# Five Steps for Creating an Email in Slate – Slate Cheat Sheet

#### NOTE:

Users must submit their request for email distribution through the <u>marketing request form</u> at least 2 business days prior to the desired distribution. If there are edits, the review process may take longer. You will receive a confirmation email from Central Marketing and Communications once your email has been reviewed and scheduled.

#### **STEP 1: Create a New Mailing:**

 Navigate to **Deliver** (megaphone icon at the top), click on the **megaphone icon** or the **Mailings** dropdown



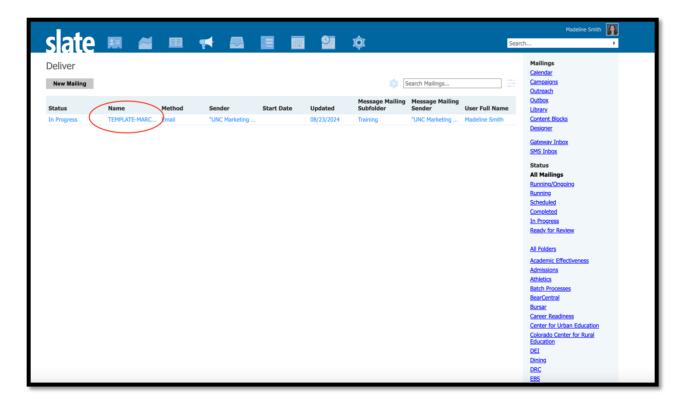
To create a new mailing, you can either click "**New Mailing**" OR you can **copy from an existing template**:

# To copy from an existing template:

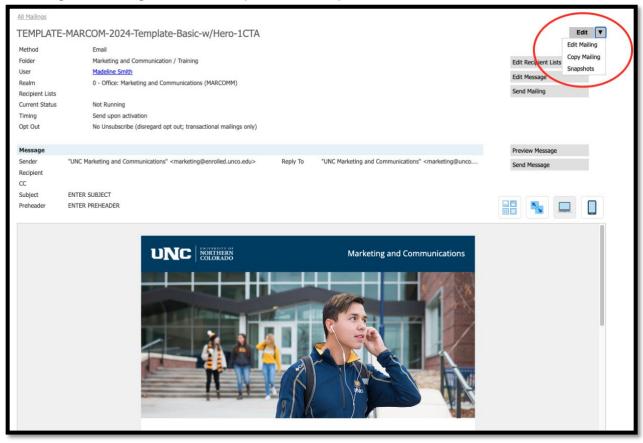
• Navigate to your unit's designated folder on the right-hand side:

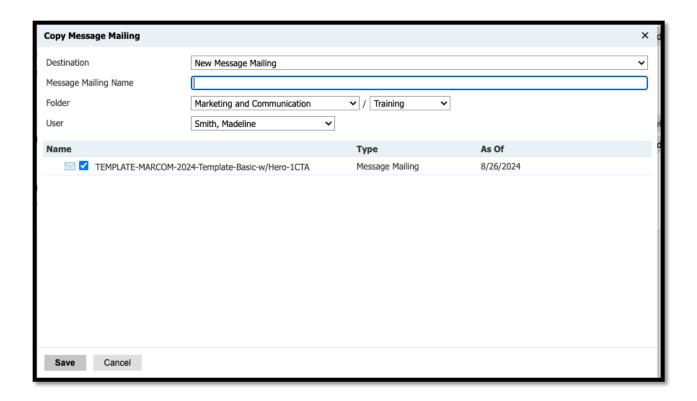


• Once you are in your folder, click the mailing where the first word is "TEMPLATE"

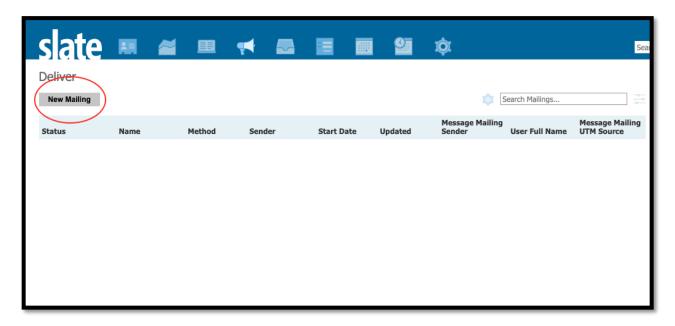


Click the dropdown arrow next to "Edit" and select **Copy Mailing**. Name your mailing following the naming convention explained in Step 1A, then click "Save."



