

UNC Minimum Course Requirements

For Undergraduate Admission to the 16 Campuses



Listed to the right are the minimum course requirements for students entering the University of North Carolina from fall 2005 through fall 2006. The University of North Carolina is made up of 16 campuses, which are listed in the box below. The minimum course requirements are established by the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina, although individual institutions may require other courses in addition to the minimum requirements. For some transfer students and students who graduated from high school prior to 1990, special considerations have been made. Check with each institution for additional information specific to that campus.

The 16 Campuses of the University of North Carolina

Appalachian State University
East Carolina University
Elizabeth City State University
Fayetteville State University
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
North Carolina Central University
North Carolina School of the Arts
North Carolina State University
University of North Carolina at Asheville
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University of North Carolina at Pembroke
University of North Carolina at Wilmington
Western Carolina University
Winston-Salem State University

Effective in Fall 2005

Six course units in language, including

- four units in English emphasizing grammar, composition, and literature, and
- two units of a language other than English.

Three course units of mathematics, in any of the following combinations:

- algebra I and II, and geometry,
- algebra I and II, and one unit beyond algebra II, or
- integrated math I, II, and III.

It is recommended that prospective students take a mathematics course unit in the 12th grade.

Three course units in science, including

- at least one unit in a life or biological science (for example, biology),
- at least one unit in physical science (for example, physical science, chemistry, physics), and
- at least one laboratory course.

Two course units in social studies, including one unit in U.S. history. An applicant who does not have the unit in U.S. history may be admitted on the condition that at least three semester hours in that subject will be passed by the end of the sophomore year.

Effective in Fall 2006

Six course units in language, including

- four units in English emphasizing grammar, composition, and literature, and
- two units of a language other than English.

Four course units of mathematics, in any of the following combinations:

- algebra I and II, geometry, and one unit beyond algebra II,
- algebra I and II, and two units beyond algebra II, or
- integrated math I, II, and III, and one unit beyond integrated math III.

(The fourth unit of math affects applicants to all institutions except the North Carolina School of the Arts.) It is recommended that prospective students take a mathematics course unit in the 12th grade.

Three course units in science, including

- at least one unit in a life or biological science (for example, biology),
- at least one unit in physical science (for example, physical science, chemistry, physics), and
- at least one laboratory course.

Two course units in social studies, including one unit in U.S. history. An applicant who does not have the unit in U.S. history may be admitted on the condition that at least three semester hours in that subject will be passed by the end of the sophomore year.

* "Course units" as defined in these requirements may include those high school-level courses taken and passed by an applicant after graduating from high school, as well as those taken while enrolled as a high school student. For some transfer students and students who graduated from high school prior to 1990, special considerations have been made.

Requirements shown in green type are new.

What Students Need to Know about UNC Minimum Course Requirements

At its April 2000 meeting, the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina phased in two increases in the minimum course requirements for undergraduate admissions. The first increase affected students entering a UNC institution in fall 2004. These students had to complete two units of a second language. The second increase will affect students entering college in fall 2006. They must complete a fourth course unit of mathematics. Individual institutions may require additional courses, as indicated in each institution's profile at www.CFNC.org.

Why are the UNC minimum requirements increasing?

The Board took this action to ensure that freshmen have a strong chance of completing a bachelor's degree. A study of 1997-98 North Carolina public high school seniors who enrolled at a UNC institution in the fall of 1998 found significant differences in performance among those students who met only the pre-2004 minimum course requirements, those who met only the additional second language requirement, and those who

met both the additional second language requirement and the additional fourth unit of mathematics requirement. The table below shows a summary of the study's findings.

Students who took more than two units of a second language or more than four units of mathematics performed even better. The study also revealed that 95 percent of the freshmen at UNC institutions had already completed two or more units of a second language, and 81 percent had already completed four or more units of mathematics. **Thus, students who decide to meet the**

Board's fall 2006 requirements before they are required to do so will take an important step in becoming more competitive when they enroll in college. They need not wait until requirements are in effect.



Courses Taken	Freshman-to-Sophomore Retention Rate	First-Year Grade Point Average	Placement in Remedial English or Mathematics
Only those required prior to 2004	66.7%	1.71	42.7%
Those required prior to 2004 plus 2 units of a second language	75.5%	1.96	31.6%
Those required prior to 2004 plus 2 units of a second language and a 4th unit of mathematics	81.8%	2.28	17.0%

Frequently Asked Questions

I will be graduating from high school this year, but I have not completed the Minimum Course Requirements (MCR). How can I satisfy the MCR for a UNC institution?

If you do not complete the MCR during high school, you have three options. First, you can graduate from a community college with an Associate Degree in Arts, Associate Degree in Science, or Associate Degree in Fine Arts. A second option is to complete the 44 semester-hour General Education Core as described in the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (www.ga.unc.edu/student_info/caa). The third option is to complete 6 semester hours each of English, math, science, social science, and foreign language with a grade of “C” or better in each course. If you have any questions about your admissibility, make sure you contact the admission office of the UNC institution(s) you are considering.

Questions about language requirements:

If my native language is not English, can I demonstrate proficiency in that language to meet the language requirement?

Yes. Students have three methods of demonstrating language proficiency to their high school if their native language is not English:

- Complete two units of a second language in high school.
- Show certification of instruction through the 9th grade in a language other than English.

- Achieve a minimal acceptable score on the SAT Subject Test for the student’s native language. If an SAT Subject Test is not offered in the student’s native language, another standardized or nationally recognized test can be substituted.

What is considered a “unit” of language?

A one-semester course on a block schedule or a two-semester course on a non-block schedule counts as a unit of language.

If I complete two units of the same language in grades other than 9-12th, does this meet the new requirement?

Yes, although students are encouraged to maintain their language skills in order to do well on college placement tests.



Does Latin count as a language for the new requirement?

Yes.

Does computer programming count as a language for the new requirement?

No.

Questions about math requirements:

What courses from the Standard Course of Study meet the requirement for the fourth unit of math?

- AP Calculus
- AP Statistics
- Pre-Calculus (formerly Advanced Math)
- Discrete Mathematics
- IB Mathematics Level II
- Integrated Mathematics IV
- Advanced Functions and Modeling

Please note that Algebra III is not acceptable because it is not included in the Department of Public Instruction’s Standard Course of Study.

Will Algebra I count towards the MCR if I took it in 8th grade?

Algebra I in 8th grade does count towards the MCR. Keep in mind, however, that you must also meet graduation requirements for your Course of Study. The College/University Prep Course of Study requires four units of math in 9-12th grade.

Course Planning Check Sheet with UNC Minimum Course Requirements

Remember:

- These are the *minimum* requirements. Individual institutions may require other courses in addition to these. Check with each institution for additional specific information.
- Satisfying UNC Minimum Course Requirements does not complete the requirements for graduation from a North Carolina public high school. Compare the UNC Minimum Course Requirements to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Standard Course of Study Graduation Requirements listed at www.ncpublicschools.org/student_promotion/gradreq.html.

Ninth Grade

- English I
- Second Language*
- Math
- Science**

Tenth Grade

- English II
- Second Language*
- Math
- Science**
- Social Studies

Eleventh Grade

- English III
- Second Language*
- Math
- Science**
- U.S. History

Twelfth Grade

- English IV
- Second Language*
- Math

Some additional, helpful college planning publications:

- "Writing Your Admissions Essay"
- "College Entrance Tests"
- "High School Planner"

Publications are available for downloading from **CFNC.org** or by calling the toll-free number.

* Only 2 units required

** One science course must be a laboratory course



www.CFNC.org • 866-866-CFNC (2362)

Se Habla Español

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