



UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN COLORADO

New Student Orientation
and Transition Programs

SCHEDULE AND WORKBOOK

This guide belongs to:

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CONTACT US:



orientation@unco.edu |



unco.edu/orientation

BEGIN HERE



WELCOME TO UNC

A message from Keith Humphrey, Vice President for Student Affairs

Welcome to the University of Northern Colorado!

College is all about choices and you made a great one in choosing UNC! New Student Orientation will help you find your people, make connections and begin your journey to graduation.

Success at UNC requires you to be an active member of our community – in classes, with advisors and in clubs and organizations. My team and I will be with you every step of the way. Support at UNC is everywhere and New Student Orientation will help you learn key resources. You don't need to learn everything today. You only need to know that everyone is here to support you.



USE TODAY. KEEP FOR LATER.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

USE DURING ORIENTATION

Follow the schedule, track your assigned sessions, think about questions and save the names of people you meet.



USE DURING YOUR FIRST SEMESTER

Print before move-in, return to the checklists, resource information, key dates and emergency information when you need a next step.





VIRTUAL NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION SCHEDULE

**11:00 AM -
11:10 AM**
*Mountain
Daylight
Time (MDT)*

WELCOME TO UNC!

Kick off your virtual NSO experience with a warm welcome from the Orientation Team. We'll preview the day and set the stage for your journey as a new Bear.

**11:10 AM -
11:40 AM**
MDT

JOINING THE COMMUNITY OF BEARS

Connect with other new students through guided activities and conversation about belonging, transition and support at UNC. You'll reflect on your first semester goals and set an intention for the community you want to build as a Bear.

**11:40 AM -
12:20 PM**
MDT

BEARS LOOK OUT FOR BEARS

Learn how UNC students support one another and contribute to a safe, respectful campus community. This session introduces key expectations, resources and the role you play in looking out for your fellow Bears.

**12:25 PM -
12:50 PM**
MDT

ROTATING SESSIONS: BLOCK 1

Choose 1 session to attend during each block



MIDDAY Q&A: ASK AN ORIENTATION ASSISTANT

Get a student perspective on life at UNC. Ask questions about classes, campus resources, getting involved and what to expect during your first semester.



CAREER STARTS HERE

Learn how to begin building your future now. Explore how Career Readiness supports you in discovering interests, gaining experience and preparing for what's next.



UNDERSTANDING YOUR BILL AND FINANCIAL AID

Get a clear overview of billing, financial aid and important next steps so you can confidently manage your student account.



LIVING ON CAMPUS

Learn what it's like to live at UNC, including housing expectations, community building and the resources available to support your residential experience.

**12:50 PM -
1:15 PM**
MDT

ROTATING SESSIONS: BLOCK 2

Choose 1 session to attend during each block



MIDDAY Q&A: ASK AN ORIENTATION ASSISTANT



CAREER STARTS HERE



UNDERSTANDING YOUR BILL AND FINANCIAL AID



LIVING ON CAMPUS

**1:15 PM -
1:40 PM**
MDT

ROTATING SESSIONS: BLOCK 3

Choose 1 session to attend during each block



MIDDAY Q&A: ASK AN ORIENTATION ASSISTANT



CAREER STARTS HERE



UNDERSTANDING YOUR BILL AND FINANCIAL AID



LIVING ON CAMPUS

1:40 PM –
1:55 PM
MDT

ACADEMIC READINESS

Get a clearer picture of what it means to be a student at UNC. Explore academic expectations, the classroom experience and resources that will support your success.

1:55 PM –
2:00 PM
MDT

WHAT'S NEXT? NEW STUDENT DAYS AND BEYOND

Get the inside scoop on New Student Days—our multi-day welcome experience designed to help you settle in, connect and start strong before classes begin.

YOUR NEXT STEP



MAKE THE MOST OF IT

New Student Days and **B.I.G. Bear Welcome** are the next phase of your New Student Orientation experience. Plan to participate throughout the week.

- Join the **New Student Days Kick-Off Ceremony** on **Wednesday, Aug. 19 at 3:30 PM**. Family and Friends are encouraged to attend.
- Meet your community during **Housing and Residential Education Floor Meetings** or the **Commuter Student Social** on **Wednesday at 7 PM**.
- Connect with faculty and classmates during **College Welcome Events** on **Thursday, Aug. 20 at 10:30 AM**.
- Meet new Bears at **Speed Friending** on **Thursday at 4 PM**.
- Head downtown Friday for the **Monster Day Concert, Cosmic Skate and more**, or attend **Volleyball: Wyoming vs. UNC**.
- Continue the experience at **Northern at Night** on **Saturday, Aug. 22 at 7 PM**.

