## Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Sections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>AWP and Reimbursement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Babysitting and Childcare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>Creative Writing Student Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• CRW Graduate Student Association; UNCW GSA; Writers In Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Libraries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Public and on-campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>License, Vehicle Registration and Emissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>Living Accommodations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>Mind and Body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Hospitals, urgent care centers, UNCW’s student clinic, UNCW medical insurance, and peer-recommended physical and mental health care providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>New Student Information/Tips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• UNCW bike registration, email, parking permit, student ID, tuition saving tips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Campus, Wrightsville Beach, downtown,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-19</td>
<td>Pets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Landlord expectations, Pet events, grooming, boarding, excursions, supplies, training facilities and vets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-20</td>
<td>Physical Fitness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Cycling, yoga, UNCW Recreation Center, YMCA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-21</td>
<td>Public Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• UNCW Wave, UNCW Safe Ride cab program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-25</td>
<td>Restaurants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-28</td>
<td>Shopping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-29</td>
<td>Spirituality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• List of peer-recommended houses of worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-30</td>
<td>Utilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Cable, Digital telephone, internet, electricity and natural gas providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-31</td>
<td>Wilmington, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Contributors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AWP and Reimbursement

AWP, the Association of Writers and Writing Programs, holds a conference every year. It’s a big deal and a lot of fun. UNCW will reimburse some of your travel expenses if you complete the appropriate paperwork within a set timeframe. If you’re traveling with someone, purchase your ticket separately so that you have an individual receipt for that expense. Otherwise, your paperwork might be slightly more complicated. UNCW basically needs documentation that each person paid for his/her individual airline ticket in order to reimburse that cost. In addition to the reimbursement that you receive from UNCW, you may also qualify to receive a smaller monetary reimbursement from the CRW GSA by actively participating in the CRW GSA’s meetings, fundraisers and other outreach events.

Babysitting/Childcare

If you are in need of childcare, you can either find other MFA/BFA students who are eager to provide that service in exchange for a little extra cash. In Wilmington, babysitters are paid $10 per hour and up. To find a babysitter, send out an email on the CRWMFA list serve: crwmfa@lists.uncw.edu

For more formal daycare options, visit Wilmington Parent Magazine online for a 2008 list of "Daycare" places. The link is: www.wilmingtonparent.com/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=13&Itemid=32

If your child is of a public school age, visit www.nhcs.k12.nc.us for information on how to register your child in the New Hanover county school district.

If you are interested in offering your childcare services, send an email with your contact info, etc, through the list serve. Be prepared to offer references.

Creative Writing Student Organizations

CRWGSA

The purpose of the Creative Writing Graduate Student Association (CRWGSA) is to provide support, communication, and positive motives for educational growth to all students enrolled in the MFA program and UNCW. All MFA students are members when they enroll at UNCW.
The CRWGSA hosts MFA student readings throughout the academic year. This allows MFA students to share their work with other students and faculty. Readings also provide a social atmosphere for MFA students and faculty outside the realm of academia.

An executive member of the CRWGSA participates as a liaison in the MFA Committee meetings. This permits students to have input on decisions affecting them and the program. The officers for the 200-2010 academic school year are co-presidents, Ariana Nash and Rod McClain; mentor program coordinator, Alexis Finc; and fundraising coordinators, Kiki Johnson and Meagan Simmons. You can contact Ariana at ann4289@uncw.edu; Rod at rdm2056@uncw.edu; Alexis at alp9034@uncw.edu; Kiki at vej4590@uncw.edu; and Meagan at mks6557@uncw.edu. The CRWGSA office is located in Kenan, room 1225 (across from Clyde Edgerton's office).

**UNCW Campus-Wide GSA**

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) is dedicated to improving the lives of all students seeking a graduate degree at UNCW. The membership comes from all graduate degree-granting departments. The GSA works to make the concerns and interests of the graduate student body a driving force in the university. The GSA represents the general interests of graduate students, not individual departments. In particular terms, the GSA has been responsible for the creation of the Graduate Computer Lab on Randall Library’s 2nd floor as well as the organization of a program to bring speakers to campus to discuss graduate concerns. The 2009-2010 GSA president is CRW MFA student, Amanda Gonzalez-Moreno. Amanda can be reached at ag6325@uncw.edu.

**Writers in Action**

Writers in Action sends MFA students from the classroom into the Wilmington community, where they assist others in the process of discovering and cultivating their creative talents. Our goal is to share our love of writing with others in the area, providing volunteer instructors to visit classrooms, clubs, after-school programs, or any other environments that would benefit from our efforts. Writers in Action is an excellent opportunity for MFA students to gain teaching experience. Writers In Action positions are paid positions assigned by the Co-Coordinators of the program.

Corinne Manning, Ashley Shivar, and Amy Risher are the co-coordinators, and you can reach them by email at cam3104@uncw.edu, aes9624@uncw.edu, and asr2839@uncw.edu, respectively. Their office is the same office as the CRWGSA office, Kenan 1225.

**Libraries**

**Public Libraries**
New Hanover County Public Library (NHCPL) system has 5 branches across Wilmington. The main branch of NHCPL is the only one open on Sundays. Here are some fast facts:

- The main branch is located at 201 Chestnut Street in downtown Wilmington.
- The Northeast Branch is located at 1241 Military Cutoff Road, opposite Landfall Center and a BP gas station. If you see the Forum on your right, you have gone too far.
- Myrtle Grove area has a branch at 5155 South College Road. This is near the Monkey Junction area.
- The Carolina Beach Branch is located at 300 Cape Fear Blvd.
- NHCPL also has a Law Library located at 316 Princess Street, Rm. 200.
- For more information, visit: [www.nhcgov.com/AgnAndDpt/LIBR/Pages/DeptInfo.aspx](http://www.nhcgov.com/AgnAndDpt/LIBR/Pages/DeptInfo.aspx)

**Randall Library, UNCW**

UNCW has one library on campus. It is located diagonally from Kenan Hall where Creative Writing classes are held. Commuter student parking has a lot next to the library. Check out [www.library.uncw.edu](http://www.library.uncw.edu) for hours, book catalog, e-reserves, research and more. If you are interested in working in the library, you should contact Jennifer Corder, Randall Library Administration.

**License and Vehicle Registration**

**License**

The web site for North Carolina’s Department of Motor Vehicles is [www.ncdot.org/dmv/driver_services](http://www.ncdot.org/dmv/driver_services). From this web site you can find the address and hours of the driver’s license and vehicle registration offices closest to you. To be eligible for a NC Driver’s License, you will need to bring three things with you to the DL Office:

1. Proof of Residency
2. Proof of Age & Identity
3. Proof of Liability Insurance for coverage in NC

When you go to apply for your license, expect to spend around an hour and half in the DL Office. Your time there will consist of a waiting period, vision test, oral road sign identification test, and a multiple choice computerized driver’s license exam. Be prepared to study for your exam, as the questions are very specific to North Carolina’s driving system, such as NC’s point system for traffic violations, etc., and those who do not study typically have to retake the test. You can pay for your new license with cash or check only. The fee is $32.
Registration

Traditionally to register your vehicle in NC, you need to present a valid NC license. However, there are several exceptions, one being your proof of enrollment in a NC school. Be wary of taking this option, as this decision might be prevent you from receiving residency status during your second year in the MFA program.

Registration can be pricey. Expect to pay anywhere between $150 to $225 for your tags, NC title and registration decal. Forms of payment are cash, check or money order. With check or money order, you may be asked for two forms of identification.

