

## UNC Tomorrow – UNCW Extension Program

### 1. Existing programs, curricula, etc. that respond to specific needs of the region or state and how they are organized and delivered.

#### a. What programs and curricula do you have that respond to specific needs?

University of North Carolina Wilmington offers extension courses in several counties in North Carolina, including Onslow County. The Onslow County Extension Program began in 1995 with courses in elementary education. The program has expanded and now offers four baccalaureate degrees, two graduate degrees, and teacher licensure programs:

- B.A. Criminal Justice
- B. A. Elementary Education
- B. S. Clinical Research
- B.S. Nursing (for RNs only)
- M.A. Liberal Studies
- M.Ed. Elementary Education
- Teacher Licensure

UNCW offers the same degrees on the military installation at MCB Camp Lejeune as we do at Coastal Carolina Community College due to the proximity of the three locations. Coastal, Camp Lejeune, and New River are all within 15-20 minutes of one another. Some of our classes are held at Coastal Carolina Community College and others are held at Camp Lejeune, depending on classroom availability, population of students, and degree. For example, graduate and criminal justice classes are typically held at Camp Lejeune.

#### b. How are those programs and curricula delivered?

The courses for these programs are delivered face-to-face, online, blended, and interactive video. This combination appears to work quite well since students here like the opportunity for face-to-face contact with the instructors combined with the convenience of offering these courses at a time that best fits their busy schedules. While the majority of our students are military member dependents, we do have many active duty, retired military, government employees, and civilians in our programs.

Format for all programs is traditional semesters: 16-week fall/spring, and two 5-week summer sessions.

### 2. How your unit identifies the current and future needs of the region or state?

A needs assessment by the Extension Program was conducted during the 2006-2007 academic year. Information for the report was obtained from a variety of sources

including discussions with Onslow County and US Marine Corps representatives, academic deans, extension program representatives, current students, and prospective students. From these discussions an assessment of the needs in the county, including Camp Lejeune and New River Air Station, were obtained. In addition, an assessment of the level and degree of the demand for certain academic programs among students and prospective students was conducted. In addition, it was also clear from this review that UNCW is viewed as the primary resource for addressing these needs.

The reports identified the following areas that need support:

**Teachers.** The Superintendent of the Onslow County Schools has indicated that the school system hires approximately 400-450 new teachers every year. The greatest teacher need is in the areas of middle school math/science and special needs; however there is still a need to produce elementary education teachers. Data from inquiries by students regarding our degree programs reveal that 227 students expressed an interest in one or more of our undergraduate degree or licensure programs.

**Clinical/Counseling.** Camp Lejeune Deputy Director of Family Services has indicated that there is a critical need for Substance Abuse counselors and/or clinical social workers aboard Camp Lejeune and New River. Currently, the case load of the clinical social workers in the Counseling division at Camp Lejeune is twice that of a normal case load (70 cases/social worker versus 35). Moreover, 20,000 troops stationed at Camp Lejeune and New River will be returning from fighting the war on terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan and many will need additional Counseling and Family Team Building services. Preliminary discussions with social work and psychology were begun concerning establishing masters and/or bachelor's level programs in Onslow and Camp Lejeune that focus on military issues (substance abuse counseling; domestic violence/stress prevention and reduction). Plans are being reviewed to initiate a BSW in Onslow during Fall 2008.

One final point, there are 43,000 military personnel at Camp Lejeune and most (65%) are married and many with dependents. The potential for growth in this area is substantial. A recent inventory of students interested in establishing a Master's degree in Psychology degree at Camp Lejeune reveals that 50 students, if qualified, would enroll in such a graduate program. These are all students who hold an undergraduate degree in psychology.

**Social Workers.** Onslow County Department of Social Services has indicated a need for case workers. The degree that is most recommended is a Bachelor of Social Work degree. As indicated in the previous section, plans are in place to offer a BSW beginning in Fall 2008. Moreover, if a BSW is initiated, it would serve as a feeder system for the MA in Psychology or the MSW degree.

**Nursing.** UNCW needs to continue to support the growth of both the RN-Access program (RN-BSN), since there is a critical shortage of nurses in Onslow County. Moreover, there is a large number of medical corpsmen who have expressed an interested

in pursuing a career in nursing. Our data show that 72 students have expressed an interest in a nursing degree. Discussions have begun with the Naval Hospital staff toward establishing a pre-licensure nursing program and a B. S. in Clinical Research program.

**Criminal Justice.** Many of the 45,000 Marines and Sailors aboard Camp Lejeune/New River are interested in pursuing a career in criminal justice once they separate from the military. We have already experienced a significant increase in interest since the program was reinstated in Fall 2005. A recent survey of prospective students visiting CCCC, Camp Lejeune, and MCAS New River revealed that 147 of the 646 students (23%) expressed interest in a B.A. degree in criminal justice.