These are only a few highlights. Beginning August 1, review the full schedule on **BearConnect** and plan your week before arriving.



YOUR INVOLVEMENT HOME BASE

BearConnect is UNC's online platform designed to help students engage with campus life. It serves as the central hub for discovering and joining Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) and attending campus events. Students can use BearConnect to explore clubs, register for events and stay informed about campus activities.

YOUR FIRST FEW WEEKS

Before Classes Begin

- Confirm your class schedule and classroom locations
- Review your student account and outstanding requirements
- Log in to Canvas, BearMail and the My UNC app

During your First Week *(Classes begin on Monday, August 24, 2026)*

- Read every syllabus and record major deadlines
- Introduce yourself to at least one faculty member
- Identify a reliable place to study

Before the Drop Deadline for full-semester courses *(September 4, 2026)*

- Confirm that your schedule is right for you
- Talk with your advisor before changing courses
- Ask for help before a challenge becomes urgent

FALL 2026 KEY DATES

Date	Event
Fri, Aug 21, 2026	Residency Petition Deadline
Mon, Aug 24, 2026	Classes Begin
Fri, Aug 28, 2026	Add Deadline for full-semester courses
Fri, Sept 4, 2026	Drop Deadline for full-semester courses
Fri, Sept 4, 2026	Grade Replacement Application Deadline for full-semester courses
Mon, Sept 7, 2026	Labor Day Holiday (University Closed)
Nov 25-29, 2026	Thanksgiving Holiday (No Classes)
Fri, Dec 4, 2026	Course(s) Withdrawal Deadline
Mon–Fri, Dec 7–11, 2026	Final Exam Week
Wed, Dec 16, 2026	Final Grade Deadline
Mon, Dec 21, 2026	Transcripts Available with Fall Grades

MOVE IN, SETTLE IN AND EAT

Practical information for residential and commuting students
as the semester begins.

MOVE-IN BEGINS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026

Watch BearMail for your assigned date and time.
Arriving during your block helps reduce traffic and elevator congestion.



Move-In Guides

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

- Check your room, roommate information and assigned arrival time.
- Connect with your roommate and coordinate shared items before packing.
- Review what to bring, prohibited items, parking directions and residence hall policies.
- Bring your UNC ID - It provides access to your room, dining and other campus services.

DINING AT UNC

Flexible Meal Options

Meal plans and Dining Dollars are available whether you live in a residence hall or off campus. Use the Dining Portal to manage your plan.

Where To Eat

Visit Holmes or Tobey-Kendel dining halls, the University Center food court and campus coffee locations.
Check current hours before you go.



Dining Services

Housing and Residential Education

Phone: 970-351-2721
Email: housing@unco.edu

Dining Services

Phone: 970-351-2652
Email: diningservices@unco.edu

BELONGING AND COMMUNITY

Belonging grows through participation. Explore spaces, organizations and experiences that connect with your interests and identity.

Student Activities

The Office of Student Activities helps you get involved, build leadership skills and find your community. Explore Student Government, Fraternity and Sorority Life, University Program Council and more than 150 student clubs and organizations.

Phone: 970-351-4025

Email: studentorgs@unco.edu



CULTURAL AND RESOURCE CENTERS

- **Asian Pacific American Student Services:** Supports the cultural, academic, personal and professional success of Asian and Pacific Islander students.
- **La Casita Cultural Center:** Builds community and supports Latine student success while serving as a cultural resource for the entire UNC community.
- **Gender and Sexuality Resource Center:** Offers mentoring, affinity groups, educational programs and wellness resources for LGBTQ+ students and allies.
- **Marcus Garvey Cultural Center:** Supports Black and African diasporic students through community, cultural programs, signature events and welcoming gathering spaces.
- **Native American Student Services:** Provides culturally grounded academic coaching, career exploration, community connection and service opportunities for Native students.
- **Center for Women's and Gender Equity:** Advances gender equity through advocacy, education, programs and leadership development.
- **Veteran's Services:** Helps military and veteran students navigate education benefits while providing community and a dedicated gathering space.



Belonging and Community



STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

All students at the University of Northern Colorado are expected to follow university policies outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. The Student Code of Conduct serves to outline student rights and responsibilities as well as behavioral expectations. If a potential violation of the Student Code of Conduct is brought to our attention, you may be asked to meet with a staff member to address the situation.