Vehicle Emissions and Safety Inspection

NC DMV requires all registered vehicles to pass a vehicle inspection. Vehicle Inspections be done at a pre-approved auto shop, so make sure to call ahead to determine if your selected auto shop has been certified by the state to issue you the appropriate documentation. The fee for both inspections is around $9 to $30. The inspection must be done within ten days of receiving your North Carolina license plate. The penalty for failing to have your car inspected is $250 fee and, possibly, the DMV denying you the opportunity to denial of renewing your registration. For more on www.ncdot.org/dmv/vehicle_services/.

Living Accommodations

Starting with the UNCW Campus area, there is a "one mile radius" parking rule that applies to undergraduates only. It means that undergraduates within a circular mile around campus may only park on campus after 4 PM. Thus, this means that the apartment complexes within the mile radius are cheap, but will have plenty of young, partying undergrads. The advantage of living within the one mile radius is that you can walk to campus. Grad students are allowed to park on campus at any time with the purchase of a parking permit. But, if you don't want to spend the $200 plus dollars for this privilege, then living within the mile will give you the option to bike, skateboard, or walk to campus, with an expected commute time of 5 to 10 minutes.

If you are planning on riding your bike to campus, please see the Cycling section for more information on the mandatory registration of your bicycle with UNCW campus police.

One Mile Radius

Ashton Place is located the farthest out on Racine Drive, across from Fat Tony's, and is a mixed community of families, retirees and undergrads. These attractive townhomes are spacious and pricey. Units are rentable through the individual owners. The home owner's association strictly enforces the rules of the
neighborhood, such as limited guest parking and in-complex speed limits. Citations are issued often enough, so be wary if you don't like to abide by the rules or if you like to entertain large quantities of people.

**Brookstone** is a large apartment complex that is split in half by New Centre Drive.

**Campus Walk** is located on Racine, and is the first apartment complex on the right, after you leave campus. **Former MFA-er David St. John says:** Campus Walk is located about a block from campus on Racine Drive. Rent is around $540/month for a 12-month lease. The plusses include a pool; complimentary cable TV and internet; and saving money on gas and parking permits by walking to classes. There's really nothing charming about a Campus Walk apartment. I didn't have mechanical problems that year. The main negative is the atmosphere: inconsiderate undergrads are often loud and there's nothing you can do about it. You will feel like you're living in a dorm again. It's a smart choice if you want to save money and don't care about living anywhere pretty.

**Campus Edge**, sometimes referred to as Sketch Edge, offers shared apartments with assigned roommates.

**Carleton Place** is comprised of neatly appointed, spacious townhomes that back up to the parking lot on campus. **Third year Ashley Shivar says:** I live in Carleton Place and it is rentable through the owners who list units in the local paper. You cannot have pets unless you own. There are strict rules about behavior (i.e., no street parking or you will be towed). If you choose to rent on the first two streets within the complex, be prepared for loud partying from undergrads. Farther back is much quieter. They also have a policeman in the neighborhood on weekend nights because CP was the site of a physical confrontation that led to the death of an undergrad. Drinking and drugs were involved. The guy just happened to hit the one he was arguing with in a spot that caused instant death. Gruesome, I know, but something to be aware of. I wouldn't want anyone to move in and then hear this story and feel unsafe. It is a safe neighborhood.

**Clear Run** is also a large apartment complex that is split in half by New Center Drive. Visit [www.clearrunapts.com](http://www.clearrunapts.com) or call 910. 395.5678.

**Village Green** is located next to the Quads on Macmillan Drive and has had a recent facelift. Good-sized apartments with balconies and lots of storage. Nice pool facilities.

**Cypress Pointe** is split in half by New Centre Drive. The apartment complex is relatively secluded (i.e., not directly situated on Racine Drive) and is located behind Clear Run. **Ashley Shivar says:** I had a friend living in Cypress Pointe and the units are pretty nice. It is also fairly quiet.

**The Quads** are located on the opposite side of campus next to Isaac Bear High School. Once managed by UNCW, the apartment complex has since switched management to Steven D. Bell Properties. The property
has received poor reviews from the student community (paper thin walls, odd smells, loud residents), so steer clear.

**Stonesthrow** is located toward Oleander and occupied primarily by undergrads.

### Common Roads around the One Mile Radius

**College Acres Drive**

Carleton Place is off of College Acres, which is off of Racine.

**Macmillan Avenue**

The Quads, Village Green and Stonesthrow are all on MacMillan.

**Racine Drive**

Clear Run, Brookstone, Campus Edge, Campus Walk, and Ashton Place are all on Racine Drive.

### Accommodations within a Two Mile Radius of Campus

**Forest Cove** is a complex composed of townhomes. **Ashley Shivar says:** A lot of these units rent out. I have a friend whose mother rents one. They are older, but still fairly nice and fairly quiet. They have two and three bedrooms units and assigned, outdoor parking.

**Mill Creek** is located right off Randall Parkway.

**The Reserves at Forest Hill** is located on Covil and Darlington. The facilities are older and mixed with young, married couples and undergrads. For more, you can visit [www.reserveatforesthills.com](http://www.reserveatforesthills.com) or call 910.763.7663.

### Accommodations around the Mayfaire Town Center

Mayfaire Town Center is located near Wrightsville Beach and is basically a cookie-cutter mock-town. You will find a lot of things there like Barnes & Noble for instance. There is a 16-screen cinema, along with many restaurants.

**The Reserves at Mayfaire** offers relative new, expensive one to three bedroom apartments within walking distance to/from the shops at Mayfaire. A one bedroom will run you about $900/month.

**Ashley Shivar says:** There are also apartments above the shops. To the far side of Mayfaire is a high rise condo complex, the name escapes me, but they are trying to get rid of these and so I believe the deal is still going on, that you can pay a monthly rent that will go towards owning the unit you are in. For more information on living accommodations at Mayfaire, visit [www.mayfairatown.com](http://www.mayfairatown.com).
Seaspray is located adjacent to Mayfaire and offers patio homes with fenced in yards that are individually owned and rented out. The complex has a clubhouse.

**Wrightsville Beach**

For rentals in Wrightsville Beach, contact a local realtor. Ashley Shivar recommends Kay Baker at Sea Coast Realty. Rent is above average. Access to the island is over a drawbridge, which has been known to make students late to class. Still, despite pricing and minor traffic interruptions, living on Wrightsville Beach has its perks, particularly if you love backdoor access to the beach.

**Downtown Wilmington**

Those looking to live downtown can expect to find a variety of shops, restaurants, bars and nightclub within walking distance. In addition, the downtown area also boasts a public library, post office, music venues, playhouses and Thalian Hall, a historic theater.

Of course, as with all downtown living spaces, Wilmington’s downtown has experienced its fair share of crime. Most downtown dwellers find that the areas between Water and 5th Ave (these streets are parallel) and Grace and Castle (also run parallel) to offer safe accommodations.

Beyond that, you should take each block on a case by case basis, and you should never rent in the downtown area site unseen. If you are planning to live in the downtown area, it is also a good idea to consult with a current or past MFA student for a first-hand account of what might be expected.

**Ashley Shivar says:** Downtown is a good place to live if you like to walk to restaurants, bars and local shops. Even though I completed my undergrad years at UNCW and am now here for grad school, I haven’t ventured downtown a lot. Wilmington is very much a split town for those who aren't familiar. The college area/Wrightsville Beach area is very much separate from downtown/riverfront.

**Carmen Rodriguez says:** Downtown is great. I spent a year living downtown and loved the location. Early in the morning, I had the option of jogging along the Riverwalk, grabbing a cup of coffee or strolling with a friend. At night, I walked to restaurants/bars and caught a cab home for around $3.00. Still, as great as downtown Wilmington might be, you must be cautious. Crimes occur quickly and unexpectedly. Don’t walk alone, travel in groups and consider carrying mace. **Be extremely aware of your surroundings.**

**Carolina Beach/Monkey Junction**

Carolina Beach/Monkey Junction is quite a commute, but prices are a little cheaper out that way, and there are lots of townhouse complexes and subdivisions. Monkey Junction is before Carolina Beach on what is College Road.
Additional Options

Avalon Apartments are brand new and are located between the Reserves at Forest Hill and Market Street. Hunters Crossing was built around 2003 and is close to Cape Cottages. These, along with Abbott's Run, are located behind Target. Be aware, these complexes have numerous undergrad tenants.