**MALS/MEd.** The Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program and the Master of Education in Elementary Education program are increasingly popular and are meeting the needs of both Onslow County teachers and Coastal Carolina Community College (by hiring adjunct instructors). The Onslow County and Department of Defense School systems are meeting their goal of increasing the number of teachers who have earned their Master's degree.

**Online Programs.** The RN-Access program and the B. S. in Clinical Research are the only fully online undergraduate programs at UNCW. The RN-Assess option allows the working RN prepared at the associate degree or diploma level to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree with a Concentration in Professional Nursing in an online format.

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry has developed an online master's program in chemistry earmarked for employed professionals. This program evolved from their agreement with AaiPharma and now includes Wyeth and PPD. They hope to expand the program and make it available to other industries in the region. They projected the program would generate 30 student credit hours during the first semester and increase to 111 student credit hours during the 2006-2007 academic year. By 2008-2009 they expect to generate 197 student credit hours through this program.

### **3. How and to what degree are identified needs prioritized within your academic and program planning processes?**

To address program expansion we have added one SPA position, a dedicated lecturer in criminal justice, and a criminal justice advisor/coordinator. In addition, a dedicated budget to the Extension program under the direction of the program director has been requested.

Academic program planning includes the following areas of program development and expansion:

- Expansion of our pre-licensure nursing in collaboration with the Naval Hospital, Onslow hospital, and Coastal Carolina Community College is the highest priority.

- Expansion of our B. S. in Clinical Research in collaboration with the Naval Hospital at Camp Lejeune, Onslow hospital, and Coastal Carolina Community College also the highest priority.
- Continued growth in our criminal justice program which has shown a significant increase in enrollments over the last two years is next in priority.
- Expansion of field placements by the BSW, MSW, and M. A. in clinical psychology programs next in priority to nursing and CLR expansion.
- Discussions with the UNCW Department of Social Work and the social work program at Coastal Carolina Community College have focused on the establishment of a BSW in Onslow beginning Fall 2008; next in priority to nursing and CLR expansion.
- Preliminary discussions have occurred with the UNCW Department of Psychology to establish a M. A. in Clinical Psychology in Onslow. Projected implementation is the 2009-2010 AY.

#### **4. How these needs are reflected in your planning process?**

Expansion budget requests include funding to provide support for additional office staffing and additional course delivery as we experience program growth. We also regularly monitor enrollment patterns and assess student demand and needs. Frequent and regular contact with external stakeholders (see next section) provides information to assist in our planning.

#### **5. How you define and communicate with external stakeholders?**

The University of North Carolina Wilmington Extension Education Program is a model program that has established a strong, seamless, and collaborative relationship with Coastal Carolina Community College, the county public school system, and nearby military installations. Examples of this relationship are outlined in the following sections.

**UNCW/Coastal Carolina Community College Collaboration.** The University of North Carolina Wilmington has enjoyed a strong collaborative relationship with Coastal Carolina since 1995. The 2 + 2 program with Coastal Carolina Community College provides a seamless transition for community college students who pursue a baccalaureate degree in elementary education, criminal justice, nursing, and clinical research. A full-time, on-site Admissions counselor/academic advisor makes admissions decisions for the university and on-site advisors meet with students regularly, giving personal attention to each student. Communication between UNCW and CCCC counselors is facilitated through regular meetings. All UNCW classes are held at either CCCC or aboard MCB Camp Lejeune. Additionally, two Masters programs are offered

to local residents, and several Coastal Carolina employees are currently enrolled: Master of Education in Elementary Education and Master of Arts in Liberal Studies. Additional programs are being explored due to needs assessments that have been conducted with military and community personnel.

Examples of how UNCW and CCCC are **seamlessly integrated**:

- UNCW admissions counselor regularly attends CCCC counselor meetings.
- UNCW on-site advisors have regular communication with CCCC division chairs regarding course issues (e.g., course number changes, NCCC common course library course additions/deletions/changes, making room for extra students in classes); moreover, CCCC division chairs will
- UNCW regularly uses CCCC's North Carolina Information Highway (NCIH) videoconferencing classroom at a reduced rate and UNCW has updated the technology in this NCIH classroom by providing large screen LCD TVs
- UNCW shares its computer lab at the John A. Lejeune Education Center (Camp Lejeune) with CCCC students and faculty (60% of lab users are CCCC students)
- CCCC allocated an entire hallway in their Administration building for UNCW offices, enabling UNCW Extension Director/staff to have frequent contact/communication with CCCC administrators; an open-door policy exists
- UNCW's physical presence on CCCC's campus enables both institutions to maintain secure student records yet expedite the student's transition from CCCC to UNCW by allowing access to shared records for admission and advising (i.e., official transcripts are sent directly, via intra-campus mail, to the on-site UNCW admissions counselor within one working day)
- CCCC admissions counselor (UNCW-designee) and director of admissions attends UNCW transfer orientation three times/year
- CCCC accommodates UNCW's classroom needs by allocated space each semester
- CCCC grants us permission to use conference rooms as needed for monthly staff meetings, MALS final project defenses, etc.
- The Small Business & Technology Development Center (SBTDC) at UNCW has joined forces with CCCC's Small Business Center to provide services to Onslow County residents who are interested in starting their own business.