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

SHARED EXPECTATIONS

The Student Code of Conduct helps students understand university expectations, make informed choices and know what support and processes are available when questions or concerns arise.

CLEAR COMMUNICATION

Community Standards sends official information through BearMail and provides opportunities to ask questions.

OPPORTUNITIES DURING RESOLUTION

These opportunities include, but are not limited to, students receiving clear information, sharing their perspective and bringing one support person to a Conduct Hearing.

EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

Resolution Coordinators explain the process, connect students with resources and focus on learning and reflection.

IF A CONCERN IS RAISED

Community Standards reviews the information and determines the appropriate next step.

A student may receive an informal option or meet with a Resolution Coordinator to share their perspective.

The student receives written information about the resolution, next steps and any available appeal process.

DEAN OF STUDENTS REPORTING OPTIONS

Speaking up can connect you or another Bear with support. Choose the option that best matches the situation; each form routes to the office equipped to respond.

REFERRAL FOR STUDENT SUPPORT

Emotional distress, grief or loss, academic concerns, basic needs, concerning behavior or help navigating university processes. Routes to Student Outreach and Case Management.



REPORT AN INCIDENT AND/OR CONCERN

This form can be used to report general concerns about a student, staff or faculty member, including potential violations of University policy. Not sure where to report a complaint, concern or issue? Use this form and it will be routed to the appropriate area.



OTHER REPORTING OPTIONS

- University Complaint: concerns about improper or unfair treatment by faculty or staff
- FERPA Complaint: possible improper disclosure of education records or personally identifiable information



IN IMMEDIATE DANGER?

Call 911 or UNC Police at 970-351-2245. A report form is not an emergency response.

DEAN OF STUDENTS



dos@unco.edu



unco.edu/dean-of-students

EQUITY, REPORTING AND ADVOCACY

UNC provides different pathways for institutional response and confidential survivor support. You choose what kind of help you need.

UNC'S NON-DISCRIMINATION COMMITMENT

UNC policy prohibits discrimination and harassment based on protected class identity. Unfair treatment, abusive words or expressions, or intimidating behavior directed at any member of the campus community based on an aspect of identity protected under UNC policy is reportable to the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance and may rise to a policy violation.



Discrimination,
Harassment and
Retaliation

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL EQUITY AND COMPLIANCE (OIEC)

Institutional Response

The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance is UNC's neutral civil rights compliance and resource office. OIEC coordinates supportive measures and responds to reports involving discrimination, harassment, retaliation, sexual harassment or assault, dating or domestic violence and stalking.



OIEC Website

Title IX Coordinator & Equity Officer

Jimmy Kohles

Email: james.kohles@unco.edu

ASSAULT SURVIVORS ADVOCACY PROGRAM (ASAP)

Confidential Support

The Assault Survivors Advocacy Program offers free, confidential and survivor-centered support for anyone impacted by sexual violence, relationship or intimate partner violence and stalking. Advocates can listen, explain options and help you access resources at your pace.



ASAP Website

CAMPUS SAFETY

UNC POLICE DEPARTMENT

UNC Police patrol campus on foot, bicycle and vehicle 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

SAVE THIS NUMBER: 970-351-2245

Call to report a crime or suspicious activity, request assistance or ask a campus safety question.



STAY INFORMED

- **Emergency Alerts**
 - Your UNC email is automatically enrolled. Update your phone number in the Emergency Alert card in My UNC to receive text alerts and use the Rave Guardian app.
- **Safety Escort**
 - Walk with friends or contact UNC Police about escort services, especially at night. Use well-lit and populated routes whenever possible.
- **Emergency Phones**
 - Know where emergency phones are located.
 - All emergency phones can be found on the Campus Map.
- **Bicycle / Scooter Safety**
 - If you bring your bike or scooter to campus, register it with Parking Services to receive a free U-lock to better secure your bike or scooter.



Emergency Alerts



Campus Map

PARKING SERVICES

Parking Services helps students understand campus parking, purchase permits and get support with parking questions.

- Purchase or manage your campus parking permit
- Ask questions about parking lots, citations, accessible parking or visitor parking
 - *Campus parking permits are required in UNC lots from 8 AM to 5 PM from Monday to Friday. Service spaces, ADA spaces and fire lanes are enforced 24/7.*



Parking Services

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

UNC supports your whole well-being so you can grow, succeed and thrive throughout your college experience.

MEDICAL CARE

The University Health Clinic offers confidential drop-in care for illness and injury, plus selected services by appointment.