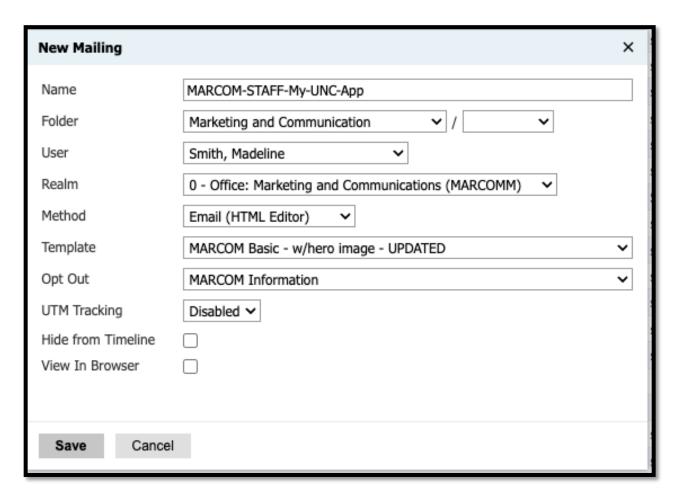


To create a mailing from scratch, click **New Mailing**,



Once you have named your mailing (Name your mailing following the naming convention explained in Step 1A below), proceed with the following selections:

- **Folder:** Place the mailing within your Unit folder and subfolder (refer to the table above for guidance).
- **User:** This value defaults to the user who is currently logged in.
- **Realm:** Select your Office or Department name for the Realm.
- Method: This value defaults to "Email (HTML Editor)."
- **Template:** Each unit has its own templates, organized in alphabetical order by unit. Select a template associated with your unit.
- **Opt-Out**: Select the appropriate opt-out group for your unit. This step ensures that when a recipient unsubscribes, they only opt out of communications from this specific group rather than from all university communications. Overriding an opt-out should be reserved for transactional emails only and done sparingly under exceptional circumstances.
- **UTM Tracking:** This value defaults to disabled
- Hide From Timeline: This value defaults to the box unchecked
- View in Browser: This defaults to the box unchecked



# STEP 1A: Name your email:

- o **Name your email** using the following standardized UNC naming convention:
- UNIT-TYPE-PopulationDetails-Email-Subject
- **IE:** MARCOM-UGGR-All-My-UNC-App

Category	Details
Unit Abbreviation	Academic Advising = SAS
(CAPITALIZE)	Assessment = Assessment
(OAI HALIZE)	BearCentral = BC Bursar = BUR
	Career Readiness = CCR
	Center for Honors, Scholars, and Leadership = Honors
	Program Center for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning =
	CETL
	Center for Urban Education = CUE
	College of Education and Behavioral Sciences = CEBS
	College of Humanities and Social Sciences = HSS
	College of Natural and Health Sciences = NHS
	College of Performing and Visual Arts = PVA
	Colorado Center for Rural Education = CCRE
	Dining = DEX
	Disability Resource Center = DRC
	Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion = DEI
	Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services = SAES
	Extended Campus = EC
	Financial Aid = OFA
	Graduate School = GS
	Housing = HRE
	Human Resources = HR
	Information Management & Technology = IM&T
	Instructional Design and Development = IDD
	Marketing and Communication = MARCOM
	Monfort College of Business = MCB
	New Student Orientation and Transition Programs = NSO
	News and Public Relations = NPR
	Office Health Promotion = OHP
	Office of Global Engagement = OGE
	Office of Student Engagement = OSE
	Office of the President = PRES
	Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors =
	OUR
	Payroll = Payroll
	Performing and Visual Arts Advising Center = PVAAC
	Professional Administrative Staff Council = PASC

	Scholarships = SCH School of Art and Design Galleries = SOAD
	Soar = Soar
	Student Orgs = OSO
	Tutorial Services = TS
	<b>UEngage</b> = UEngage
	University Events = UE
	University Libraries = LIB
Student/Audience	Please list out all applicable audience together in name
Туре	IE: <b>UGGR</b> for an email going to Undergrad and Grad students
(CAPITALIZE)	
	<b>UG</b> = Undergrad
	OO - Ondergrad
	GR = Graduate
	ND - Non Doggoo
	ND = Non-Degree
	FAC = Faculty
	STAFF = Staff and Faculty
	PAR = Parent
	INF = Counselors/Other
Population Details	Please list out all applicable populations together in the name.
(First Letter/Proper Case)	Specify your audience with as much detail as you can.
	IE: CEBSSpecialEdMajors
	IE: ArlingtonParkResidents
	IE: RegisteredStudents
	IE: RegisteredStudents  IE: MeritScholars
Email Name/Subject	IE: MeritScholars

