

YOU AND YOUR ADVISOR

Frequently Asked Questions

I. Advising

- 1. How does advising work?** All students are assigned an academic advisor when they are accepted to Chowan University. You may be assigned a temporary advisor during summer SOAR (Student Orientation and Registration). If you have declared a major, you will typically be placed with an advisor in that field.
- 2. How do I find out who my advisor is?** MyCU will give you your advisor's name, email address, telephone number and office location.
 - Log onto MyCU using your Chowan ID and password. To reset your password go to reset.chowan.edu and follow the instructions. It will sync your password for all accounts (Blackboard, Gmail, Aviso, Wireless, MyCU, and Chowan PC).
 - Click on the "Student" tab near the top of the page.
 - Scroll down the left side of this page to the "Advisor Information". Engage the "Click Here for Advisor Information" and again click the link to the pdf also entitled "Click Here for Advisor Information" to view your advisor's information.
- 3. Where can I find out my Blackboard password and ID?** Your Blackboard password is the same as your password for MyCU and other accounts. For instructions on resetting your password, see above.
- 4. Why do I need an advisor? What does my advisor do for me?** Advising should be a collaborative effort between you and a professor who specializes in your field. Both of you share a responsibility for making this relationship work. The initial purpose of advising is to help you make decisions regarding classes. However, the more successful your relationship is, the sooner it will lead to your taking more responsibility for your own program of study. Through the years you work together, you become a team whose goal is to make sure you do as well as you can while at Chowan and graduate with a degree that has prepared you for your chosen career or the next step in your education. Both you and your advisor share responsibility for fostering this relationship so that you make the most of your opportunities at Chowan.

A. Your Responsibilities:

While your advisor will help you navigate university policies and procedures, and provide suggestions for completing the program you have chosen, *all* responsibility for knowing and fulfilling the requirements for your degree ultimately rests on your shoulders. This means you need to spend time thinking about what you want and where you want to go after Chowan:

1. Develop short-term and long-term academic and career goals. Reassess these on a regular basis. Share information about educational and career goals with your advisor—especially if they change.
2. Study the Chowan catalog to find a program that fits those goals.
3. Evaluate your current program of study frequently to determine if it still meets your needs and plans.
4. Share any accommodations, concerns or problems you might have with your advisor.
5. Evaluate your academic performance in the context of these goals. Pay honest attention to how you are progressing through the program. If you are having difficulty in your major area of study or you discover you are not enjoying the work anymore, it is time for a meeting with your advisor.
6. Do not discard your dream program only because you are finding it difficult to achieve, but honestly assess your aptitude, abilities and commitment to your program of study and do not be afraid to explore other options. (This is an essential element and part of the fulfillment that comes from a liberal arts education.)
7. Schedule each advising appointment in a timely manner. Keep the appointment and show up on time, prepared with a schedule of classes you are considering and alternative courses as back-up.
8. Assume increasing responsibility for registration, career planning and completion of graduation requirements.

B. Responsibilities You Share with Your Advisor

1. Be familiar with your catalog.
2. Be familiar with degree requirements for your major listed in that catalog.
3. Meet for advising at least once per semester to review your academic progress and select courses for the upcoming semester.
4. Prepare for advising appointments—review degree requirements, assess current-semester progress, and be prepared to make suggestions regarding the next semester's course selection.
5. Periodically monitor progress toward successful completion of graduation requirements at these meetings.

C. What You Can Expect From Your Advisor

1. Help finding a new program of study if your education or career goals change.
2. A source of information to help you plan a program of study, which encourages you to take on more responsibility for your own career planning and completing degree requirements.
3. Help understanding what you have to accomplish to successfully pursue your chosen career path.
4. A source to discuss alternatives if your academic performance does not match your career aspirations.
5. Someone who understands academic and administrative policies and procedures and can help you navigate them successfully.
6. Someone who will schedule time to meet with you, whether during regular office hours or at a scheduled appointment time when you need help

7. Someone who will make every effort to provide you with accurate information.
 8. Help when you are uncertain about what to do.
5. **How often should I see my advisor?** You must see your advisor at least once a semester, during the Advisement Period for Pre-registration in order to plan the classes you wish to take the following semester. In addition, if you are having trouble in a course, general academic problems, personal problems, or difficulties with a professor, you can turn to your advisor as a mentor and confidante. Should you need further guidance, your advisor can direct you to additional counseling or to a member of the staff or administration who can assist with your particular problem. Academic advisors are an excellent resource for any academic question and to take full advantage of the advising relationship. You should meet 2–4 times during each semester.
6. **What if I would like to change advisors?** If you and your advisor just don't work well together or there is another faculty member whom you would prefer as an advisor, speak to the chair of the department in which you are majoring and explain the situation. It may be possible for the Chair to assign you to a different advisor. If you have not yet declared a major, discuss the situation with the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences.