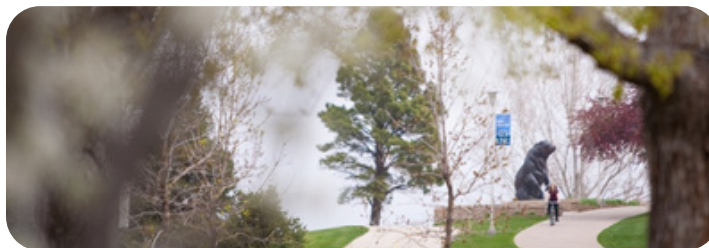
RECREATION AND OUTDOORS

Use the Campus Recreation Center or explore equipment and trips through Outdoor Pursuits.



MENTAL HEALTH

Access confidential counseling, crisis support and help connecting with additional campus resources.



HEALTH PROMOTION

Learn about sexual health, mental health, alcohol and drug use through professional staff and peer educators.



HEALTH INSURANCE: ACTION REQUIRED

Undergraduate students enrolled in nine or more credits must maintain health insurance. Eligible students are automatically enrolled in UNC's Student Health Insurance Plan and the cost is added to their student account.

ALREADY HAVE INSURANCE?

Submit an online waiver through My UNC your first semester and every fall thereafter.

FALL 2026 WAIVER DEADLINE: SEPT. 4 AT 5 PM

** International students have separate insurance and waiver requirements.*



BASIC NEEDS SUPPORT

CENTER FOR STUDENT WELL-BEING

If food, housing, finances or an unexpected emergency is getting in the way, you do not have to navigate it alone.



Basic Needs Navigation

- Get connected with food, housing, clothing, transportation, health care, insurance, childcare and community resources.

Financial Support

- Explore emergency funding, budgeting support and public benefits such as SNAP, WIC and LEAP.

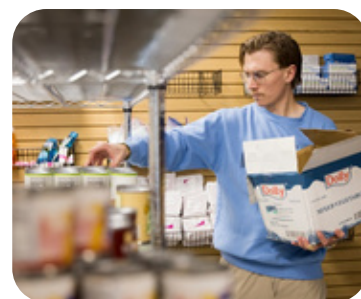
Academic Essentials

- Find support with textbooks, class materials and course technology. Laptops are available for short-term or semester-long borrowing through the University Libraries.

Unexpected Emergencies

- The Student Emergency Support Fund may help with sudden, serious expenses involving health, safety, housing, food or essential academic needs.

Location: University Center 1107 (Ground Floor)
Phone: 970-351-4030
Email: csw@unco.edu



ACCESS

DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

We work together with the entire campus community to eliminate barriers, increase accessibility and foster inclusive environments through education, resources and personalized support.

Location: Michener L-80 Campus Box 139
Phone: 970-351-2289
Email: DRC@unco.edu



Disability Resource Center

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

UNC offers free academic support to help you understand course content, strengthen your skills and develop effective learning strategies.

SEEKING HELP IS AN ACADEMIC SKILL

You do not need to wait until you are struggling to use UNC's academic support resources.

TUTORIAL SERVICES

Tutorial Services offers individual and small-group support in more than 130 courses through trained and certified peer tutors. Students can access in-person and online tutoring, Supplemental Instruction and academic skills support in areas like time management, note-taking and goal setting.



MATH STUDY CENTER

The Math Study Center offers free, drop-in support for many math and statistics courses. Instructors can answer questions, review homework and clarify challenging concepts without an appointment.



WRITING CENTER

The Writing Center provides in-person and online feedback for writing in any discipline and at any stage. Trained consultants help students strengthen ideas, organization, citations, grammar and proofreading strategies.



GET CONNECTED AND GET AHEAD

Download UNC's essential apps, connect your devices and know where to find technology support

UNC WI-FI

Connect to UNC Wi-Fi by scanning the QR code for current network instructions and device-specific guidance.



NEED A LAPTOP? RESERVE ONE TODAY!

UNC students may request a laptop at any point during the academic year. Submit your reservation online, then pick it up before classes begin.

- Short-Term: Two months or less
- Semester-Long: Renewable each semester



OUTLOOK | BEARMAIL

Your UNC student email. Check it every day for messages, deadlines and university updates.



CANVAS

Your courses, assignments, announcements, grades and messages from instructors.



MY UNC

Your portal for registration, billing, financial aid, schedules and campus resources.



Information Management and Technology

Phone: 970-351-4357

Email: help@unco.edu

UNDERSTANDING BEAR CENTRAL

One place for questions about paying for college, your student bill and your academic record. You do not need to know which office to ask for. Start with Bear Central and their staff will help you find the right person.