The Creek at Forest Hills apartment complex is located in Wilmington’s Forest Hills neighborhood, with historic downtown Wilmington riverfront two miles from the community. UNCW is three miles away from, and the community is located on the bus line. The complex offers studios as well as one, two, and three bedroom apartment homes. Second year Allison Reavis says: The best thing about it is the price – I rent a 2 bedroom/2 bath for $590 a month. The downside to the complex is it is old, has bugs, and lacks character. But, the maintenance staff does a good job of keeping it up. It’s on a bus route, so as a student you can get downtown for free, there is a small weight room and a pool, and there are no pet restrictions. Finally, there isn’t a big student population here, so you won’t hear a lot of thumping base unless you turn it up yourself. For more on The Creek at Forest Hills, visit www.thecreekapartments.com or call 910.763.5492.

Forest Hills Apartments is a large apartment complex that offers one bedroom apartments and two bedroom townhouse units in the Forest Hills area, around 23rd St. between Market and Wrightsville Avenue. Units are good size, and the complex is centrally located halfway between school and downtown. The construction is standard, and maintenance issues are normally resolved quickly. The complex has a condo-type arrangement with a mixture of wall-to-wall carpeting and linoleum. The community is known to be safe. For more on Forest Hills Apartments, visit www.foresthillsapartments.com or call 910.762.0084.

Other links to a consider when looking for an apartment

- www.wilmington.craigslist.org
- www.wilmrealty.com
- www.apartmentratings.com/rate/NC-Wilmington.html

Peer Recommended Property Owners/Managers

  Owns 20 properties throughout Wilmington
  Tenants: Alexis Fine, Corinne Manning
- **Susie Sprenger**, 910.251.0084.
  Owns several properties throughout Wilmington
  Tenant: Carmen Rodriguez

Mind and Body
Hospitals and Urgent Care

Wilmington has two hospitals. New Hanover Regional Medical Center is on 17th Street near downtown. You can take Shipyard, College, Oleander or Market to reach 17th Street. Cape Fear Hospital is smaller and located near UNCW on Wrightsville Avenue.

Urgent Care on Macmillan and Oleander is the closest medical facility to campus.

Medac is an Urgent Care doctor’s office. They have plenty of locations around Wilmington. The one closest to the college is on Military Cutoff.

UNCW Health Related Information

UNCW Health Insurance: Within the next year, health insurance will be required for all UNCW students. This may be insurance the students bring with them (family, employer, etc), insurance they purchase through the school, or a combination of both plans. Students who have their own insurance and do not want to purchase the insurance through the school will need to complete an on-line waiver each fall, providing details about their current insurance plan. Any student who does not waive out of the insurance plan will be charged the premium and automatically enrolled in the program.

Students who wish to enroll in the insurance plan will be able to go online to complete their enrollment.

Details about the vendor and the plan specifics will be available in mid-May. Please check back for details. At this point, we are planning to begin this program in January 2010.

By participating in a student health insurance program utilized by the entire UNC system, it appears we will be able to offer students a better insurance plan at a lower cost than in the past.

For students wishing to purchase insurance for Fall 2009 we will still be offering the voluntary plan through Pearce & Pearce. Click on the link below for more information. Fall information should be on-line by mid-April.

If you have any questions about the Student Health Insurance Plan, please call 910.962.3280 or visit www.pearceandpearce.com//PearceSite/Schools/NC/uncw/Default.asp

UNCW Student Health Center is in Westside Hall on campus. They will not take patients after 4:30 p.m. They are open Monday through Friday. General physical exams are free for students. Lab work or secondary procedures are at an additional cost. They also have a pharmacy which stocks a variety of over-the-counter and prescription drugs. However, if you would like to save some money on your prescriptions, it is best to avoid filling them at the campus pharmacy. You will find that Costco (which does not require membership
for use of the pharmacy), CVS and other pharmacies offer much more reasonable prices on your prescription medications. [www.unCW.edu/stuaff/healthservices/shc.htm](http://www.unCW.edu/stuaff/healthservices/shc.htm)

If you are unsure about certain doctors or need a referral for a specialist, send an email out on the listserv for MFA suggestions or contact the UNCW Health Center.

**Peer Recommended Health Care Providers**

**Allergist**
**Ken Myers**, Allergy Partners, 2321 Delaney Rd, Wilmington, NC 28403
Three doctors, all board certified, no physician assistants, skilled nurses.
910.763.1661

**Arthritis**
**Dr. Mark Harris**, Carolina Arthritis, 1710 S 17th St, Wilmington, NC 28401
910.762-1182 / [www.carolinaarthritis.com](http://www.carolinaarthritis.com)

**Dentistry**
**Dr. Brent Bush**, Bush Family Dentistry, 1717 Shipyard Boulevard #120, Wilmington, NC 28403
910.313.1511

**General Practitioner**
**Dr. Ami Patel**, 4000 Shipyard Blvd. Suite 110, Wilmington, NC
910.313.6954

**Gynecology/Obstetrics**
**Dr. William Cooper**, 1500 Medical Center Drive, Wilmington, NC
Specializes in infertility and reproductive hormones.
910.763.9509/ [www.drwilliamcooper.com](http://www.drwilliamcooper.com/)

**Dr. Suzanne Hentz**, 4815 Oleander Drive, Suite 202, Wilmington, NC
Courteous staff and really amazing bedside manner.
910.452.5823

**Herbal and Natural Medicines**
**McKay Healing Arts**, 4916 Wrightsville Avenue, Wilmington, NC 28403
Specializes in acupuncture, Chinese medicine, nutritional & lifestyle counseling, reiki.

**Not recommended**
**Carmen Rodriguez says**: If you are uninsured, do not go to Azalea Gynecology. The fees for uninsured individuals are ten-times higher than what they should be, and the service, in my experience, was sub-par.

**Wendy Brenner says**: Don’t go to Cape Fear OB/GYN or Wilmington Health Associates; it’s a big factory-like practice with many complaints.
Mind

Ashley Swinson, Counselor, Chrysalis Center Counseling
3806 Park Ave, 1st Fl, Wilmington, NC 28403
Accepts medical insurance (see website or call for specifics).
910.790.9500/www.chrysaliscenter-nc.com

Coastal Behavioral Medicine, 2301 Delaney Road, Wilmington, NC 28403
Therapy and the subscription of prescription medications.
Accepts student health insurance and w/this insurance co-pay is $10 after you meet your deductible.
910.392.7877

Snowy Albright, MTS LPC, Lumina Station, 1904 Eastwood Road, Suite 309
Accepts medical insurance, UNCW referred, and is willing to discuss a sliding scale fee.
910.509.0444

New Student Information/Tips

UNCW Bike Registration
All bicycles parked on campus must be registered with the University Police. It’s a mandatory requirement and registration is FREE. Just take your bike to the University Police Department, which is open twenty-four hours a day, to complete the registration process. Prior to your visit, fill out a registration form online by visiting www.uncwil.edu/ba/police/pindex.htm#bicycle_reg.

UNCW Email Account
To set up your UNCW email account you will go to SeaPort (from the UNCW home page click on ‘Current Students’, the SeaPort link is in the column on the right) and choose the "What is my UNCW username/email" option. This will guide you through the set-up of your email account.

