

## New Student Newsletter FAQ's

### **1. Q. How does Residential Life select roommates?**

**A.** Roommates are assigned based on the Roommate Questionnaire you complete online at: [Housing.newhaven.edu/applyonline](http://Housing.newhaven.edu/applyonline). Please complete the roommate questionnaire as honestly as possible. The information you provide will assist us in matching you with a compatible roommate. Roommate assignments will be sent home to you in the beginning of August. We encourage you to write or call your roommate(s) to coordinate who brings what for the room.

### **2. Q. Do I need to bring a computer with me?**

**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 [amacdougall@newhaven.edu](mailto:amacdougall@newhaven.edu) for details.

### **3. Q. Can I get a job on campus?**

**A.** Yes, if you received Federal Work Study (FWS) on your financial aid award letter. A letter will be sent to you in August letting you know the dates in September you may attend a meeting in order 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. Please contact the Financial Aid Office for additional information.

### **4. Q. How do I find out who my advisor is?**

**A.** You can login to your MATRIX account and find the name of your advisor on the summary page.

### **5. Q. How do I change my major?**

**A.** Start by speaking with your advisor and a professor from the major you are interested in switching to. After your discussions, if you still wish to change your major, you will need to go to the Undergraduate Registrar's Office and fill out a change of major form.

### **6. Q. How do I drop or add a class?**

**A.** You should schedule a meeting with your professor to discuss your situation. If you decide you still want to drop the class, you will need to obtain an add/drop card and get it signed by the course professor and your advisor. After you have received the signatures, take the card to the registrar.

Generally, you may only add a class during the first two weeks of the semester. You will need to obtain an add/drop card. Then you will need permission from the professor whose class you wish to add. You also will need to obtain your advisor's signature. Once you have all the signatures, you can take the form to the Registrar's Office.

### **7. Q. How many hours of course credit do I need 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 major.

**8. Q. How can I receive the maximum amount of financial aid I 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.

**9. 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.

**10. Q. How can I pay my 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. You will receive an email to your UNH email account notifying you that your latest tuition bill is available to be viewed and paid on line.

**11. 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.

**12. Q. What should I do if I cannot pay my 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.

**13. Q. What happens if I do not pay my 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, you will not be allowed to register for future semesters and you will not be allowed to participate in the room selection process with Residential Life.

**14. 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.

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

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

**16. 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.

**17. 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 your education. They can allow you to diversify your skills or pursue other interests. Most minors require 18 credit hours. Consult the section of the Undergraduate Catalog for information about the minor you are interested in.

**18. Q. How do I go about ensuring that summer classes taken at another university will be acceptable and transferable?**

**A.** Contact your advisor and he or she can approve the course or they may refer you to another professor to approve courses in another discipline. You will need to have the advisor's prior approval on file with the Registrar's Office.

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

**A.** UNH is a leading provider (nationally) of study abroad education. 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. While some programs last an entire semester, other focused faculty-led programs take only a couple of weeks during the summer or breaks. You can consult the Study Abroad Office for more details.

**20. 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.

**21. 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.

**22. 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.

**23. 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.

**24. Q. As a commuting student, how do I get a parking sticker?**

**A.** Parking stickers will be distributed on August 23rd at the Welcome Week check in. Please be sure to bring your license and registration with you.

**25. Q. If I am having a difficult time with a course subject, how do I get help?**

**A.** First, you 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.