

## MISSION

UNC Asheville is distinctive in the UNC system as its designated liberal arts university. Our practice of the liberal arts emphasizes the centrality of learning and discovery through exemplary teaching, innovative scholarship, creative expression, co-curricular activities, undergraduate research, engaged service, and practical experience. Primarily undergraduate, UNC Asheville offers a liberal arts education characterized by high quality faculty-student interaction. We offer this challenging educational experience to all promising students who are committed to liberal learning and personal growth. Our liberal arts educational approach emphasizes life skills including critical thinking, clear and thoughtful expression, and honest open inquiry. Students undertake concentrated study in one area while simultaneously developing an understanding of the connections among disciplines. We encourage students to clarify, develop and live their own values while respecting the views and beliefs of others. In addition we cultivate an understanding of the dimensions of human diversity while recognizing the common humanity of all. We believe a quality liberal arts education enables our graduates to be lifelong learners and to lead successful, flourishing lives as leaders and contributors to their communities.

At UNC Asheville, we respond to the conditions and concerns of the contemporary world both as individuals and as a university. We incorporate economic, social and environmental sustainability into our institutional practices and curriculum. With a range of associated centers, partnerships, and initiatives, we fulfill our public responsibility to address the needs of our community through a continuum of learning. We develop a commitment to continuing service characterized by an informed, responsible, and creative engagement with the Asheville area, the southern Appalachian region, the state of North Carolina, and a diverse and increasingly connected world.

## CAMPUS DESCRIPTION

The University of North Carolina at Asheville is the designated undergraduate liberal arts university in the 16-campus University of North Carolina system. An outstanding learning community, UNC Asheville is committed to providing an excellent liberal arts experience for its 3,500 undergraduate students through challenging academic programs, exemplary teaching, and meaningful and diverse co-curricular activities. The scenic 265-acre mountain campus is located one mile north of downtown Asheville, the cultural, economic and population (75,000) center of the region. Known for outdoor opportunities in the surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains and a cosmopolitan downtown featuring coffee houses, restaurants, theaters, museums, galleries and craft shops, Asheville is rated one of the country's most livable cities. The university's Outdoor Program offers students hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, rock climbing and other outdoor adventures in the nearby Pisgah and Nantahala national forests, Great Smoky Mountains National Park and along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

## VOLUNTARY STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT (VSA)

<http://www.collegeportraits.org/NC/UNC-Asheville>

## CAMPUS WEB SITE

[www.unca.edu](http://www.unca.edu)

## MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNC TOMORROW

The UNC Tomorrow commission has singled out our campus as a leader in the system for our Integrative Liberal Studies curriculum, superb long-standing undergraduate research program, training consistently high-quality teachers, forward-thinking sustainability practices and literacy, and statewide community health-focused outreach through our North Carolina Center for Health & Wellness. The commission invited us to assist other campuses in improving their teacher education curricula, in integrating sustainability into the curriculum, and in starting substantive undergraduate research programs that prepare undergraduates for graduate work in all disciplines. Preparing graduates who can adapt to a future full of unknowns is the single most powerful engine of economic development for North Carolina. UNC Asheville continues to be recognized nationally for offering a consistently affordable education that produces consistently superb graduates.

Link to UNC Tomorrow report: [http://rocky2.unca.edu/sp/unc\\_tomorrow.htm](http://rocky2.unca.edu/sp/unc_tomorrow.htm)

## INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

*From Anne Ponder, chancellor since October 2005*

“UNC Asheville students are among the most curious and talented students I have ever met; UNC Asheville’s goal is to provide them with the finest undergraduate educational experience anywhere. Our nationally-recognized interdisciplinary curriculum makes certain that all students, regardless of their major, grapple with ethical dilemmas, environmental issues, rigorous academic requirements, community responsibility, diversity issues and information literacy. Our graduates are critical thinkers, versatile communicators, creative problem solvers, and citizens with both an academic and experiential understanding of the complexities of the contemporary world. This prepares them to be particularly high performers in entrepreneurial ventures, employment settings and graduate and professional schools, as our consistently strong showing in all the major national rankings demonstrate, year after year.”