to help in your selection. To contact an advisor, call University College at (910) 962-3245 or email uc@uncw.edu.

How do I know I'm taking the right courses?

Students should complete a [FYSA Information Sheet](#), which will be sent to a University College advisor for general review based on University Studies and/or major interest. The advisor will not officially evaluate for credit, but will be able to contact the students with any concerns and make recommendations if needed. The information is also used for January Orientation advising. Please complete the [FYSA Information Sheet](#) by August 1 and resubmit if there are changes to your coursework.

If you want to talk to an advisor about whether you've registered for the best courses somewhere else, call University College at (910) 962-3245 or email uc@uncw.edu.

What courses will transfer to UNCW?

You will want to try to take courses that will transfer in as equivalent UNCW college credit. To find out if the course is a match for a UNCW college course, use the online [Transfer Credit Equivalency tool](#). It is best to do this research before you register for a course elsewhere so that you stay on track planning for your UNCW academic goals. Only after your course is completed, and the official transcript of grades is received at the Office of the Registrar, will an exact evaluation of transfer credit be possible.

What if I can't find a certain course on the Transfer Equivalency list?

If you cannot find a course on the online [Transfer Credit Equivalency tool](#), please send the name and address of the college, the course name and number (for example: ENG 101), and the course description to the Office of the Registrar at registrar@uncw.edu so they can research whether that course is a match. If the course is reviewed and found to be a match, it will then be posted on the equivalency listing. Questions regarding course equivalency questions should be sent to registrar@uncw.edu.

Do my AP/IB test scores count for UNCW college credit?

Advanced Placement (AP) test scores must be sent by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) to UNCW's Office of the Registrar for review. [Find out what sort of transfer credit you could receive based on the minimum score in an AP exam.](#)

International Baccalaureate (IB) scores must be sent to UNCW's Office of the Registrar for review. [Find out what sort of transfer credit you could receive based on a minimum score in an IB exam.](#)

Do my CLEP exam scores count for UNCW college credit?

The College Level Examination Program (CLEP) offers computer-based exams that allow individuals to demonstrate learning and earn college credit for that knowledge. CLEP scores must be sent to UNCW's Office of the Registrar for review. CLEP exam information is available through [Testing Services](#). [Find out what sort of transfer credit you could receive, based on a minimum score in a CLEP exam.](#)

How do I transfer credits to UNCW?

After you complete courses at another college, please be sure to send an official copy of your transcript to the UNCW Office of the Registrar at 601 S. College Road, Wilmington, NC 28403-5618. Once transcripts are received, they will be officially evaluated for UNCW equivalent transfer credit and courses and credits will be posted to your UNCW transcript. This process of posting to a transcript is not immediate and may take some time. You can check your UNCW transcript on SeaNet under "Student Records" to make sure the credits show.

UNIVERSITY STUDIES AND MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

What is University Studies?

UNCW requires all students to complete [University Studies](#), which are your general education requirements for graduation. The University Studies program at UNCW encourages students to begin a life-long journey of engaged inquiry and societal contribution. As a consciously integrated component of each student's overall educational experience, the program reflects our institution's fundamental commitment to fostering ethical and intellectual development and to promoting the growth of well-informed, creative, literate members of society.

Although there are several categories of courses required (e.g. Foreign Language, Historical and Philosophical Approaches, Understanding Human Institutions and Behaviors), there are often several choices of courses within these areas. Students must complete these requirements by the time they graduate, not necessarily in their first two years or before starting major courses, although there may be some exceptions.

Many FYSAs take courses towards University studies requirements during their fall semester before coming in the Spring.

How do I change my major interest area?

When you completed your Admission Application to UNCW, you indicated an area of interest of study. If you are still deciding what major you would like to pursue, or if that major interest area has changed, that is fine! You might change your major interest area a couple of times before you know which major is right for you.

Check out the [University College Major Program Sheets](#) and learn more about all the majors offered and the prerequisites each major requires. Students will be able to talk with an advisor at Orientation about their potential major requirements. Students will not officially declare their major until after their second semester at UNCW.

What is First-Year Seminar?

First-Year Seminar (UNI 101) is a 3-credit hour required course in University Studies. First-Year Seminar is designed to provide students with skills and strategies for success in college, assist you in developing a cohort with your fellow FYSA students, and to join the UNCW campus community as quickly as possible! [Find out more information about First-Year Seminar online.](#)

What is Synergy: UNCW's Common Reading Experience program?

Synergy: UNCW's Common Reading Experience is a dynamic program for all UNCW students, faculty, and staff that provides an introduction to intellectual engagement, a common reading experience with peers and faculty, and opportunities for self-reflection and critical thinking.

Each FYSA student will receive a free copy of this year's Common Reading selection at the January Orientation and will use this book in the First-Year Seminar course. [Find out more information about the Common Reading program online.](#)

*MORE INFORMATION***Where can I find out more about housing?**

Learn more about campus housing at the [Office of Housing and Residence Life.](#)

Where can I find out more about financial aid?

Learn more about financial aid opportunities at the [Office of Financial Aid and Veteran's Services.](#)

Where can I find out more about tutoring and learning services?

Learn more about student support services and learning programs at the [University Learning Center.](#)

Where can I find out more about disability services?

Learn more about the services and resources offered to students with disabilities at the [Disability Services Offices.](#)

Where can I find out more about parking?

Learn more about campus parking and transportation services at the [Parking and Transportation Office.](#)

Where can I find out more about the Student Health Center?

UNCW has many student health services available at the Student Health Center, Health Promotions, and the on-campus pharmacy. Incoming students must have a medical history on file and their immunizations must be sent to UNCW prior to their first semester on campus. Learn more about student health services at the [Student Health Center.](#)

Where can I find out more about the Cashier's Office?

Learn more about student accounts at the [Student Accounts and Cashier's Office.](#)

Where can I find out more about the Technology Assistance Center?

Learn more about technology services and computers at the [Technology Assistance Center](#).

How can I locate other campus departments or offices?

Find out more on the [UNCW website](#). Student resources are available online under the [Current Students section of the website](#) or you can search directly for a person or campus department on the [online directory](#).

UNCW looks forward to your arrival on campus! See you in January!