Once you activate your UNCW email account, you can reach other students by just typing their name last name into the “TO” field of your email. Once you do this, Outlook will automatically populate the email address into the form for you or provide you with a list of options (i.e., students with the same last name) for you to select from.

TIP: You can also find student/faculty email addresses by clicking on the “Directories” link located on the lower left-hand side of UNCW’s homepage, www.uncw.edu.

UNCW Parking Permit
To obtain your UNCW parking permit, you must register online through UNCW’s SeaPort. To complete the parking permit form, you will need your auto insurance card and your license plate number. Once you have completed the online parking form, you may pick up your parking decal at Auxiliary Services located in the
Warwick Center. (This is also where you will take your student I.D. photo.) **TIP:** The online form may be found in SeaPort’s student tab under parking services.

**UNCW Student ID**

UNCW students must have a student ID. The fee for your student ID is $20 and will automatically be charged to your student account. The replacement fee for your student ID is also $20. To obtain your student ID, you will visit Auxiliary Services in Warwick Center. The entrance faces the athletic fields on Riegel Road. Be sure to have a photo ID with you when you go. You can obtain your student ID anytime after orientation.

**TIP:** Before your student ID is printed and your account charged, ask the person behind the counter to show you the ID photo. If you are dissatisfied with it, ask him/her to retake the photo. You are paying for this service, so you might as well be satisfied with your photo. Questions? Contact the UNCW One Card Office at 910.962.3560.

**UNCW Tuition**

Tuition can be paid at the Cashier’s office located on the 2nd floor of King Hall or online through SeaNet. Tuition charges are not per credit, but per credit range. As of 2008/09, credit hour fees are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>In-State</th>
<th>Out-of-State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2 graduate</td>
<td>$530.21</td>
<td>$1,787.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credit hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5 graduate</td>
<td>$928.52</td>
<td>$3,443.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credit hour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-8 graduate</td>
<td>$1,689.91</td>
<td>$5,462.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credit hrs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-15 credit</td>
<td>$2,670</td>
<td>$7,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hours</td>
<td>(in-state)</td>
<td>(out-of-state)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Visit here for updates on the tuition fee schedule:** [www.uncw.edu/grad_info/tuition.htm](http://www.uncw.edu/grad_info/tuition.htm).

**TIP:** A great way to reduce your tuition costs until you gain in-state residency is to take less than 9 credit hours per semester for your first two semesters, and then increase your course load the following year to 12 credits per semesters. This will save you nearly $4,500 in tuition costs during your first year at UNCW.

**BE AWARE** that if you are still on your parents’ insurance plan, you may not be able to drop below 9 credit hours. For many insurance companies, 9 credit hours is the minimum to be considered a full-time student at the UNCW Graduate level. However, UNCW considers you a full-time student with 6 credit hours taken each semester.
Parking

At Wrightsville Beach, parking is $1.50 an hour from about March 1 until November 1. Be forewarned: Parking rules are strictly enforced. Also, after you have parked, ensure that you have parked between the white lines that define the space. If you park over a white line, you will receive a ticket. A parking violation in Wrightsville Beach is $35 if paid within the first 48 hours. After that, the fee increases.

Downtown Wilmington street parking is free after 6:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and all day on Sunday. In addition, many of the parking garages and public parking lots are also free during these off hours and on Sunday. Parking on most of the residential side streets is free, but certain streets between Third Ave and Water have additional restrictions, such as requiring a parking permit for street parking between the hours of 11 p.m. to 9 a.m. Just remember to always pay attention to the street signs when parking in Wilmington.

Campus Parking can be a bit frustrating. When you receive your parking pass, you will be granted the right to park in two parking lots. The parking spaces outlined in white are for all students to park in. TA Parking is indicated by the parking spaces outlined in yellow. Never park in a teal parking space. These spots are reserved for service vehicles or vehicles with special permits. The University will tow or boot your car immediately if parked in these areas.

Parking tickets are given frequently on campus. Make sure to read the parking pamphlet, which is given to you at the same time you receive your parking decal, for a comprehensive overview of on-campus parking guidelines.

FYI: Parking tickets have risen to $50! So, please do follow UNCW parking rules and regulations.

Pets

Overall, Wilmington is a pet-friendly town. If you are a pet owner looking for living accommodations, the following tips might help increase your chances of finding a successful living situation for both you and your furry friend.

First Impressions are Key

Most rental agencies will list pet-friendly places. If you have pets and are looking for pet-friendly accommodations, here are some tips:

• Create a resume for your pet.
- List your vet (local, if you have one) and be sure to include not only vaccinations but also heartworm and flea-preventative.
- List any training classes your dog has completed.
- Include references: A list of friends and former landlords who can give you a positive reference for your pet is a boon!

- Expect to pay a pet deposit.
  - Deposits range from $100 to $250 and may increase with the number of pets that you have. Deposits may or may not be refundable.
- Have your pet groomed.
  - Clip or dremel your pet’s nails. Most places don’t want their floors scratched and gouged.
  - If you have a cat and the cat is de-clawed, let your landlord know. This may decrease the monetary amount of your pet deposit.
  - Have your pet treated for fleas and ticks. Many landlords require proof that your pet receives regular treatment for parasites.
  - Ask about weight restrictions. Many landlords have weight restrictions when it comes to pets. Ask!
- Introducing your pet to the potential landlord can be a positive experience. Be prepared to have your pet meet your landlord prior to the move in date.

**Annual Pet Events in Wilmington**

- **Paw Jam** -- This fun summertime festival, which boasts music, food, games and benefits local animal organizations, is well worth attending whether you are a pet owner or not. Visit [www.pawjam.net](http://www.pawjam.net).
- **Walk for Those Who Can’t**--This fun local charity walk, held in early spring, is organized by Carolina Canines for Service, Inc to benefit people with disabilities who use service dogs. You and your dog are welcome to walk and/or form a team of walkers. Visit [www.walkforthosewhocant.org/walkways.html](http://www.walkforthosewhocant.org/walkways.html).
- **Wilmington Dog Jog** – This event takes place in early September. The Wilmington Dog Jog is held at the Legion Stadium Sports Complex located on Carolina Beach Road. The event features a 5k run, 1.5 mile fun walk, vendors, door prizes and much more. The Dog Jog also features the Pooch Plunge at the Legion Stadium swimming pool. Visit [www.wilmingtonnc.gov/Portals/0/parksrec/dogjogbrochure.pdf](http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov/Portals/0/parksrec/dogjogbrochure.pdf)

**Dog Grooming**

- **Give a Dog a Bone**--This facility offers the option of do-it-yourself or full service with an appointment. Located downtown between Water and Front on Market Street, this facility is not as highly recommended as Sudslingers, but an acceptable place to use in a jam.
• Petco and Petsmart both offer grooming facilities.
• Purple Groomery--Located on Wrightsville Avenue in the Delgado Shopping Center, this family-run facility offers pleasant workers and excellent service. Pricing is similar to that of commercial pet groomers while service is always amazing and thorough.
• Sudslingers--This do-it-yourself grooming center offers friendly service and the best prices in the area.

*Highly recommended*
Visit [www.sudslingersdogwash.com](http://www.sudslingersdogwash.com).

## Doggie Daycare and Boarding

Usually, you can find someone in the MFA program to pet-sit by posting a request on the list-serve. In the event that you prefer a more formal arrangement, many vets in the Wilmington area offer basic boarding services. However, if you are looking for a kennel that specializes in boarding or offers something extra, check out the links below:

• Dogs at Play
  [www.superdogsatplay.com](http://www.superdogsatplay.com)
  *highly recommended!*
• Meadowsweet Kennels
  [www.meadowsweetpetresort.com](http://www.meadowsweetpetresort.com)
• Pets Pal Inn
  [www.petspalinn.com](http://www.petspalinn.com)
• Pups Play and Stay
  [www.pupsplaystay.com](http://www.pupsplaystay.com)

## Pet Excursions

The following is a list of some pet-friendly locations:

• Beaches – Local beaches are a great place to take your pets. Typically, you can bring your dog to the beach off-season (late September through the end of April). Remember to always pick up your pet's waste so that dogs will continue to be allowed on the beaches!

