Frequently Asked Questions: International Applicants

1. What classifies an international student?

The Office of Admissions at UNCW defines an international applicant as an individual who is not a U.S. citizen or a U.S. permanent resident (Green Card holder). If you are an international student with dual U.S. citizenship, you may apply as a U.S. citizen by providing a copy of your passport.

2. Will I qualify for any scholarships?

UNCW offers an SAT/ACT International Student Scholarship with the following terms: Students that submit an SAT score of 1300 or higher on the Evidence Based Reading & Writing and Math sections of the new SAT or an ACT score of 30 or higher may be eligible for $5,000 per year. Amount: $5,000 per academic year, up to $20,000 USD.

3. Do I have to declare a major when I apply?

No, you are not required to declare a major when you apply. According to University College department the minimum requirement to declare most majors at UNCW is to have earned and passed 24 semester hours with at least a 2.0 GPA. Some majors have additional admissions requirements, such as prerequisite courses and departmental applications. Consult your catalogue and your academic advisor. In general, most students declare a major at the end of their freshman year or at the beginning of their sophomore year.

4. What if I have not taken the TOEFL, IELTS or Duolingo English Test?

We will waive the English Proficiency requirements under the following conditions:

- SAT Critical Reading sub-section score of 490 or higher (first-year students only). *Scores must be sent directly from the testing agency. UNCW’s school code is 5907.
- ACT Reading sub-section score of 20 or higher (first-year students only). Scores must be sent directly from the testing agency. UNCW’s school code is 5907.
- A student successfully completes Level 4 in UNCW’s ESL program. Level 4 participants must maintain a 3.0 GPA and have an attendance rate above 85% while in the ESL program.
- Completion of two college-level courses in English composition at a U.S. college or university with a grade of B or higher (transfer students only).
- A student has received their secondary education at an institution where the primary language of instruction is English.

For those needing to strengthen proficiency, UNCW offers an English as a Second Language (ESL) program.

5. Do you require an interview?

No. UNCW does not require an interview as a part of the application process.

6. Do you recognize A-levels or IB credit?

To find out more about UNCW’s policies for A-levels and IB credit please follow these links:
7. Can I apply for the January entry term?

Yes. UNCW recognizes that international schools operate on different academic schedules. If you are applying as a First-Year Freshman, you must meet the graduation requirements of your school before you begin classes at the University.

8. How do I submit my transcript/academic records?

Transcripts from schools outside the U.S. must be original or certified true copies, with original signatures on all transcripts and English translations. A certified true copy is one that bears an original signature of the registrar or other designated school official, an original impression of the institution's seal, or signature/seal of the examining board.

Foreign transcripts may be sent directly from a certified translation service or from the secondary school. Any transcripts delivered by the applicant will not be considered official unless they are sealed. Records should list subjects studied each year and the mark or grade or proficiency earned in each.

9. What is my school has closed – how do I provide you with transcripts/academic records?

We recommend that you contact the Ministry of Education of the country of origin of the institution you attended.

10. Can I work while I am a student at UNCW?

Yes. International students are eligible to work up to 20 hours on campus. Please review the following for more details and information: [http://uncw.edu/international/isss/documents/F-1EmploymentAuthorization.pdf](http://uncw.edu/international/isss/documents/F-1EmploymentAuthorization.pdf)