

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

### Learning Communities

Learning Communities are small groups of students and faculty who work closely together creating a “community of learners.” Many of our programs are residential while other communities are geared toward commuter students. In either situation, Learning Community students have the opportunity to quickly make friends and develop a close relationship with UNC Charlotte faculty and staff.

The supportive environment created in the Learning Communities brings students, faculty, staff, and peer mentors together with the common goal of promoting academic and social success. Communities are offered in various academic areas giving participants the opportunity to explore their interests while working in small, comfortable groups on course-related projects.

### International Studies

*Director:* Professor Chernotsky

International Studies is an interdisciplinary program offering both a major and a minor within the College of Arts and Sciences. It draws upon the faculty and courses of a number of departments and is structured to give students skills and knowledge to understand and analyze societies outside the United States in the context of the rapidly changing and increasingly interdependent world. By integrating courses on area studies and world affairs from a variety of departments, the program allows students interested in studying other cultures and societies to focus attention across traditional disciplinary boundaries. International Studies is of particular value to those with career objectives in government, law, journalism, teaching, business, trade or military service. It also serves those who will seek employment with international organizations such as the United Nations or with non-governmental agencies with an international or cross-cultural focus. For information, see the International Studies section under the College of Arts and Sciences in this *Catalog*.

### OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS (OIP)

The Office of International Programs offers academic and cultural programs to enhance the learning environment of the University community.

### OFFICE OF EDUCATION ABROAD

UNC Charlotte encourages its students to study or have an educational work experience in a foreign country as a part of their undergraduate careers. The Office of Education Abroad offers opportunities to study or work abroad for a year, a semester or a summer. Programs are available in countries virtually all over the world. A semester or year abroad need not cost much more than a semester or year at UNC Charlotte. Students may receive academic credit for all courses taken while overseas and intern or co-op credit for educational work experiences abroad. No time need be lost toward graduating on schedule. Knowledge of a foreign

language is not required to study or work abroad. UNC Charlotte has sent students in architecture, education, business, arts and sciences, engineering, education, and nursing on its education abroad programs.

Students are encouraged to begin planning for study or work abroad while they are freshmen or sophomores. The study abroad experience may take place during the sophomore, junior, or senior year. Regular UNC Charlotte financial aid is often applicable to study abroad and scholarships are available.

The Office of Education Abroad assists students in choosing and applying for the education abroad program. It also provides cross-cultural orientation and re-entry (to the United States) assistance.

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM (ISEP)

UNC Charlotte is one of approximately 200 U.S. institutions of higher education which are members of the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP). This program allows the UNC Charlotte student to exchange with students from Africa, Asia, Australia, Canada, Europe, and Latin America. The students pay their regular tuition, fees, room and board at UNC Charlotte and exchange places for the year with students from institutions outside the United States who have similarly covered their costs. The student is registered at the foreign institution, taking the same courses, having the same assignments and participating in the same activities as all other students at that institution. This program permits the student to be exposed daily to a different set of cultural values, to new ideas and new world views. ISEP exchanges are small in scale, with only a few students going to each foreign institution.

Further information about the Education Abroad or International Student Exchange programs may be obtained from the Office of Education Abroad.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING INSTITUTE (ELTI)

The English Language Training Institute (ELTI) provides intensive English as a Second Language instruction for international students planning to attend American universities or colleges in the United States. ELTI holds three sessions per year--fall, spring, and summer--and offers seven language proficiency levels. Average class size is 12 and students attend classes 20-24 hours per week. Exceptional students in Levels 6 and 7 are eligible to take University courses in addition to their English classes. ELTI also offers a communications course for international teaching assistants and consulting for international faculty at UNC Charlotte. For more information about the ELTI, contact the Program Director in the Office of International Programs.

## ROTC Programs

To prepare themselves to serve as commissioned officers in the Air Force or Army, students may participate in the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) offered by the Department of Aerospace Studies or in the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) offered by the Department of Military Science.

## Experiential Learning Programs

The majority of UNC Charlotte students are expected to and do participate in University-sanctioned experiential learning programs (over 64%). Opportunities are available for both undergraduate and graduate students to receive course credit, transcript notation, or other recognition for supervised experiences in public and private agencies within the community, nationally, and internationally. These opportunities are offered through experiential learning programs including over 424 courses involving clinicals, cooperative education, internships, 49erships, and practicums. Eligible students may also enroll in a 3000 level Psychology course: *Career Decisions and the World of Work* to help them prepare them for experiential learning. The University Career Center (UCC) is a central coordination office for most experiential learning opportunities for the campus and can provide information about the following options:

**Cooperative Education:** This career related professional program is available to students in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Information Technology, and Engineering. Participants must have a GPA of at least 2.5 and complete course requirements specified by their department. Transfer students must complete 12 hours at UNC Charlotte before applying to the program. Co-op students work two to three semesters either part-time or full-time (depending on college requirements) with an employer in a paid work experience. Although the experience does not offer academic credit, participants are classified as full-time students and receive transcript notation.