• Parks – There are many great parks to take your pet. Here are some local favorites:
  - Halyburton Park
    - 4099 South 17th St. (between South College Road and George Anderson)
    - This park offers lots of trees, trails, and a nature center.
    - Dogs must be leashed.
    - Restroom facilities available.
    - [www.halyburtonpark.com](http://www.halyburtonpark.com)
  - Greenfield Lake
    - 421 South - Burnett Boulevard
    - This park is scenic, but some rough asphalt can be tough on your pet's paws.
    - It is recommended that you visit this park with a friend until you know your way
around. Occasionally there is crime in the area and GP has some secluded stretches where you want to stay aware and stay safe.

- Hugh McRae Park
  - Oleander Drive
  - This is the closest park to campus.
  - There is an off-leash dog park area and lots of stretches of paved trails.
  - Restroom facilities and playground for kids.

- Castle Hayne Park
  - Family friendly.
  - Lots of sports teams, disc golf course.

- Ogden Park
  - 7069 Market Street
  - Trails, restrooms, playgrounds, plenty of walking room within 125 acres.

- Carolina Beach State Park
  - 1010 State Park Road, Carolina Beach
  - Recently paved walking trails, very flat and easy walk.

- Empie Dog Park
  - 300 Block of Park Avenue (Corner of Independence Blvd and Park Ave behind Stein Mart)
  - Has small dog and large dog play areas, equipped with benches, dog-water fountains, and poo-stations. Weekends are hectic, but usually during the week the area is relatively quiet and the dogs/people are cool. Mornings seem to be the least crowded.

- Campus – The wide-open spaces around the Wildflower Preserve offer good opportunities for socializing your dog and playing Frisbee. And, in case you forget, there are several Poo- Stations located around the center of campus.

- Downtown – Leashed dogs are welcomed on the Riverwalk along the Cape Fear River. There’s also a Farmer’s Market on weekend mornings on Water Street, which can prove for a fun and colorful excursion. However, if your dog is not used to strollers, crowds, little kids, loud music and other dogs, you should leave the pooch at home!

- The Loop – This paved 2.5-mile sidewalk area around Wrightsville Beach offers beachy, although not shady, ambience. Be aware, though, the Loop is often crowded during tourist season.

**Pet Supply Stores**
• Aunt Kerry’s Pet Stop – Located on South College and 17th street, this pet stop carries a lot of natural foods for dogs. For more information visit www.auntkerryspetstop.com.
• Dog Gone Crazy – This store is located downtown and offers boutique items for your dog.
• Petco – Located on South College Road, close to campus.
• Petsmart – Located in the Target shopping center on New Centre Drive. Close to campus.
• Pet Supermarket – Located on Oleander Drive.

Training Facilities
Wilmington also offers its fair share of training facilities for your pet. Here are few that you might consider:
• Azalea Dog Training Club--This dog training club is an excellent value and offers every level of class as well as specialty classes (i.e., agility, rally-obedience, etc.) and CGC and TDI certification. Be aware that this facility is located a distance away in the northern part of Wilmington. Visit www.kismetsighthounds.com/adtc/azalea.html.
• Petmart--Trainer, Heather Walters, is wonderful and CPDT certified. However, this facility might prove a challenge for your pet as there are lots of distractions within this busy store. Classes run about $110 for eight weeks and offer basic pet obedience and pet tricks classes. This facility is centrally located.
• Dogtrain, Inc.--This facility is a bit more expensive, but offers very in-depth training, small classes and a central location. You have the option of group and/or private lessons. Dogtrain is well-known for problem-solving the specific issues your pet might have. Visit www.dogtraininc.com.
• Einstein’s K-9--Offers puppy socialization classes, obedience classes and specializes in agility training. This facility is particularly popular and recommended by a local vet. Visit www.einsteinsk9.com/index.php.

Vets
You can find any number of vet facilities by conducting an online search of the Wilmington area, but if you are looking for veterinarians that have been personally recommended by local folks, you should check out the listings below.

Hanover Regional Animal Hospital, 4711 Oleander Dr., Wilmington, NC 28403
910.791.1446/www.hrah.net/

Dr. Lacroix, Pine Valley Animal Hospital, 106 Longstreet Dr., Wilmington, NC 28412
910.799.4500

Port City Animal Hospital, 4012 Masonboro Loop Rd., Wilmington, NC 28409
910.452.4093

Dineen Animal Hospital, 1132 Floral Pkwy, Wilmington, NC 28403
For After hour care:
Animal Emergency Clinic, 5333 Oleander Dr., Wilmington, NC 28403
910.791.7387/ Note: The facility is located behind Tidal Creek Co-op and next to UNCW’s Cinema 6 Parking Lot and across Oleander from Eddie Romanelli’s Restaurant.

Other resources
Check out these local pet magazines for additional resources:
• PawPrints
  www.pawprintsmagazine.com
• Dog Living
  www.doglivingmagazine.com

Physical Fitness

Cycling in the Port City
Since gas prices are soaring and paying for an unassigned and unguaranteed campus parking space is both expensive and annoying, a lot of students at UNCW are commuting on bikes. For students in need of cycling resources, it is recommended that you check out the following businesses and organizations:
• Best Bike Shops
  o Two-Wheeler Dealer -- They have a full bike shop (repairs, assembly, etc) as well as offer a variety of new and used bikes for every age and skill level. They are located at 4408 Wrightsville Ave in Wilmington.
    For more information, visit www.bikesarefun.com or call 910.799.6444.
  o Bike Cycles – Located at 6801 Parker Farm Dr.
    For more information, visit www.bikecycleshop.com or call 910.256.2545.
• Cape Fear Cyclists--This local cycling club is open to everyone. They work very hard for Wilmington’s cycling community by promoting commuter-cycling awareness, building a mountain biking course on Blue Clay Road and urging the city to improve and build more bike paths. The organizers are friendly folks that enforce a “no one left behind” policy for their group biking jaunts. Membership discounts are available if you sign up at the bike shops.
    For more information, visit www.capefearcyclists.org.

Seaside Yoga
Seaside Yoga studio first opened six years ago. Since then it has grown significantly to offer yoga and Pilates classes, private sessions, meditation and body work. They also offer yoga immersions: retreats in different parts of North Carolina that offer students the chance to deepen their practice. The majority of the teachers follow Anusara, a Hatha based yoga that focuses on the principles of alignment, but there are a variety of different class levels. It’s a great, warm, and uncompetitive space. They offer occasional teacher trainings (but the next one won’t begin until 2010) and a work trade program where you work one shift a week in exchange for unlimited yoga classes.

Your first time “drop-in” class is $8, after that the student price is $10 per class or $15 for non-students. You can also purchase class cards starting at $40 for 5 classes.

**UNCW**

The UNCW Student Recreation Center (SRC) and The Department of Campus Recreation offers staff-directed and self-directed activities which include but are not limited to basketball, volleyball, badminton, walking, jogging, group exercise, weight training, personal training, tennis lessons, swim lessons and climbing. The Hanover/Trask Natatorium can be utilized for recreational swim. Open tennis play is available at the Gazebo recreation area. All Campus Recreation programs and facilities are available for faculty, staff and students who have paid the appropriate fees.

This information was taken from: [www.uncw.edu/stuaff/camprec/facilitiesStudentRecreationCenter.htm](http://www.uncw.edu/stuaff/camprec/facilitiesStudentRecreationCenter.htm).

