



News Digest

October 30, 2017

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UNC Charlotte Joins SARA

UNC Charlotte began participation in the nationwide [State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement \(SARA\)](#) on September 7, 2017. This benefits the University in terms of regulatory compliance and students in terms of quality and consumer protection. SARA is an agreement among member states and territories in the United States that establishes comparable national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary courses and programs. It simplifies the regulatory process both for member states and participating institutions by providing a simpler, uniform list of activities to be regulated and by reducing the required number of agency contacts from 50+ to just one. "SARA is just like a driver's license," explains Steve Carter, Senior Program Manager in the Distance Education Office. "If the DMV in North Carolina issues me a license, I can drive in any state. Same with SARA. If SARA North Carolina determines that UNC Charlotte meets SARA's expectations for quality and student consumer protection, all the other member states recognize us as a legitimate educational provider for their citizens, too." At present, California and Massachusetts are the only states that have not joined SARA, so participation in this agreement represents a significant expansion of what UNC Charlotte can do and where the institution can do it beyond the borders of North Carolina. Most importantly, because it sets minimum standards for educational quality, SARA benefits UNC Charlotte students. More information about SARA and state authorization, in general, is available on the [Distance Education website](#).

Spring GRAD Courses Announced



GRAD courses offered by The Graduate School are a way for graduate students to enhance their professional skills outside of their academic discipline. For the Spring 2018 semester, The Graduate School announces seven unique credit-bearing courses for the graduate student. From academic writing to leadership development, expert faculty deliver interactive content designed to help round-out graduate student skills, regardless of career path. Three new courses have been added:

- Intrapreneurship for Non-Business Majors
- Academic Writing for Graduate Students
- Data Analysis and Presentation for Impact

Additional information is located at <http://gradlife.uncc.edu/what-we-offer/academic-courses>.

Early Voting

Vote Early Across the County! All Early Voting Sites Open October 28 - November 4

If you are registered to vote in Mecklenburg County, you can cast your ballot for Charlotte's mayoral, city council, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board candidates. School bonds are also on this year's ballot. The closest early voting location to UNC Charlotte is the former Pier 1 store located at 8802 J.W. Clay Blvd. (The University City Library is not an early voting location.) To check your registration status or view your sample ballot, use the [N.C. Voter Lookup Tool](#). The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

[Read more >>](#)

Graduate Student Funding Initiative

As North Carolina's Urban Research University, UNC Charlotte has committed substantial resources over the past decade to support and grow graduate education at both the master's and doctoral levels. To preserve and enhance the quality of our graduate student body, and to increase its size and diversity, the University must continue to improve support for graduate study. A newly appointed Task Force on graduate student funding has been appointed to examine the state of graduate student funding at UNC Charlotte and make recommendations on two critical aspects of graduate student support: 1) Securing sustainable and scalable funding for graduate students and 2) Making effective and efficient use of internal and extramural resources. Toward that end, and to better assess the nature and scope of student funding at the University, the Task Force is hosting five [Campus Forums](#) during the fall semester to seek feedback from faculty, staff and students. Please make plans to attend a Campus Forum and provide feedback to inform this important effort.

Closing Talk and Reception for Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit

Bittersweet Harvest: The Bracero Program, 1942-1964

Still Searching for Justice: Current Conditions of Farm Workers in North Carolina

Featuring guest speaker, Thomas A. Arcury, Program Director of the Translational Science Institute, Director of the Center for Worker Health and Professor and Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Wake Forest School of Medicine. Migrant and seasonal farm workers remain important to the success of North Carolina agriculture. Over 100,000 farm workers are employed in North Carolina each year, with more than 10,000 of them working on H-2A guest worker visas. In this presentation, Dr. Arcury considers the occupational justice experienced by contemporary North Carolina farm workers. Campus and local community organizations will be featured at the event from 5:30-6:15. This event is made possible through the Chancellor's Diversity Challenge Fund.

- Wednesday, November 1, 5:30 p.m., Halton Reading Room

Low-cost Cluster Computing

Wenwu Tang and his team at the Center for Applied GIScience (CAGIS) have found a cost effective way to reproduce mainframe computing power in-house: link dozens of last-generation computers into a single powerful system known as a cluster. To put the cluster together, Charles Andrews, IT Specialist from Metropolitan Studies and Extended Academic Programs (MSEAP) scoured UNC Charlotte's Surplus Property to find CPUs that were older yet functional, and updated the software to a minimum requirement. CAGIS added a high-speed switch to physically connect the nodes, and used widely available software for scheduling and computational logistics.