**Internships:** Internship programs provide an introduction to career options in a professionally related work experience which enables the student to apply classroom learning. This experience is usually unpaid and may offer academic credit if there is appropriate faculty supervision. Students work 8 to 12 hours a week while also taking classes.

**The 49ership Program:** The University Career Center sponsors a non-credit internship called a 49ership. Program participation is especially valuable for students who want career experience and do not have an internship option through their academic major. Students may participate in the program after their freshman year provided they have a GPA of 2.0 or better; graduate students must complete 9 credit hours in their graduate program before making application. (Transfer students must successfully complete 12 credit hours at UNC Charlotte before making application.) A minimum of 80 work hours for one semester is required to complete the program. Fall and Spring 49erships are part-time. Summer 49erships may be full- or part-time. Full-time students who are in good University standing, have completed their freshman year, and have a 2.0 minimum

cumulative GPA are eligible. It does not offer academic credit, but it is noted on the student's transcript; students pay a registration fee. Approval for enrollment must be arranged before the student begins the work experience. Participating employers have included Carolinas Medical Center, the District Attorney's Office, General Electric, Walt Disney World Co., Duke Energy, Vanguard, Transamerica, and Crisis Assistance Ministries. Seventy percent (70%) of the positions in this program are compensated.

**UNC in DC Internships through the UNC in Washington Semester Study and Intern Program.** Students have the opportunity to study, live and work with 42 other students from 14 different UNC campuses. Three students are selected through a competitive process. Students spend up to 32 hours per week in internships throughout a semester and are matched with supervisors who will integrate them into the daily operation of the organization and help them define research projects and special assignments of importance to the organization. Internships often result in tangible products such as briefings, research memos, policy analyses, and working papers, as well as other valuable career related experiences. Final sites are arranged through the director of the UNC in Washington program in coordination with the University Career Center (UCC) and the Honors College. In addition to internships, students participate in an Honors Course on the *Washington Experience*, as well as take an independent study. Contact the UCC for more information on application materials and deadlines. Students of any major who will be juniors or seniors during UNC in DC participation are eligible to apply. 12 or more credits earned. (*Summer, Fall, and Spring*).

**Internships in London through the North Carolina Partnership.** The Educational Programs Abroad office offers opportunities for students to engage in valuable internships with London organizations during an 8 week period. 35 hours a week in the summer. Ziff Davis, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, The British Museum, and Devonshire Hospital are example sites. Students earn 3 credits. Learn more through the International Programs Office or the University Career Center.

**Service Learning Opportunities through the University Career Center.** Service Learning opportunities include 49erships in non-profit and government agencies and organizations, enabling students to gain career-related and community service experience while learning about related social, civic, human service, and political issues. Students work a minimum of 80 hours per semester to complete the program. Fall and spring 49erships are part-time, and summer 49erships may be full- or part-time. Students must qualify academically, and pay a registration fee for transcript notation. Employers (as well as career advisors) assist students in working toward learning objectives and will complete an evaluation on each student at the end of each term. Students receive transcript notation, but not academic credit.

**The Career Prospector Program:** This program involves "shadowing" professionals in various career fields, many of whom are alumni, parents, and area managers. Students are able to explore career options and academic interests by conducting informational interviews and observing professionals in the career fields of their choice. The shadowing experiences can last for one day or longer, depending on the schedules of the students and sponsors.

# 158 Special Programs

Over 300 sponsors in various career fields participate in this program coordinated through the University Career Center.

## Preparation for Professional Schools

Students may begin preparation at UNC Charlotte for a number of professional careers. Depending upon the professional school's requirements, the student may wish to take a degree at UNC Charlotte or to transfer after one, two, or three years.

Preparation for the following programs is offered: chemical engineering, dentistry, forest resources, law, medical technology, medicine, optometry, pharmacy, and veterinary medicine.

The student who plans to enter a professional school is advised to plan his/her program so that general requirements for the bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree are met in addition to the requirements for the professional program being considered. The student planning to attend a professional school should inform his/her advisor of his/her plans. The student should become familiar with the requirements of the school that he/she plans to attend. **That school, not UNC Charlotte, will determine which UNC Charlotte credits will be accepted for transfer.**

Graduate and professional school entrance requires an extensive commitment and focused career choice. Certain careers required an advanced degree, and the University Career Center (UCC) can help students identify what kind of graduate study will best preparation for the specific career of interest. The UCC offers a workshop entitled "Graduate & Professional School Searches and Your Career," along with resources on careers in many areas of study. In addition, the career resource collection in the office contains information on preparing for the professional exams, backgrounds on the schools offering programs, and in-depth career information. The UCC also hosts a Career Expo + fair which includes several graduate and professional school representatives seeking to attract UNC Charlotte students. Lastly, the UCC maintains lists of what graduate and professional schools past graduates have been admitted to or attended.

It is important to note that there are more application requirements for professional/graduate schools than for undergraduate schools. Application is often an extensive and in-depth process. The UCC can help you plan the applications and career development processes, which includes prior exploration of medicine, law, and various careers requiring advanced degrees through job shadowing, self assessment, career research, and internships.

The Office of Continuing Education currently offers fee-based programs that help students prepare to take the GRE and GMAT exams. Under consideration for the future is a program to help prepare students for the LSAT.