**YMCA**

The YMCA is a great alternative to UNCW’s Harris Teeter gym facilities. Located at 27th and Market, this mid-sized facility offers recreational activities that include aerobics, yoga, Pilates, weight training, and use of cardiovascular equipment all for a low monthly fee of under $30 dollars. Membership includes a fitness evaluation and several one-on-one weight training sessions. **TIP:** The YMCA offers discounted memberships for those applicants that demonstrate financial need. To determine eligibility, you must provide the facility with a recent pay stub at your time of registration. For more information on services provided by Wilmington’s YMCA, visit [www.wilmingtonfamilyymca.org](http://www.wilmingtonfamilyymca.org).

**Public Transportation**

Wave Transit City: All UNCW students get to ride for FREE at all times with their UNCW student I.D.

UNCW’s “Safe Ride” cab program: Students can buy up to 10 cab vouchers worth $5 each, but only pay $2 each. Also, each ticket the cabbie turns in earns him a $3 tip from his cab co, so you may not even have to worry about paying the tip. Tickets can be purchased in the Fisher Student Center at the Box office just outside Lumina Theater.
The Seahawk Perch has UNCW Shuttle maps, Bicycle route maps, and Wave Transit City Bus maps. Students can stop by to pick up literature anytime the building is open. (usually 7am until midnight 7 days/week.) The Perch is located in the Fisher Student Center across from the Info Desk on the main floor. Also, students may call the Seahawk Perch at 910.962.7371, or email seahawkperch@uncw.edu for more information.

**Restaurants**

Wilmington has many great restaurants that run the spectrum of selection and pricing. There is no way to hit on all the restaurants, but here are some frequently visited or recommended by MFAers and friends of the program.

**Chain Restaurants**

**Olive Garden** is on Market Street, near College Road, across from Carabbas. **Macaroni Grill** is in Mayfaire. **BW3s** is off of Market and also at Monkey Junction and Landfall Center. **Starbucks** are located at Mayfaire, Landfall Center, and on College. **Port City Java** has locations at Lumina Station, Oleander Drive, Market Street and downtown on Front Street. **O Charleys** is on Market Street and also at Monkey Junction. **Ruby Tuesday** has locations on Market, the mall and Mayfaire. **Mellow Mushroom** is on Oleander near Chuck E Cheese.

**Bon Appetit** is located at 3704 Carolina Beach Road. **Visha Burkhart says:** During the Fall and Winter, their prices go down about a dollar or so; they always offer 5 breakfast specials on weekends - something that always changes and you can only get once a year... Always very fresh and delicious, definitely a place for locals; cozy and gets crowded with the post-church crowd on Sundays, so don't dilly-dally when going there. Everything from breakfast biscuits to specialty eggs benedict. Food is always excellent and they have blue-plate specials for lunch/dinner. [www.bonappetitwilmington.com/](http://www.bonappetitwilmington.com/)

**Ethnic Cuisine**

**Bdobo** is an undergrad favorite. This Mongolian restaurant lets you build your own noodle bowl. Located near UNCW on College Road.

**Bolero’s Cafe:** A Cuban flair restaurant on New Centre Drive. Affordable black beans and Cuban sandwiches among other dishes.

**Eddie Romanellis** is a locally-owned Italian-American restaurant. (The same management group owns three other restaurants in Wilmington--Oceanic, Bluewater, and O Henrys. **Ashley Shivar says:** Try the four
meat ziti, crab dip or Caesar salad.

**El Cerro** has several locations around Wilmington and offers cheap and tasty "traditional" Mexican. The restaurant is located on College Road in the Lowes Foods Shopping Center.

**Flaming Amy's Burrito Barn** offers affordable chow and a fun atmosphere. This local favorite is located on Oleander Drive. The **Flaming Bowl**, from the same owners, is located at Hoggard High School.

**Indochine** is a true Wilmington classic. This is THE Thai/Viet restaurant in Wilmington. Rooms are decorated in different themes and outdoor dining is available. Indochine is located on Market Street. **Ashley Shivar says:** There are many Thai restaurants around Wilmington, but after reading an assignment from one of the undergrads, I would stay away from Banyan Cafe attached to a hotel on Market Street.

**Mama Fu's** is part of a chain that specializes in Asian Fusion cuisine. Located in Mayfaire, lunch will cost you around $12. They serve dinner with full service, lunch, order at counter. Ashley recommends the pot stickers, lo mein and Thai noodle bowl.

**Terazzo** is an Italian restaurant that offers a great atmosphere and every pasta you can imagine on their menu! It’s a little pricier than some of the other options on this list. Terazzo is located in Landfall Shopping Center on the corner of Military Cutoff and Eastwood.

**Sandwiches**

**Artisan Café** is located in Mayfaire and has a variety of sandwiches, some soups and on weekends, a delicious brunch. A budgeted meal will run you around $15. They also serve dinner and have a brownie bar.

**Atlanta Bread Company** is also located in Mayfaire Town Center, has basic sandwiches, soups and salads. They also have a bakery. Sandwiches with chips and a drink run under $10.

**College Road Deli** is a small deli that is a favorite among MFA students and offers lots of lunch items. This is located across campus in the Old Navy shopping center.

**Dockside** is located on the downtown riverwalk overlooking the Cape Fear River. Dockside has great burgers. They are a local Wilmington establishment and very popular.

**McAlisters Deli**, across from UNCW campus on College Road, this chain has sandwiches, salads, soups and potatoes.
Nofo Café is located in the Forum on Military Cutoff and has affordable lunch and dinner. They have many salad choices, a salad bar, sandwiches, etc. Ashley's favorite is the black bean quesadilla.

Red Robin in Mayfaire serves burgers. The chain was made famous by Jessica Simpson.

South Beach is located on Wrightsville Beach. Along with the traditional salads, they have other, more southern cuisine, like fried pickles. They offer outside dining overlooking the highway and waterway. Ashley Shivar suggests trying the Surfer Wrap (shrimp salad) or a crab cake melt.

Special Sushi Section

The Bento Box's chef is quick to say that he left Palm Beach to bring a different approach to sushi here in Wilmington. Sushi rolls are pricier than Nikki's. Don't expect anything under $10. But you can get a deep fried chicken and cheese sushi roll. The Bento Box is located in the Forum.

Genki Sushi is located near Target on New Centre Drive and recommended by Lukis Kauffman.

Nikki's Fresh Gourmet has locations at Independence Mall, Front Street and near campus on Racine Drive. The menu offers sushi, sandwiches and, oddly, a variety of American/Mediterranean fare. Nikki's is affordable. Sushi rolls are priced from $4-$12. The Mayfaire location is significantly pricier, offers hibachi and a limited sushi menu.

Local Favorites

Casey's Buffet is located at 5559 Oleander Dr. Visha Burkhart says: Oh man. For $10, all you can eat Southern-style buffet. If your system isn't attuned to Southern cooking (collards, mashed potatoes with lots of butter, pork bbq, chitlins, fried chicken), you need to work your way up to Casey's. Super-sweet tea, ultra laid back surroundings, attentive wait staff. A locals' place, for sure. Always a crowd, damn good food.

Java Dog is a small independent coffee shop with a loft in the Cotton Exchange with slightly lower prices and a less-crowded atmosphere for thinking and writing than Port City Java. Patrons frequently bring their dogs. They also sell bagged tea.

Jesters Café, located at 6th and Castle in a light green converted bungalow style house, is a fantastic, locally-loved place to grab homemade quiche, coffee strong enough to make you twitch, and sandwiches for $8-12 total. Their fresh fruit and side salads are quite good as well, and nearly all of their salad dressings are homemade. Patrons frequently take homemade desserts to go, and reserve a soup order via phone in the early morning. (The daily soup special tends to sell out by one p.m., particularly on rainy or cold days.) They do offer free wireless internet and a front and back porch dining option for patrons wishing to enjoy the weather.
or bring a dog along for the visit. They are open until 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday-Friday. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, and 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Sunday.