(First Letter/Proper	IE: October-Newsletter-24 for a newsletter going out in October
Case)	
	IE: Fafsa-Reminder
	IE: Research-Opportunity
Naming Order	Only use the applicable areas below:
	Unit, Type, Email Name/Subject
	IE: MARCOM-UGGR-ALL-My-UNC-App
	IE: MARCOM-STAFFFAC-My-UNC-App
	IE: MARCOM-UGGR-ALL-My-UNC-App-2
	IE: NHS-UG-NHSBiologyMajor-Requirement-Announcement
Capitalization Style	UPPERCASE =
	UNIT
	TYPE
	First Letter / Proper Case =
	Population Details
	Email Name/Subject
Hyphen Guidelines	Use hyphens to separate words, when applicable
	NO hyphen (keep words together) = UNIT, TYPE, Population
	Details
	YES hyphen = Email Name/Subject
Email Name Example	BUR-UG-AllRegisteredStudents-1098T-Form
	EBS-FAC-August-Newsletter
	IE: HR-STAFF-ClassifiedStaff-Compensation-Update

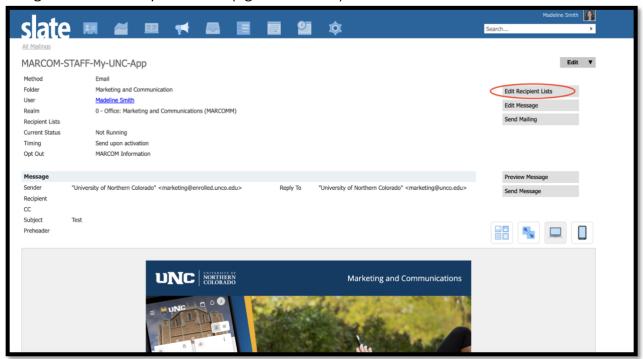
Email Name Cheat Sheet: UNIT-TYPE-PopulationDetails-Email-Subject

IE: PVA-UG-SOMstudentsall-August-newsletter

Once you've completed step one and two, click "Save." You will then be ready to add your recipient list.

## STEP 3: Add your recipient list

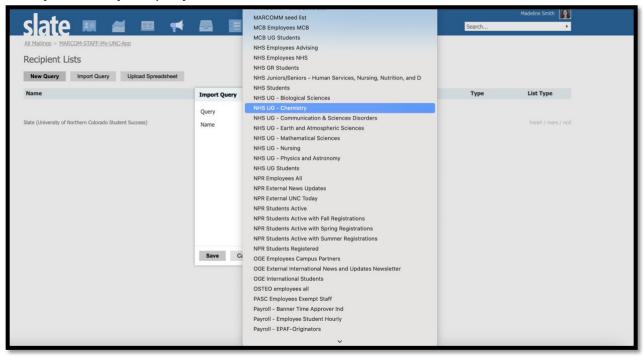
Navigate to "Edit Recipient Lists" (right-hand side)



### Then select "Import Query."



Select your Query (the group you wish to send to) from the dropdown – these queries already have the correct filters and exports and are organized in alphabetical order by unit. Once you select your query, click "Save."