[Read more >>](#)

Office of International Programs



Global Learning in Foreign Language Instruction: More Than Just Talk

The Office of International Programs, in collaboration with the UNC Charlotte Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars Mu Chapter, cordially invite interested faculty and staff to participate in the global learning 60-minute eSeminars offered by [AAC&U](#) and [NAFSA](#). During this session participants will learn how to augment their students' language learning with concrete intercultural skills. Visit the NAFSA site for a full [session description](#).

- Thursday, November 9, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, CHHS 264 ([Register](#))



Now Recruiting: Global Gateways Spring 2018 Residents

The Global Gateways Program is an all female residence hall located on campus in Greek Village (House 9). The goal of the Global Gateways program is to create a dynamic, fun, internationally-focused living environment where residents can engage and learn about the world together. What better way for students to continue learning about other cultures than to live in a global community with intentional cultural engagement programming? The Global Gateways program is currently accepting UNC Charlotte student [applications](#) for the Spring 2018 semester! Please encourage students to apply for this unique opportunity. The priority deadline is November 17. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Global Gateways program.

Training Opportunities

Delivering Your Program Online

Join a discussion on how online and blended programs can address access and serve the needs of adult graduate and undergraduate students. This session will focus on program delivery, not just individual courses, of currently approved programs or new programs (degrees and certificates) in the works. We will cover topics related to changing or adding a program delivery format and serving the needs of potential new targets by delivering programs at a local business or community college.

- Thursday, November 9, 2:30 PM, Kennedy 221 ([Register](#))

PowerPivot with Data Model for Excel 2016

This half-day course introduces the concept of the Data Model in MS Office PowerPivot for accessing data from multiple Excel tables or remote data connections. Participants will learn to access and navigate in the Data Model, build functions, and create reports and KPI dashboards using data from multiple PivotTables. Prerequisite: Must have experience working with Pivot Tables. Cost is \$125 per person; payment can be made via p-card by calling 704-687-8900.

- Tuesday, November 28, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM, CHHS 370

The Active Learning Classroom: Directions and Impacts

Active learning spaces have become much more visible over the past several years and their contribution to the teaching and learning mission more widely recognized. But they can also represent significant financial investments, ranging from the wires and gear to the faculty support programs. Join us for "[The Active Learning Classroom: Directions and Impacts](#)," where expert presenters will engage with participants around many of the important aspects of the 21st-century learning space, such as:

- ❖ What is the best research telling us about the effectiveness of these resources?
- ❖ What teaching challenges and opportunities are common to these spaces?
- ❖ What kinds of impact analysis can we do at our institutions to best inform stakeholders and faculty?

Find out where we're headed with active learning classrooms—and the investment required—in this unique online event.

- Tuesday, November 28, 3:00 PM ([Register](#))

Dissertation Defenses

The dissertation defense is one of the ways a new scholar demonstrates readiness to join the academy and is an opportunity to share their research widely.

[View All Dissertation Defense Announcements](#)

Upcoming Events

THIS WEEK:

- Oct 30** [Gluttony and Drunkenness in the Hebrew Bible](#)
- Nov 1** [UNC Charlotte Resident Director at Kingston University Application Deadline](#)
- Nov 2** [All Men are Not Warriors, All Women are Not Victims: A Feminist Analysis of War](#)
- Nov 2** [International Coffee Hour](#)
- Nov 2-4** [Actors from The London Stage present Measure for Measure](#)

NEXT WEEK:

- Nov 6** [Ethics of Precision in Medical Screening](#)
- Nov 8** [Apocalypse Past, Present, and Future: Archiving the Catholic Sex Abuse Crisis](#)
- Nov 9** [Global Learning in Foreign Language Instruction: More Than Just Talk](#)

UPCOMING: <https://provost.uncc.edu/about-academic-affairs/weekly-news-digest/upcoming-events>

*The [OAA News Digest](#) is distributed each Monday to Academic Affairs faculty and staff.
Deadline for submission is 11:00 a.m. every Friday.*