**Francesco’s Cafe** near the Harris Teeter on S. College has fantastic homemade soups for very reasonable prices, pizza, and a selection of sandwiches. If they are serving it, try the Roasted Red Pepper and Gouda soup. They close at 8 p.m. They are also attached to a bakery, Apple Annie’s, which can be dangerous for those who love baked goods.

**South College Sandwich and Deli** is located in the same complex as Staples, Sams, and Lowes very close to the college. They serve a fantastic Beef on Weck and other high quality sandwiches in the $8 range.

**The Bagel Basket**, near the intersection of Kerr and Wilshire behind the South College Harris Teeter, is a great place to go if you want a good bagel and Boars Head meats and cheeses. I recommend a toasted sun dried tomato bagel with the olive pimento cream cheese for under $2.50. They are open from 10-3.

**Sweets**

**Britts Donuts** is located on the Carolina Beach Boardwalk. Third year MFA student **Corrine Manning** says: **My God. This place. How do I explain it? It’s like if you take everything good and swirl it with the best parts of danger you’ll get these hot fluffy delights.** Located in Carolina Beach, it’s been serving up donuts since the 30s. They only sell hot glazed donuts and they go for .70 a pop. The rest of their menu exists only to compliment the glory of the donut: milk, coffee, and fountain soda.

It’s nice to go here, sit at the counter and buy a round of donuts for your friends as long as you know they will repay you in kind within five minutes of the previous donut’s consumption. Go soon though. They close for the season in September and won’t open again until April/May. It’s across the street from the arcade so once you are full and weary from the crash of sugar you can lift your spirits with some skee ball, or cruise the Carolina Beach scene, which is, eerily, like New Jersey. You are bound to see some muscles, big hair and a drunken brawl or two. My kind of town.

**Coastal Cupcakes** is a cupcakery started by two UNCW graduates. Employee and second year MFA student **Allison Reavis** says: To answer the most common questions: it does only serve cupcakes, and the cost is 2.25 per cupcake…which is why you should bring your friends and buy a half-dozen to bring the price to 2 dollars each. If you like cream cheese frosting, you’ll be in cream cheese heaven. Plus, it’s a good place to taste a piece of the South, starting with the red velvet cupcake. I myself eat about three cupcakes a week, which is not condonable behavior, but gives you an idea of their addictive nature. There are two locations to serve your cupcake needs, one downtown at the corner of Princess and Second, and one near the beach at the
corner of Eastwood and Wrightsville Avenue. Check out the special daily flavor on the website: www.coastalcupcakes.com.

## Safety

Before signing a lease, we suggest you check out the overall safety of your neighborhood by doing the following:

- Check the sex offender registry. The link is [www.nsopr.gov/](http://www.nsopr.gov/).
- Talk with a Public Safety Officer at Wilmington’s Police Station. The general number for the station is 910-343-3600. For more information on our local police, visit [www.wilmingtonnc.gov/Departments/PoliceDepartment/ContactPoliceDepartment.aspx](http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov/Departments/PoliceDepartment/ContactPoliceDepartment.aspx).

### UNCW Police Force

UNCW has its own police force located on campus. The University Police Department is located on the East side of campus, on Lionfish Drive and is open 24 hours a day. Police officers patrol the campus seven days a week, 365 days a year. The primary objective of the University Police Department is to provide a safe and secure environment within which students, faculty, and staff can live, learn and work. The department is comprised of three divisions—Community Services, Investigations, and Patrol. The 30 officers who staff these divisions are duly sworn, certified, armed, and empowered with the same authority as other local law enforcement officers in the State of North Carolina as regulated by the North Carolina Department of Justice.

Telecommunicators, program managers and command-level personnel provide administrative support for the various divisions. The department employs four full-time and approximately 15 part-time security guards who assist community members by providing escorts and access to other departmental services. You may contact the University Police Department by email at police@uncw.edu. This information was taken from [www.uncw.edu/ba/police](http://www.uncw.edu/ba/police).

## Shopping

### Book Stores

We only have one **Barnes and Noble**. It is located at Mayfaire Town Center on Military Cutoff. **Books a Million** is located in Hanover Town Center on Oleander Drive, next to Pier One Imports.
Pomegranate Books is a bright light in the sometimes darkness of Wilmington. This independent bookstore does a lot for the community and partners with UNCW’s creative writing program to host readings, sell faculty and visiting readers books at said readings, and employ various MFA students. Pomegranate also regularly partners with groups like Turn of the Wheel (a dance collective) Grandmother’s for Peace (activist Grannies), and Planned Parenthood. They are dedicated to offering educational lectures and worthwhile readings. They also have the strangest collection of books. It’s a great place to browse and you are always bound to come across something you didn’t expect to find. The people who work there love books and in addition to being very knowledgeable they are always looking for suggestions on what should be added to their collection. It’s tough stuff to be an independent bookstore; let’s keep this place open! Students get a 10% discount and they are very happy to order most any book you need. Visit www.pombooks.net or call 910.452.1107.

Used Book Stores are located on Front Street (downtown Wilmington), Wrightsville Avenue (midtown) and Market Street (north Wilmington).

The UNCW Campus bookstore is located in the Fisher Student Union on Campus. There is also Seahawk Book and Supply located off campus in the shopping center next door near the Bodo, Roly Poly, Blockbuster area.

For the Home

Lowes Home Improvement has two locations--one near Old Navy and UNCW and the other at Monkey Junction—on College Road. Walmart has two locations, one at Monkey Junction and one on Van Campen (off Market Street, behind O Charleys). Home Depot has two locations as well, one on Racine Drive near Kohls, Hiro, Texas Roadhouse and Golds Gym, the other at Monkey Junction. Target is located on New Centre Drive, off of Market Street. Home Goods is near Lowes Foods.

Grocery Stores

Lowes Foods and Harris Teeter both have several locations throughout town. At Harris Teeter, you can get a 5% student discount if you show the cashier your student ID. Mayfair, the big shopping center on Military Cutoff, has a Fresh Market. There are also many Food Lion Grocery Stores around town. These offer less options than Harris Teeter and Lowes Foods, and more modest pricing.

There’s an organic co-op, Tidal Creek, on Oleander, open to co-op members and others. It’s the place to go for gluten-free, vegan, and other specialty foods. Their buffet is excellent. There’s also a small farmers’ market on Water Street downtown every Saturday morning from April to December.
Mainstream Retail

Cotton Exchange
Downtown, overlooking the waterfront, you will find the Cotton Exchange. Stores: Blowing in the Wind, Cape Fear Footwear, Caravan Beads, Celtic Shop, Crescent Moon, Down to Earth, Elizabeth's Ladies Boutique, Emory's Crystals, Fidler's Gallery/Wrigley's Clocks, Fire and Spice Gourmet, The Golden Gallery, Grand Bazaar, Hummingbird Station, Just for the Holidays, Occasions...Just Write, Port City Pottery and Fine Crafts, Pure Life Health Food and Vitamins, Revolution 9, T.S. Brown Jewelry, Top Toad, Two Sisters Bookery and You Are My Sunshine. www.shopcottonexchange.com/

Forum, The
Also located on Military Cutoff Road, The Forum sits across the street from the Harris Teeter at Mayfaire. They have special gift and clothing stores like Nofo, Charlotte's, Blue Hand Home, Corporate Skirts, Tara Grinna and Peanut Butter and Jelly.