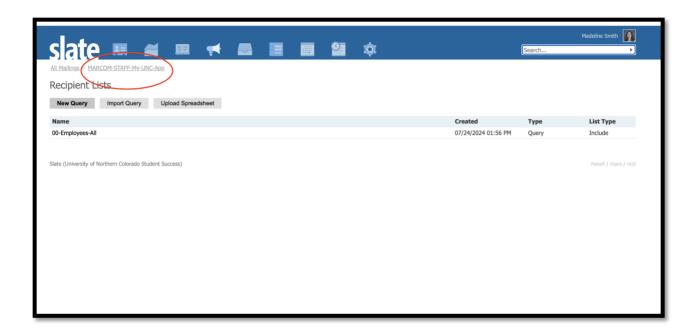


### **QUERY REQUESTS:**

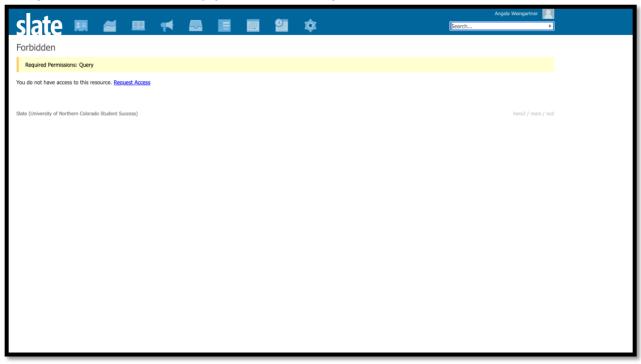
If you need a new query or population built that does not currently exist in Slate, please submit a ticket to IT. They will prioritize your request and address it as soon as possible.

• Fill out the form here

To return to editing your email, click the name of the email in the breadcrumbs in the top left OR hover over the megaphone icon to see your most recent emails

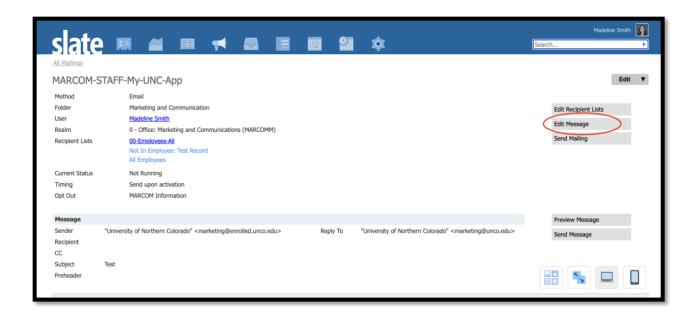


Or, if you see this screen, simply click "back" on your browser.



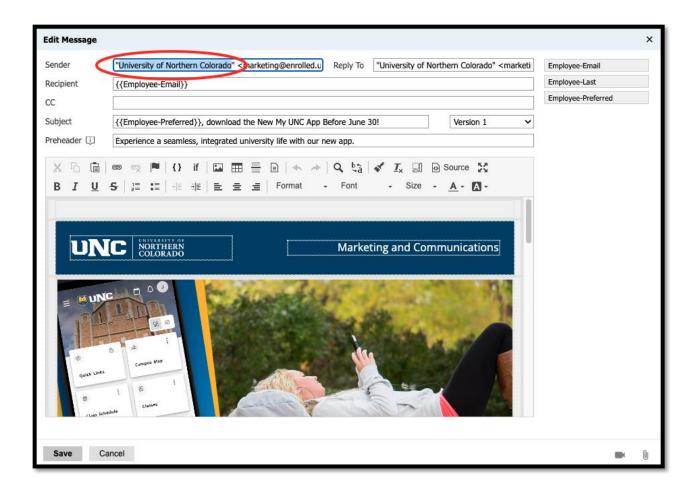
# **STEP 4: Edit and Test the Message:**

Click Edit Message (right-hand side) to edit the mailing's copy and sender information.

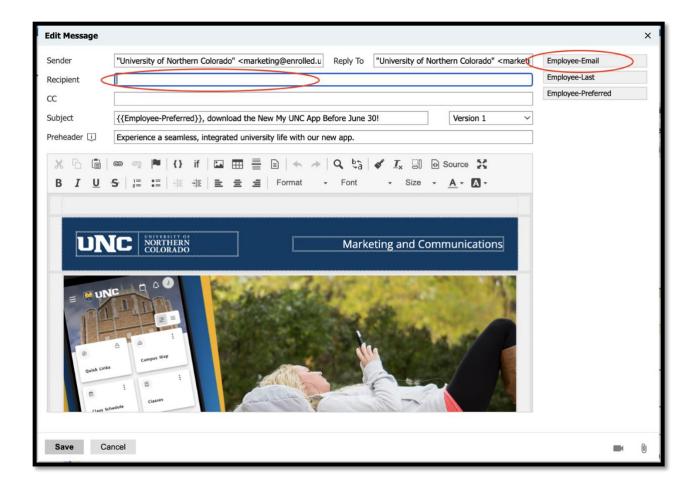


### Once there, be sure to check:

• **Sender:** You can customize this section. Feel free to change the text within the quotation marks to display the desired sender name to your recipients. However, please do not alter the associated email address.