Financial Aid

How will I pay for college?

- Complete or correct your FAFSA or CASFA
- Understand grants, scholarships, work-study and student loans
- Review your financial aid offer and missing requirements
- Complete financial aid verification
- Report a major change in family income
- Appeal a Satisfactory Academic Progress decision
- Resolve provisional financial aid questions
- Ask how transfer enrollment, study abroad, athletic aid or classes at another college may affect your aid



Office of the Registrar

How do I manage my classes and academic record?

- Add, drop or withdraw from a course
- Resolve registration questions or errors
- Understand how transfer credits were evaluated
- Request an official transcript
- Request proof of enrollment
- Ask about residency classification
- Get help with VA education benefits
- Track degree progress and prepare for graduation
- Give a trusted person access through FERPA Proxy



Bursar / Cashiers

What do I owe and how do I pay it?

- Review your student bill and understand each charge
- Check your balance, payments and financial aid credits
- Make a payment or submit a check
- Enroll in a monthly payment plan (*Bear Pay*)
- Confirm your College Opportunity Fund status
- Add a parent, supporter or other Authorized User
- Access your 1098-T tax form
- Ask about billing deadlines or an account hold



BEAR PAY

Bear Pay lets students divide their UNC bill into monthly payments instead of paying the full balance at once. The plan can include tuition, room and board and university fees, with payments adjusting if financial aid, classes or housing changes.

Enroll through My UNC after charges post to your account.
A \$50 nonrefundable application fee is required each semester.



Bear Pay Guide

KEY DEFINITIONS

- **Add, Drop or Withdraw:** Ways to change your course schedule. Each option has different deadlines and possible academic or financial impacts.
- **Authorized User:** Someone you allow to access your billing portal, view your balance and make payments.
- **Bear Pay:** UNC's monthly payment plan that lets students divide their bill into scheduled payments instead of paying the full balance at once.
- **Bursar's Office:** The office that manages student billing, payments, payment plans, refunds and questions about your student account.
- **CASFA:** Colorado's financial aid application for eligible students who cannot complete the FAFSA.
- **College Opportunity Fund (COF):** A Colorado benefit that helps pay part of undergraduate tuition for eligible resident students.
- **FAFSA:** The federal application used to determine eligibility for grants, work-study and student loans.
- **FERPA Proxy:** Someone you authorize to view selected education records, such as grades, financial aid or account information.
- **Financial Aid Offer:** A summary of the grants, scholarships, work-study and loans available to you. This is not your student bill.
- **Office of Financial Aid:** The office that helps students understand and manage financial aid, including FAFSA/CASFA, grants, scholarships, work-study, loans, SAP and verification.
- **Payment Plan:** An option for dividing your student account balance into smaller scheduled payments.
- **Registrar's Office:** The office that supports course registration, transcripts, enrollment verification, transfer credit, academic records and graduation processes.
- **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP):** Academic standards you must meet to remain eligible for financial aid.
- **Student Bill:** A statement showing your tuition, fees, housing, dining and other charges minus payments or financial aid already applied.
- **Transfer Evaluation:** UNC's review of credits completed at another institution to determine how they apply toward your degree.
- **Verification:** A process used to confirm information submitted on your FAFSA or CASFA.
- **Work-Study:** Financial aid that allows eligible students to earn money through an approved on-campus job. It is not automatically applied to your bill.

BEGIN IN YEAR ONE

YOUR CAREER STARTS HERE

Career readiness is not only for seniors. Begin exploring your interests and building experience during your first semester.



CENTER FOR CAREER READINESS

Career counselors help you connect your education, interests, values and identity to meaningful work. Appointments are available in person or virtually.



WHAT THEY CAN HELP WITH

- **Explore:** Discuss majors, career paths, strengths, values and graduate school options.
- **Prepare:** Build or update a resume, cover letter and professional profile.
- **Practice:** Strengthen interviewing, networking and job-search skills.
- **Connect:** Find student employment, internships, career fairs and employers.



HANDSHAKE

UNC's career platform for jobs, internships and career opportunities. Use Handshake to schedule an appointment with a career counselor and explore on-campus employment.



TAKE ACTION YOUR FIRST SEMESTER



CREATE OR UPDATE YOUR HANDSHAKE PROFILE



ATTEND A CAREER FAIR OR WORKSHOP



DRAFT A RESUME THAT INCLUDES YOUR CURRENT EXPERIENCES



MEET WITH A CAREER COUNSELOR TO EXPLORE OPTIONS