Hanover Center
Across from Independence Mall on the other corner of Oleander and Independence, Hanover Center is a strip mall with Stein Mart, Books a Million, Learning Express Toys, Rite Aid, The Home Collection, Pier 1 Imports, Sterling House, Wild Bird and Garden, Great Outdoor Provision Company, Omega Sports, Talbots, Office Depot, Shoe Shak and SAS Shoes. www.hanovercenter.com.

Independence Mall

Lumina Station
Lumina Station is located on Eastwood Road just short of the Wrightsville Beach bridge. They have specialty gift and clothing stores including The Pink Petunia, Monkee's Shoes, Finely Finished, Beanie+Cecil, Alligator Pie, Island Passage, Jennifer's, R. Bryan Collections, Airlie Moon, Baby Swank, Blush, Fountainside Fine Art Gallery, klondike[shop], Paysage, and S. Burke Fine Jewelry. www.luminastation.com.
Mayfaire

Thrift Stores
There's a Goodwill at 709 S. Kerr (pronounced “Car,” and do not let anyone tell you otherwise), with the regular Goodwill selection and prices. The Fairy Circle on College, between Wrightsville and Wilshire, has slightly higher prices but still good deals. Vintage Values is on College, very close to the actual college. It's in a small shopping center next to a larger one, between Randall and New Centre.

Spirituality
The following houses of worship and spiritual centers have been recommended by fellow MFA students and faculty:

**First Presbyterian Church**, 125 S 3rd St, Wilmington, NC 28401
**Kara Norman, MFA Grad 2009 says:** The Presbyterian Church on 3rd Street has decent sermons, beautiful hymns, and a sanctuary that feels like a giant upside-down Viking ship.
910.762.6688/[www.firstonthird.org/](http://www.firstonthird.org/)

**Messiah Lutheran Church**, 3302 S. College Road, Wilmington, North Carolina 28412
**Rachel Schmidt says:** For someone like me who wasn't really involved in my previous church, Messiah was one of the warmest welcomes I've had. They practically adopt you on the first day, offer any help they can give but expect nothing in return. And oddly enough, there are a lot of former Midwesterners that are members. I do believe it might also be the only LCMS church in town, but it's a beautiful church with a small but caring congregation. If you have any questions or need a ride there on Sunday morning, email me at rms2532@uncw.edu.
910.791.7040/[www.messiahwilmington.org](http://www.messiahwilmington.org)

**Pine Valley United Methodist**, 3788 Shipyard Blvd, Wilmington, NC 28403
**Rachel Jenkins says:** PVUM is the greatest church ever! The preaching is smart, engaging, and memorable; the people are friendly and welcoming; and there's even a young-adult ministry for people in their twenties a
few years out of college, which is hard to find in a church. There are lots of opportunities to get involved but very little pressure if you’re more comfortable just going on Sunday mornings.

Questions about PVUM, email Rachel Jenkins at rmj7308@uncw.edu.  910.791.0353/ www.pvumc.net/

Saint Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 612 South College Road, Wilmington, NC 28403

Bekki Lee says: There is a brilliant preacher right across the street from UNCW, at St. Matthews' Church.

His name is Sam Zumwalt, and his sermons are very artful and literary and intriguing.

910.791.4582/ www.stmathewsch.org/

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4313 Lake Ave, Wilmington, NC 28403

Kara Norman says: I used to go to the Unitarian Church, which Tim jokes is more like a club than a church. They have the most wonderful choir director, and the wackiest congregation, full of crusty New Jersey retirees and very smart people

910.392.6454/ www.uufwilmington.org

Utilities

Cable, Digital Telephone and Internet

Cable, digital telephone and Internet are best ordered as a package from Time Warner Cable. It is cheaper this way. Visit www.timwarnercable.com for locations and information. Easiest access to a customer care store is the Time Warner location located next to JCPenney in Independence Mall.

On the off chance that you may live outside of the Time Warner coverage area in Wilmington, you will need to contact Charter Communications (www.charter.com).

Electricity

Progress Energy will accommodate your electricity needs. Their web address is www.progress-energy.com. You can start your account online by going to Start Electric Service and then filling out the NC start form.

Natural Gas

Natural Gas, for stoves and/or heating, can be obtained through Piedmont Natural Gas (www.piedmontng.com). For the Wilmington district contact Keith Newcomer, keith.newcomer@piedmontng.com or phone 919.235-6162.
Water and Sewer

To set an account for water and sewer, you must contact the **Cape Fear Public Utility Authority**. They are located at 235 Government Center Drive and can be reached by calling 910.799.6064 or by visiting [www.cfpua.org](http://www.cfpua.org). You will need to set up an account with them before you can receive water and sewer access for your rental/home.

---

**Wilmington, etc.**

**Bugs. Yuck.**

**Chiggers**
North Carolina is home to a feisty little bug with many names. They are called harvest mites, red bugs, and, more frequently, Chiggers. They fall in the spider and tick family, and like their tick cousins, are nearly invisible to the average human’s naked eye. What you need to know about Chiggers is that they like to hop onto their human friends mostly in the spring and summer. They are frequently found in wooded areas, so if you are going on a walk through the forest, or even over some pine straw, you a pick up a few of these pesky bugs without even noticing, that is until you get a series of painful, swollen bumps on your feet. The best method of prevention is to liberally apply bug spray prior to crossing NC’s glorious “natural” terrain. If you do get bit, don’t scratch the area as this might cause a secondary infection, but do apply calamine lotion or other anti-itch medication. Also for a bit of a home remedy, try covering the bite area with clear fingernail polish to stop the itching and, maybe not so oddly, suffocate the chigger. For more on Chiggers, visit: [www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/phpm/CHIGGERS.PDF](http://www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/phpm/CHIGGERS.PDF).

**Waterbugs**
Wilmington has a dauntingly large population of cockroaches, which the locals politely refer to as waterbugs. They’re hardly present in the winter, but when it’s hot out, they’re everywhere—sunbathing beside the neighborhood pool or having lunch at your favorite local eatery. They’ll cross your path fearlessly on the sidewalk and show up in your house when you least expect it. They’re often very large. You can deal with them however you’d deal with another bug: smash, spray, or mercifully release into the steamy, southern night.

**Car Repair**

**Import Performance**, 598 Wellington Avenue, Suite 110, Wilmington, NC

Owned by Talin Germain, and his wife, MFA student Becky Germain, IP specializes in car repair and preventative maintenance and offers a 10% discount to all UNCW students and staff. **Carmen Rodriguez** says: Talin is an honest and well-informed mechanic. He serviced my vehicle numerous times and literally saved me thousands of dollars. I know that several other MFA students have taken their vehicles to IP and had a wonderful experience.

910.763.4223/[www.importperformance-nc.com](http://www.importperformance-nc.com)
Hair Stylists

Herbie & Staff at Evolution Salon and Spa, 5205 Oleander Dr, Wilmington, NC
910.799.7679/ www.evolutionofhair.com/

Rachel Johnson, Vida Hair Salon, Btwn 2nd and 3rd on Princess, Downtown Wilmington, NC
Rachel’s a great stylist, meticulous and eager to figure out what works best for your hair. She’s reasonably priced with cuts ranging from $28 to $35.
910.254.7890

Places of Interest

Visions and Dreams, 4403 Park Avenue, Wilmington, NC 28403
910.799.1001/ www.visionsanddreamsinc.com/
Kitty-cornered from Pomegranate Books on Park Avenue, this charming cottage-turned-business has lots of resources for "mindful living" - both merchandise and services. Also, on the "fun" side, they have "Psychic Saturdays" twice a month: Run readings, palm readings, Tarot card readings. Check out the website for a calendar of events.
Contributors

The following individuals contributed and/or compiled the content that is found in the Welcome Guide:

Claire Bateman
Visha Burkart
Rachel Jenkins
Corinne Manning
Allison Reavis
Carmen Rodriguez
Ashley Shivar