

## New Parent Newsletter FAQ's

### **1. Q. How many hours of course credit are needed to graduate?**

**A.** The number of courses needed to graduate varies by degree program. Please consult the section of the Undergraduate Catalog related to your student's major.

### **2. Q. Is English Composition required in the Freshman Year?**

**A.** Courses in English Composition are required for graduation as part of the university core curriculum. Based on initial placement data, some students can bypass the first composition course or may require an additional brush-up course. While it is advisable to complete composition courses early, they are not specifically required during the first year.

### **3. Q. Is there a language requirement for graduation?**

**A.** Foreign Language classes are not part of the university's core curriculum, but some majors do have a Foreign Language requirement to earn a degree in that subject. We offer classes in a variety of languages.

### **4. Q. What is the core curriculum? How many hours are in it?**

**A.** The university core curriculum is designed to develop six core competencies among all UNH graduates. The core classes come from a wide range of disciplines. Students are required to complete at least 40 credit hours in the core. A complete list of the competencies and core classes can be found in the Undergraduate Catalog.

### **5. Q. If my son or daughter is having a difficult time with a subject, how do they get the needed assistance?**

**A.** First, your student should visit with the professor to discuss the difficulty and what type of assistance is required. Options may include attending a study skills workshop offered by the Office of Academic Services (OAS), making an appointment with an Academic Skills Counselor from OAS to address general study and time management issues, or working with a tutor from the Center for Learning Resources (CLR). Trained peer tutors are assigned to assist with certain courses in many departments.

### **6. Q. If a freshman is not in the Honors Program during the fall semester how does one get into it in the spring semester?**

**A.** At UNH, we offer admission to the honors program through a freshman admissions program or once the student has completed 24 credit hours and has at least a 3.3 cumulative GPA. This usually occurs at the end of the freshman year. Students should contact the Director of the Honors Program for an application.

### **7. Q. Are there study abroad programs? If so, where and how much credit can be earned?**

**A.** We offer numerous opportunities through colleges, universities, and global culture centers worldwide. We even offer a program for freshmen to study abroad in London during their first semester. We have partnerships with both the Center for International Studies (CIS) and Cultural Experience Abroad (CEA). The amount of credit that can be earned can vary depending on the program. Some programs last a full semester while other focused faculty-led trips may take only a couple of weeks during breaks or the summer. You can consult the Study Abroad Office for more details.

### **8. Q. How long can a student remain undecided and not declare a major?**

**A.** A student should declare a major no later than the end of their sophomore year.

**9. Q. Is it important to have a minor? How many hours are required to minor in a particular subject?**

**A.** Minors can help add value to a student's education. They can allow a student to diversify his or her skills or pursue other interests. Most minors require 18 credit hours. Have your student consult the section of the Undergraduate Catalog for information about the minor he or she is interested in.

**10. Q. How does my student go about ensuring that summer classes taken at another university will be acceptable and transferable?**

**A.** Your student should contact their advisor and he or she can approve the course or they may refer your student to another professor to approve courses in other disciplines. Your son or daughter will need to have the advisor's prior approval on file with the Registrar's Office.

**11. Q. How difficult is it to switch majors?**

**A.** Generally, it is not difficult to switch majors. However, some majors require special permission. Your student should talk with their academic advisor and a professor in the major they are considering. If they decide to change their major they will need to get a change of major form from the Registrar's Office.

**12. Q. Does my son or daughter need to bring a computer with them?**

**A.** No. There is a computer lab in Buckman Hall. The library also has a large number of available computers. If you do wish to purchase a computer, Apple and Dell offer student discounts. Email [macdougall@newhaven.edu](mailto:macdougall@newhaven.edu) for details.

**13. Q. Can my son or daughter get a job on campus?**

**A.** Yes, if he or she has received Federal Work Study (FWS) on their financial aid award letter. A letter will be sent to your child in August letting them know the dates in September he or she can attend a meeting to secure a position on campus. For students not awarded FWS the Career Development Office maintains a listing on the University's Blackboard system of other available positions on campus.

**14. Q. How can we receive the maximum amount of financial aid we qualify for?**

**A.** Students must reapply for financial aid every year. The deadline for filing the UNH Financial Aid application and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is **March 1**. We also require that a signed copy of the student and parent's federal income tax returns, including W-2 forms, be submitted by late April. Students who complete their application on time will be considered for all available types of financial assistance including grants, loans, work-study, and scholarships.

**15. Q. When are tuition bills ready and when are they due to be paid?**

**A.** Fall tuition bills are prepared in mid June and due in early August. Spring tuition bills are prepared in early December and due in early January. Subsequent tuition bills are prepared as necessary. Check your UNH email account for the latest billing notification.

**16. Q. How can I pay my son or daughter's bill?**

**A.** You can send your payment in the mail, you can visit the Bursar's Office, or you can pay on line which is the easiest and most efficient way to pay. Your student will receive an email

to his or her UNH email account notifying them that their latest tuition bill is available to be viewed and paid on line.

**17. Q. Can I make monthly payments instead of making a large payment?**

**A.** Yes you can. UNH is pleased to partner with Tuition Management Systems (TMS) to offer a low cost monthly payment plan. You will receive information about this plan in the mail directly from TMS.

**18. Q. What should I do if I cannot pay my son or daughter's bill on time?**

**A.** It is very important to contact the Bursar's Office whenever you have questions or are having trouble paying your bill. We will do our best to work with you and help.

**19. Q. What happens if I do not pay my son or daughter's bill on time?**

**A.** If your payment is late, you will be assessed a late fee. If your bill remains unpaid for an extended period of time, your son or daughter will not be allowed to register for future semesters and your son or daughter will not be allowed to participate in the room selection process with Residential Life.

**20. Q. How is the Bursar's Office different from the Financial Aid Office?**

**A.** The Financial Aid Office collects documentation from you and your family and determines what your financial aid award will be. They also process student and parent loans and can advise you on how to pay for the cost of your education. The Bursar's Office assesses tuition and fee charges, sends bills, collects payments, and issues refund checks. The two offices work very closely together but perform very different functions.