**Chemical Engineering.** Students seeking a program in chemical engineering should consult the Department of Chemistry for advice concerning available options. However, those students desiring to obtain the Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering degree may do so by

transferring to North Carolina State University after spending two years at UNC Charlotte. To be eligible for such transfer, the student must meet the admissions requirements for transfer at North Carolina State University. After transfer, an additional two years normally will be required for the degree.

**Dentistry and Medicine.** The composite requirements for entrance to most medical and dental schools in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Virginia are as follows:

Biology.....	8 hours
General Chemistry .....	8 hours
Organic Chemistry .....	8 hours
<i>(Some schools require additional chemistry courses or may not require organic chemistry lab)</i>	
Physics .....	8 hours
English .....	6 hours

Students should check with their school(s) of interest for specific requirements.

*Please note that these are the published minimum requirements to apply. Most students will need additional coursework and other activities to be competitive for admission. It is essential that students intending to apply to medical or dental schools consult a premed/predent advisor very early in their programs.*

**Pre-Medical, Pre-professional Committee.** The UNC Charlotte Pre-professional Committee consists of faculty members from throughout the University and serves as the main advisory and recommending body for UNC Charlotte students seeking entrance to health professional careers. In order to obtain a recommendation to medical school or dental school from the committee, the student must pick up a recommendation packet from the Biology office during Spring of the year in which applications are being made.

Students working toward entrance to health professional schools are advised to work closely with the Premedical Advisors in the Biology and Chemistry Departments throughout their study at UNC Charlotte.

**Allied Health Club.** Students interested in health-related careers are encouraged to join the Allied Health Club. The organization sponsors speakers, volunteer opportunities in local hospitals, and trips to see admissions officers and teaching programs in schools throughout the region.

**American Medical Students Association.** Students may also join AMSA for additional contact with premedical peers. AMSA and Allied Health Clubs commonly coordinate on speakers and information about requirements, activities, and admission to medical school.

**Law.** The University suggests that the student planning to enter law school consider courses in such areas as accounting, business administration, business law, communications, criminal justice, debating, drama, economics, English literature and composition, finance, history, logic and ethics, mathematics, modern languages, philosophy, political science, psychology, sociology, and statistics. Preparation should include comprehension of and expression in words, the development of a critical understanding of human institutions and values, the

generation of a creative power in thinking, and a working knowledge of the use of the computer in modern society. Thus, any of a number of majors, with wisely selected electives, might provide the broad educational background needed.

Students planning to enter law school should contact the Department of Political Science for advising.

*Pre-Law Society.* The UNC Charlotte Pre-Law Society is a student pre-law organization. The Society carries on a large number of activities designed to help its members decide whether they wish to attend law school: providing sessions with pre-law advisors and attorneys; taking field trips to pre-law conferences, law schools, law offices and courts; having a guest speaker program on legal and judicial topics; and working on preparations for the LSAT. Membership in the Society is open to all UNC Charlotte students, regardless of major or year at the University. For more information, contact the Department of Political Science.

**Medical Technology.** The University, through affiliation with several schools of medical technology, offers programs leading to baccalaureate degrees in biology and chemistry, with training in medical technology.

Students interested in this four-year program should contact the Departments of Biology and Chemistry for advising.

**Optometry.** There are no schools of optometry in North Carolina. Each year, however, the State of North Carolina contracts 24 spaces in out-of-state schools of optometry and partially subsidizes the tuition costs for the students that it selects to attend these schools. Information on these contract programs in Optometry may be obtained from University of North Carolina General Administration.

Students interested in pre-optometry preparation should contact the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics for advising.

**Pharmacy.** Students planning to seek a Pharmacy degree will spend at least two to three years at UNC Charlotte taking prerequisite courses, although most successful applicants have completed a baccalaureate degree. Students interested in pre-pharmacy preparation should contact the Department of Biology for advising and visit the pre-pharmacy advising web site at [www.bioweb.uncc.edu/GENINFO/Prepharmacy](http://www.bioweb.uncc.edu/GENINFO/Prepharmacy) for valuable information about general pre-requisite courses and links to different Pharmacy programs and their specific requirements.

*Pre-Pharmacy Club.* The UNC Charlotte Pre-Pharmacy Club is a student organization of undergraduates and post-baccalaureate students interested in attending pharmacy school. The club carries on a number of different activities to educate their members about the field of pharmacy and steps needed to gain admission to pharmacy schools. They also perform a variety of volunteer duties, visit pharmacy schools and bring in representatives of various pharmacy schools in North Carolina to speak to their members. The club is open to all UNC Charlotte students, regardless of major or year at the University. Information on this organization can be

found at the club's website at [www.sco.uncc.edu/prepharmacy](http://www.sco.uncc.edu/prepharmacy).

**Veterinary Medicine.** Students should consult with a Pre-Vet Advisor in the Biology or Chemistry Department to determine which courses to take and which courses must be completed by the end of the fall semester in which a student applies for admission to a School of Veterinary Medicine. Students should also consult the school to which they plan to apply for details on courses and extracurricular activities that are required.