II. Issues You Should Discuss with Your Advisor:

1. **How do I know if I got credit for my AP (Advanced Placement), IB (International Baccalaureate), or CLEP (College Level Examination Program) credits?** AP, IB, and CLEP scores are evaluated by the Office of the Registrar upon admission to the university. If you were awarded Chowan credit, a report to that effect was sent directly to you, and the credit will be posted to your Chowan transcript early in the following semester. Refer to your college catalog [<http://catalog.chowan.edu/>] to see criteria for awarding credit (discussed under Admissions Policies and Procedures). If you have any questions regarding this process please contact the Registrar's Office.
2. **How do I know what the graduation requirements are for my major?** Refer to the appropriate section for your major in the academic catalog. You may elect to change from the catalog year in which you entered the university to the current catalog year at the time of graduation. If you elect to change to the current catalog year, you must notify the Registrar's Office at the time you apply to graduate or when you request a graduation workup.
3. **Which catalog do I follow?** You follow the degree requirements for your chosen major listed in the catalog in effect in the semester you begin studies or the year you graduate. New catalogs go into effect June 1st and are available at the beginning of the fall term. If changes are made to your major in a later catalog, you may choose to switch to that catalog; however, you must meet all the new degree requirements for graduation according to that catalog. You may also switch majors to one that becomes available in a new catalog; again, you must meet all the degree requirements of that catalog. You will need to work closely with your advisor to ensure you meet all of the new requirements, including any changes in the General Education requirements. You must

inform the Registrar's office of which catalog you are following at the time you apply to graduate or when you request a graduation work-up.

4. **If I leave Chowan, either for personal reasons or because of suspension, may I still use my original catalog or do I have to switch to the catalog in effect the semester I return?** If you have a break in enrollment of more than one semester, you must begin again with the catalog in effect at the time you return to Chowan.
If you take more than six years to graduate, you must graduate under the requirements of the most recent catalog—the one in effect at the time your graduate. (After six years, you lose the right to use the catalog in effect at the time you entered Chowan.)
5. **Where do I get the Class Schedule so I can be prepared for my advising meeting?** The class schedule is available online through MyCU (use the Course Search link in the Academics tab). Information on registration, fees, academic requirements, and advising is included in the Academic Catalog. [<https://mycu.chowan.edu/ics>]
[<http://catalog.chowan.edu/>]

III. Issues of Particular Importance to Freshmen

1. **I took college courses in high school—does this determine my catalog year?** No. While you may be able to apply those courses to Chowan University requirements, your catalog year begins with the academic year you enroll in classes at CU.
2. **Where can I find out which Math course I should take?** Check with your academic advisor or the University Catalog degree requirements for your major.
[<http://catalog.chowan.edu/>]
3. **Do I have to enroll in Critical Thinking?** Yes. You are required to take two Critical Thinking courses to meet graduation requirements. Transfer students who enter at the sophomore level or above may be eligible to have one course requirement waived. The Registrar will make that decision and send the information to your advisor.
4. **Do I have to enroll in Perspectives?** Yes. You must enroll in Perspectives in your first semester of attendance and continue to enroll in Perspectives (PERS 101–104) until you have completed 4 semesters of Perspectives by attending a minimum of 5 Perspective events per semester. Transfer students may not be required to satisfy the full four-semester requirement. The Registrar's Office will determine the Perspectives requirement for transfer students and inform you and your advisor
5. **Why Perspectives?** Perspectives events are planned to enrich your intellectual, cultural, and spiritual development beyond the classroom. The program allows you to develop new ways to view the world by providing you with opportunities to explore issues of current interest, deepen your awareness of the arts, learn about cultural activities you may not have considered otherwise, discover a variety of disciplines, strengthen your understanding of faith and its diversities, grow toward spiritual maturity, celebrate the achievements of others, and develop an appreciation for the campus community.

6. **Is it easier for freshmen to get on the Dean's List?** No. To earn Dean's List honors, you must be enrolled in at least 12 hours and earn a grade point average of 3.25 to 3.79 during that semester. To earn the President's List honors, you must have earned a minimum grade point average of 3.8 during that semester.

Any grade below a C in a given semester disqualifies you from any honors list in that semester. A grade of F or U in a non-credit course is considered less than a C for these purposes.

