

**STUDENTS IN TRANSITION PROGRAM  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON**

The Students in Transition (SiT) Program provides academic advising, programs, and courses that support:

- new transfer students working towards major prerequisites
- current students changing majors
- exploratory students
- transfer and military students as they transition into UNCW

Advisors support and guide these students through their major exploration process to help students make informed academic and professional decisions, to understand academic policies and requirements, and to facilitate goal clarification and goal setting.

Rationale for Program:

- To provide structured, proactive, and dedicated support to transfer students during their transition to UNCW and to all students into appropriate majors
- To provide dedicated staff for advising these students – 2 full-time professional advisors
- Significant increase in transfer and military students and students not matriculating to majors
- Increase in major requirements and “gateways” into majors
- To address specific needs and characteristics of these student populations
- To provide structured opportunities for majors and career exploration, self-reflection and goal setting, and academic research and planning
- To advocate for these populations and create student-friendly policies

Collaborations:

Career Center

- Career Counselor dedicated to advising students and liaison to University College
- Consultation process
- Partner with UNI 201 presentations and various workshops

Admissions

- Screen applicants for UC-T major codes and admit students as such
- Evaluate program criteria annually

Other Partnerships: Office of the Registrar, Transition Programs, Library, University Learning Center

Impact:

As a result of the SiT Program, students have:

- Declared appropriate majors and gained entrance into intended majors or more appropriate majors
- Formed relationships with faculty, staff, and students
- Evaluated, revised, and created academic and career plans
- Utilized campus resources that enable their success
- Become more “confident,” “comfortable,” and “knowledgeable”

Since 2009:

- 646 students assigned to UC-T major code
- 65% declared appropriate majors and gained entrance into intended majors
- 409 enrolled in UNI 201
- 120 through consultation process
- Hundreds attended workshops and other programs

## Advising

### UC-T Major Codes

The Office of Admissions pre-screens and assigns transfer students who may need additional transitional advising before progressing into a major to University College. Students work within University College for a semester or two until they are able to progress into their chosen major or pursue a more suitable one.

Incoming Transfer Students Assigned to University College:

- All Athletic Training majors
- Active duty military and veterans with little or no traditional college credit
- First-year transfers who have not completed or registered to complete at least 24 semester hours of credit, English Composition I and II, and the appropriate math for their major.
- Business majors who have not completed or registered to complete the equivalent to UNCW MAT 111 or 115 with a C or better
- Psychology majors with less than 45 credit hours who have not completed or registered to complete the equivalent to UNCW MAT 111 or 115 and BIO 105 or 201 with a C or better
- Biology/Marine Biology majors with less than 45 credit hours who have not completed or registered to complete the equivalent to UNCW MAT 111 or 115 and BIO 201 or 202 with a C or better
- Exercise Science majors with less than 45 credit hours who have not completed or registered to complete the equivalent to UNCW MAT 111 or higher, BIO 201, and CHM 101 with a C or better

There are now 6 different major codes for these incoming transfers:

1. 1UCB- Students desiring a major within the School of Business
2. 1UCC- Students desiring a major within the College of Arts and Sciences
3. 1UCE- Students desiring a major within the School of Education
4. 1UCH- Students desiring a major within the College of Health and Human Services
5. 1UCN- Students desiring a major within the School of Nursing

### Consultation Process

Current UNCW students who are in an academic department and need assistance changing their major may receive transitional advising and assistance through a consultation process within University College. Students must meet with a career counselor in the Career Center prior to scheduling a consultation. Students are required to come prepared for their consultation.

Common reasons students seek an advising consultation:

- Academic challenges (did poorly in major specific courses, not accepted into chosen major)
- Life changes (financial, employment, health, and family)
- Lost interest in major (often they did not fully explore the major before declaration)
- Unexpected time-to-degree (often want to explore majors that would be faster to complete)

End results of consultations:

- Student changes major and transitions to the new department
- Student needs more intensive transitional support and changes major to University College Transition (1UCT) and works with a University College advisor until ready to transition to new major

## Courses

### UNI 201: Transfer Seminar

Open to transfer students during first semester at UNCW.