**UNCW/MCB Camp Lejeune Collaboration.** UNCW and MCB Camp Lejeune have worked collaboratively in an effort to provide the best learning experience for students in the Extension program. UNCW has a MOU with MCB Camp Lejeune to provide the following on-site academic degree/certificate programs: B. A. Elementary Education; Licensure in Education; B S. in Economics; B. A., Criminal Justice; B. S. in Nursing (through the RN- Access Program); M. Ed. in Elementary Education; and M.A. in Liberal Studies. Other programs in collaboration with MCB Camp Lejeune include:

- **Camp Special Time.** This is a free weekend program for children with special needs from military families at MCB Camp Lejeune. The children experience a fun and loving day and one-half away from home while their parents receive a

much needed respite from continuous care. The camp gives children a rare chance to experience a camp that is individually adapted to their needs and strengths. U.S. Marine volunteers, government employees, pediatric nurses from New Hanover Regional Medical Center, and faculty and students from UNCW's School of Nursing and Cape Fear Community College provide care for the children while gaining valuable hands-on experience.

- **Sturgeon City, Jacksonville.** The old Wastewater Treatment Plant on Wilson Bay has been converted into a research facility that provides a place where science can contribute to the effort to return sturgeon to the Bay and allow researchers to work with other species beneficial to the area. In addition, a Burroughs Welcome Fund grant has allowed the Sturgeon City project to create the Sturgeon City Science Series. The first project was the Sturgeon City Science Institute which targets eighth graduates with special interest in science.
- **Coastal Ocean Research and Monitoring Program (CORMP).** Researchers at the Center for Marine Science at UNCW with support from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are actively working with officials at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune on a series of environmental issues that includes research and monitoring of the coastal ocean area in the region. A focus of this project is the Marine Science/CORMP buoy project.
- **New River Foundation/New River Roundtable.** The New River Roundtable brings together members of the military, City of Jacksonville, Onslow County and UNCW to discuss issues pertaining to the New River and its impact on all parties. This monthly meeting, held in downtown Jacksonville, receives support/involvement from the Center for Marine Science (Dr. Jim Merritt, Associate Director for Research; Dr. Mike Mallin, Research Professor; Dr. Troy Alphin, Research Associate) and CORMP.
- **DOD School and Education Interns.** UNCW's Watson School of Education has several students in their elementary education program conducting their student internship and field experiences in DOD schools. UNCW's Watson School of Education enjoys a strong, positive relationship with the base DOD school system. Our students receive extraordinary educational experiences while in DOD schools and actively pursue employment in both county and DOD schools upon graduation. Moreover, the prior Community Superintendent of DOD schools, Mr. Bob Brinton, and now the current Superintendent, Ms. Elizabeth Thomas, frequently requests in-service training for DOD teachers and WSE faculty are very willing to travel to Onslow to meet those needs.
- **UNCW Collaboration with USMC/USN after Recent Deployment.** The UNCW Extension program computer lab, located at Camp Lejeune, was used by the Navy and Marine Corps for medical assessments upon return from deployment from Iraq and Afghanistan (March 2006; July 2006). Assessments were conducted over a one-week period, during which Sailors/Marines underwent

medical evaluation by authorized personnel who used specialized computer programs; 145 active-duty military members were processed during the July 2006 assessment.

- **Negotiation Skills Training for Military Personnel.** Captain Ted Bucierka, U. S. Marine Corps and The Foreign Military Training Unit has expressed the need for training in negotiation skills for his unit. The primary mission of this unit is foreign advisory as well as training foreign military forces and police units. Effective negotiation skills are critical to the success of this unit. Dr. David Glew, Assistant Professor of Management, Cameron School of Business, has agreed to explore providing a training session through the UNCW continuing studies program.

#### **Other relevant information:**

UNCW is a member of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (<http://www.soc.aascu.org>). SOC was created in 1972 to provide educational opportunities to service members, who, because they frequently moved from place to place, had trouble completing college degrees. Today SOC is a consortium of [more than 1800 colleges and universities](#) that provide educational opportunities for service members and their families. SOC is cosponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities ([AASCU](#)) and the American Association of Community Colleges ([AACC](#)), in cooperation with 13 other educational associations, the Military Services, the National Guard, and the Coast Guard. SOC is funded by the Department of Defense (DOD) through a contract with AASCU. The contract is managed for DOD by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support ([DANTES](#)). Military students can take courses in their off-duty hours at or near military installations in the United States, overseas, and on Navy ships.