7. **When do I become a sophomore?** You become a sophomore when you have earned 27 credit hours.
8. **I would like to graduate in 4 years. Is this possible?** Yes. To do so, you must enroll in and pass 15–18 credit hours each semester. Additionally, you should maintain close contact with your advisor during each academic semester, checking your academic progress against the degree requirements for your major as shown in the appropriate catalog.
9. **I have a job. How many classes should I take?** College coursework requires at least two hours of study for every one hour of class. This means that if you are carrying 15 credit hours, you would need to spend at least 30 hours outside of class studying. The total of class time and study time in this case is at least 45 hours. Therefore, if you are taking a 15-credit-hour course load, you should work no more than 12 to 15 hours per week. The sum of work, study, and class time should equal between 50 and 60 hours per week.

IV. Issues Important to All Students

A. Dropping Classes/Withdrawing

1. **How do I add, drop, or withdraw from a class?** First, talk to your instructor. Then, talk to your advisor about your reasons for making any class changes. Be aware that changing the number of credit hours may affect your financial aid package, and falling below a certain number of credit hours will effect financial aid, athletic eligibility, and your eligibility to live on campus.

If your advisor agrees, obtain a drop/add form from the Registrar's office, fill it out, and have your advisor and the professor who teaches the course sign it before returning it to the Registrar's Office. **You have not officially dropped the course until you bring the form to the Registrar's Office.** If you do not turn in a signed drop form by the deadline, you will remain registered in the class and will fail it because of excessive absences or incomplete work. Refer to the Academic Calendar for add/drop/withdraw deadlines.

2. **Is there a fee for dropping/withdrawing from a course?** No.

3. **How long do I have to drop/withdraw from the course without penalty after I've started it?** You may drop a course during the first three weeks of the semester without academic record. After this time, you may drop a class without academic penalty until one week after the mid-term grading period. Your transcript will reflect a W if you drop a class during this period. The last date for dropping a course without penalty is listed in the University calendar.
4. **Are there exceptions to the drop/withdraw rule?**
Yes, all regular students must carry a minimum of twelve credit hours. You cannot drop a class if it would reduce your hours to below 12. You may not drop (or withdraw) from a course in which you have already received a grade. If a final grade of F is reported for any reason, the grade of F stands. Withdrawal from a course after the official drop period, failure to turn in the drop form, or simply stopping attending class will result in a grade of F. Under extenuating circumstances, a student may appeal to the Vice President for Academic Affairs in order to withdraw officially from a course and receive a grade of W for the course.

B. General Education/Overlapping Requirements

1. **What are General Education courses?** General Education courses (Gen. Ed., GE) are a group of courses from a variety of disciplines that are required of all students.
2. **Why do I have to take all of these General Education courses?** Chowan University is a liberal arts college. Liberal arts schools have a different approach to education than technical and vocational schools, which teach specific skills for a specific workplace (how to repair an automobile, how to install electrical fixtures, how to drive an 18-wheeler, etc.). A liberal arts curriculum is designed to develop a student's broader intellectual understanding as well as to provide knowledge in a specific discipline or major. The philosophy underlying Chowan University's General Education requirements is that no area of study exists in a vacuum. In order to succeed in a rapidly changing world, you must possess knowledge and skills beyond those expected in your area of specialization and must have the intellectual ability to adapt to changes in any workplace.
3. **I've heard that students should finish their General Education requirements first, and then take major courses. Is this a good idea?** It is not a good idea for you to take only General Education courses before entering courses in your major field(s) of study for several reasons. First, certain majors, such as Education or Graphic Communications, require students to complete courses on a specific schedule, starting in the freshman or sophomore year. Second, mixing up General Education courses with your major courses allows you to experience courses outside your planned major, which might influence your choice of degree. Third, taking courses within your major fields of study gives you the opportunity to begin networking, an important aspect of job hunting.
4. **Are the General Education requirements the same for all majors?** Yes, however, one or more of the General Education courses may satisfy requirements for your major. For

example, all Chowan University students must take one math course as part of the General Education curriculum. Math majors will take many math courses during their academic career. These will satisfy the General Education requirement.

5. **How do I find out what the General Education requirements are?** The General Education requirements are listed in the Chowan University Catalog. Be sure to use the catalog for the academic year that you entered Chowan University. You may also want to check the requirements for your intended major for any exceptions.
[\[http://catalog.chowan.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=571\]](http://catalog.chowan.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=571)