- SLOs specific to needs to transfer students and student success – academic strategies, career/major exploration, campus resources, involvement, financial literacy
- Taught by academic advisors and staff who primarily work with transfer students
- 25 seat sections, available only to first-semester transfer students
- Transfer Portfolio Assignment
- Common assignments and presentations
- Common textbook
- Peer Mentors
- 3-credit hour course that meets Writing Intensive and Information Literacy graduation requirements
- Instructor resources and support provided

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of and participate in the powerful learning experience of higher education at UNCW.
2. Students will evaluate their transition into, anticipate their path through, and plan for their career after UNCW.
3. Students will understand and illustrate information literacy.
4. Students will strengthen writing skills by creating a research and reflection-based Transfer Portfolio which includes an incremental draft process
5. Students will demonstrate self-knowledge and appreciate the value of human differences.
6. Students will demonstrate and understand dimensions of health and wealth.

Common Components / Assignments:

1. Transfer Portfolio
  - a. Transitions
  - b. Major Research (includes faculty interview and use of writing center)
  - c. Academic Plan
  - d. Career Plan (includes resume and cover letter)
2. Common Assignments
  - a. Journals
  - b. Events and reflections
  - c. Library Research Assignment
3. Common Presentations
  - a. W-Curve and Adult Transition Theory Career Center
  - b. Library (Information Literacy)
  - c. Office of the Dean of Students (Code of Conduct)
  - d. Writing Center (Writing Intensive)
  - e. Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI)
  - f. Academic Advising/Planning

Fall 2013 end of course survey (n=70) results:

- 92.86% indicated that the portfolio improved their ability to effectively research majors and careers
- 91.55% reported increase confidence about communicating with and building relationships with faculty and staff
- 84.06% reported having a smoother transition to UNCW because they took the course
- 85.71% were glad they took the course

## Programs

Numerous workshops support the transfer and military experience and transition into majors. Open to all students. Each program is developed by University College in collaboration with multiple offices across campus: the Career Center, Office of the Registrar, Office of Scholarship and Financial Aid, Office of Admissions, and Campus Activities and Involvement Center.

- Major Confusion - designed to reach students who have already declared their major but want or need to change it. The program covers the process of changing majors, how it could affect timelines for graduation, and the academic policies students should understand prior to making the change. This program is presented with partners from the Registrar's Office and the Career Center.
- Major Decision - developed for first-year and upper-class students who were undecided about a major. This joint program with the Career Center debunks the myths of declaring a major and discusses the major exploration process and available resources.
- Sophomore Series - targeted at sophomore students who may not have the structured support of first-year programs and who are still deciding on a major. The 3-part workshop series focuses on career and educational planning -completing assessments, reviewing possible careers, creating an academic plan, and exploring the value of involvement.
- Does a Minor Matter? - addresses the many questions/myths about academic minors, curriculum requirements, and how minors can complement majors at UNCW.
- Mission Not Impossible - a military-specific program co-sponsored with the Career Center that focuses on how military skills can be related to academic, co-curricular, and career planning.
- Majors/Minors Fair - The fair is an opportunity for students to learn about majors and minors, talk to faculty and students, and learn about how to choose an appropriate major. Most all of the 50 majors offered at UNCW are represented by faculty and students. Break-out sessions are provided throughout the event on major/career exploration overall and related resources. Over 800 students attended the fair in 2013.
- Military Student Study Sessions – opportunities for military students to study together during finals week in a quiet space (as no space is designated for them on campus). Snacks are provided, sponsored by various campus departments.
- Ask an Advisor – UC Students in Transition Advisors make themselves available for brief advising questions throughout the semester in highly populated areas, such as the library