- **Reply to:** This section defaults to the unit's designated "Reply to" email address. You can also modify this section by changing the text within the quotation marks, similar to the sender field.
- Add Subject Line: Keep it short and compelling, ideally under 50 characters or about 6-8 words, to ensure it grabs attention and is fully visible on mobile devices.
- Add Preheader: Provide a brief summary or details that complement the subject line, keeping it between 40-100 characters or about 7-15 words, to encourage recipients to open the email.
- Call to Action (CTA) Use simple, direct language (2-5 words) to guide recipients, like 'Learn More' or 'Explore Courses.' In Slate, the CTA is the button at the bottom of the email.
- **Personalization**: Tailor your emails to individual recipients by using merge fields, such as {{preferred name}}, to address recipients by their name. To add a merge field, select it from the right-hand column of the editor, or click and drag it within the message.
- Add Recipient List(s): Select the email merge field from the right-hand column of the editor and drag or click into the Recipient field.
  - See screenshot below:



#### STEP 5A: Review Email and Second Checker

- Review and Final Checks: Thoroughly check the accuracy of all links, images, and content.
- **Content Accuracy:** Ensure that all written content is free of spelling and grammatical errors. Confirm that the tone and messaging align with the intended purpose of the email.
- **Link Verification:** Click on every link to verify that it directs to the correct and functioning URL.
- **Design Consistency:** Check that the email is consistent with brand guidelines, including colors, fonts, and layout. No additional font colors added to your emails. Make sure the spacing is correct and displays correctly across different devices.
- Accessibility: Ensure that the email is accessible, with readable fonts and alt text is added for images.
- **H1 and H2 Headings:** Ensure that H1 and H2 headings are used appropriately and not for greetings (e.g., "Hello" or "Dear [Name]"). H1s should be reserved for the main headline or key content of the email. H2s should be used for subheadings that organize content within the email.
  - o If either an H1 or H2 isn't necessary for the email structure, consider eliminating it altogether to avoid confusion for screen readers and improve accessibility.

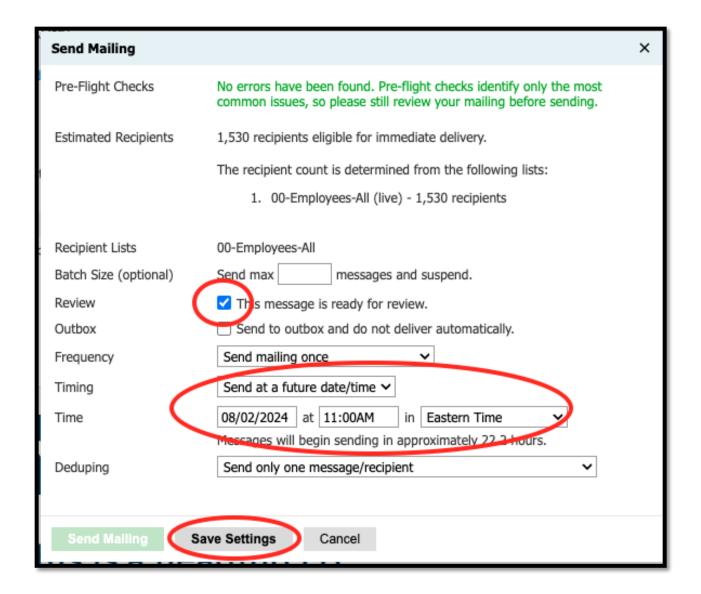
#### • Peer Review:

 Designate a second person to independently review the email. They should perform the same checks above with a fresh perspective, catching anything that might have been missed.

This review process is crucial to ensure the email is error-free, professional, and aligns with university standards.

### STEP 5B: Schedule and Prepare for Approval

- **Prepare for Approval**: Once email is complete, tested, and ready to send, it's time to schedule your email for approval (see screenshot below):
- Click "Send Mailing."
- Under "Timing," select "Send at a Future Date/Time."
- Select the day/time you wish to send (note that Slate defaults to Eastern Time)
- o Check the box next to "Review" labeled "This message is ready for review."
- o Click "Save Settings" button at the bottom.



### • Submit Request to Send:

- Complete the "Request to Send an Email" form with all relevant information, including the date/time for sending.
- You will receive confirmation once your email is approved and scheduled.

If you have any questions, please contact marketing@unco.edu