As a SOC member, Onslow Extension staff members complete SOCMAR and/or SOCNAV contracts and/or degree plans for all active duty students as well as retirees and dependents. Advisors update the SOC contracts each semester during individual advising sessions to keep military students on track to degree completion.

Additionally, all Marine and Navy active duty service members can access their "Sailor/Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript" (SMART) which lists all military and college courses taken along with ACE (American Council on Education) Credit Recommendations. The UNCW Registrar's office recognizes and evaluates SMART transcripts and work closely with advisors to recommend course substitutions/waivers to university department chairpersons.

#### **6. How you assess, measure, and communicate the impact of your unit on the region and the state.**

The UNCW Onslow Extension Program is absolutely critical to our region. Through informal interviews with current students, it was determined that the majority of our students would not be able to pursue their degree without our Onslow Extension program. These students do not have the means or ability to drive 60 miles to the main campus in order to pursue their degree. In fact, some of these students are pursuing degrees that are not their degree of choice because their desired program is not available here in Onslow County. UNCW is the only public four-year institution in our region and the only state public institution located aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River, the home of 43,000 Marines, Sailors, and Coast Guardsmen who are potential students.

We assess the impact of our Onslow Extension Program in a variety of ways, including tracking enrollment numbers, conducting graduate exit surveys, and tracking employment of recent graduates in Onslow County (especially elementary education graduates). The Onslow Extension Program continues to increase enrollment numbers, as indicated below. Moreover, our graduates are not only satisfied with their education and the interactions with our Extension Program staff, but all graduates of the elementary education program who desire to teach in Onslow County are hired by the Onslow County School system.

Due to our presence aboard the military installations, our Onslow Extension Program receives not only regional, but worldwide recognition through the Department of Defense and the United States Marine Corps. Moreover, our program is highlighted in the Military Education portal of the newly unveiled University of North Carolina Online Website (<http://online.northcarolina.edu/military> ). The services that our Onslow Extension Program provide the members of our local community are invaluable.

**7. Also, any growth/expansion information concerning the EXT program.  
Enrollments in Onslow Extension Programs:**

Our most popular programs are Elementary Education with 160 students and our Teacher Licensure program with 76 students (Spring 2007 figures). Our education programs, graduate and undergraduate, have also shown significant growth with an increase of 35 percent (189 to 254) from Fall 2004 to Spring 2007. The fastest growing programs are the Graduate in Liberal Studies which grew from 7 in Fall 2004 to 16 students in Spring 2007 and the undergraduate program in criminal justice which increased from 1 student in Summer 2005 to 40 students in Spring 2007. For Fall 2007 we project that the GLS program will have 25 students and the criminal justice program more than 45 students enrolled as majors.

<b>UNCW Extension Programs (2006):</b>	<b>Headcount (Enrollment)</b>	<b>SCHRS</b>
B. A. Elementary Education:	1126	3698
B. A. in Criminal Justice:	113	339

B. S. in Nursing (RN-BS Option):	23	66
Master of Education in Elementary Education:	136	347
M. A. in Liberal Studies:	94	282
Total	1492	4732
Other (support courses: PSY, PLS HST, etc.)	542	1488
TOTAL	2034	6220

Number of actively enrolled students (majors) in each program (Spring 2007):

B. A. Elementary Education:	160
M.ED Elementary Education:	18
Teacher Licensure:	76
Subtotal Education:	<b>254</b>
B. A. Criminal Justice:	40
M. A. Liberal Studies	16
B. S. Nursing	15
TOTAL	<b>325</b>

Enrollment trends and other enrollment data:

- Enrollments in Extension courses have increased from 1,522 in 2003 to 1,884 in 2005 (24%) and to 2,034 in 2006 (33.6%).
- Student credit hour production in Extension courses increased from 4,771 in 2003 to 5,667 in 2005 and to 6,220 in 2006 (30%).
- Slightly more than a third of students enrolled in Extension courses are non-traditional (25+) and 73% are female; 91% are in-state; 47% from New Hanover, Onslow, Brunswick, and Pender counties (Fall 2005 figures).
- These figures do not include on-campus online and technology-enhanced courses

- The number of online sections (does not include Extended online sections) has increased from 34 in 2003 to 124 in 2005 to 173 in 2007 (+158%).
- The total number of Extension and Online courses combined has increased from 117 in 2003 to 229 in 2005 (96%).
- In the next two to five years, the arrival of 3,000-5,000 new military personnel and an estimated 3,000 additional dependents (including 1,000 school age children) aboard Camp Lejeune/New River will increase the demand for educational programs in Onslow County.