C. Grades

1. **What is my GPA (Grade Point Average) and how is it calculated?** Your Grade Point Average (GPA) is an indication of your average academic performance at Chowan. Quality points are awarded based on the grade you earn in a course: each “A” for example, earns 4 quality points times the number of credits the course is worth. Earning an A in a 3-credit course gives you 12 quality points; a “B,” 3 times 3 credits, or 9 quality points. Your GPA is calculated by dividing the total number of quality points you have earned by the total number of credits you have taken. You can find your current GPA on your “My Grades” page of your MyCU account [\[https://mycu.chowan.edu/ics\]](https://mycu.chowan.edu/ics). Transfer courses and Perspectives do not count toward your GPA. You must have an overall average of at least 2.0000 to graduate from Chowan (higher for some majors). Chowan does not round up GPA calculations: a GPA of 1.999 does not meet the 2.0000 requirement.
2. **When can I take a grade of Incomplete (“I”) for a course?** If you are unable to complete a course during the semester for certain reasons (e.g., documented illness), you and your professor may petition the Provost to have an Incomplete issued instead of a final grade. If you receive an “I,” you have until the end of the following semester to finish the coursework and receive a final grade. (Do not register for that course in the following semester!) If you do not complete all work by the deadline, the Incomplete will automatically become an “F” at the end of that semester.
3. **Is it okay to receive a grade of “D”?** In general, “D” grades are acceptable in general education core courses and will count toward your graduation requirements. However, each department may set its own standards for courses in the major, and for some majors, you will have to repeat a course in which you have earned a “D.” Making a “D” in a course that is not offered often can affect your ability to graduate when you planned. Consult the catalog listing for your major and talk with your advisor to see what specific requirements apply to you.
[\[http://catalog.chowan.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=571\]](http://catalog.chowan.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=571)
4. **Can I elect to take a course Pass/Fail (or Credit/No Credit)?** No. All Chowan courses are graded, except certain music labs and Perspectives. You do not have the option of taking any graded course as Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.

5. **Can I audit a course?** Regular students may audit courses, if space is available, with the permission of the instructor and the Provost. Once you have registered to audit a course, you cannot change to taking it for credit. See the university catalog for additional details. [\[http://catalog.chowan.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=509\]](http://catalog.chowan.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=509)

6. **How do I receive credit for courses that I have taken at other schools?**

Official Transcripts from Prior Schools: You must have an official transcript showing final grades for all work attempted (no “work in progress” or “incomplete” grades) sent to the Registrar’s Office by the schools you have attended in order to attend Chowan. If you do not, you may be dismissed from the university. The Registrar will evaluate your transcript and send a copy of that evaluation to you and to your advisor. That evaluation will show what courses have been accepted for credit at Chowan and how they have been applied to general education requirements. Some courses may show as “general electives” that actually will meet specific requirements in your major. Talk with your advisor about whether this is true for any of your transfer courses. There is no specific upper limit on the number of credits you may transfer to Chowan from other colleges and universities.

However:

- Upper Division Requirement: A student must complete at least one-half the credit hours required for graduation at an accredited four-year college or university. This means a minimum of 61 credits (more in some majors) must be earned at a four-year school (Chowan or elsewhere), not at a junior college or a community college. Only 61–65 community college credit hours (depending on the major) may actually be counted toward your degree, no matter how many you have earned or transferred to Chowan.
- Residence Requirement: The last 25% of the credit hours required for the degree must be earned in residence at Chowan: 31–33 hours, depending on the major. The total number of transfer credits that may be used toward your Chowan degree cannot exceed 91–97 (depending on the major).
- Transfer courses are accepted for credit, but not for grade. This means your GPA depends on your Chowan courses only, not on anything you may have transferred to Chowan from another college or university.

7. **What are Academic Standing and Satisfactory Academic Progress?**

In order to continue as a Chowan student you must attain and remain in Good Academic Standing by meeting the minimum standards of the Satisfactory Academic Progress chart in the university catalog [\[http://catalog.chowan.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=509\]](http://catalog.chowan.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=509). After each semester at Chowan, you must have earned the minimum number of credits and minimum cumulative GPA (see chart in Academic Catalog) in order to be in good standing. If you do not meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress requirement you will be placed on Academic Probation. You regain good standing by meeting the requirements in the next semester. If you do not meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress requirement two semesters in a row you will be academically suspended from the University.

8. **What do Warning, Probation, and Suspension mean?**

- If you meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress minimums (GPA and credits earned), but your cumulative GPA is below 2.00, you will receive an Academic Warning. This is just what it says: a warning that you must improve academically in order to meet minimum graduation requirements.
 - Can I stay on Academic Warning beyond the next semester? Yes, you can stay on Academic Warning for your first five semesters without losing good standing. Beginning in your sixth semester at Chowan, Academic Warning disappears and anything below 2.0000 causes Academic Probation.
 - If you fall below the Satisfactory Academic Progress standards you will be placed on Academic Probation. You will then have one semester to catch up to the minimum academic progress standards, or face academic suspension.
 - If you are already on Probation and then fall below the minimum academic progress standards for a second consecutive semester you will be placed on academic suspension and ordinarily must leave the university for at least one semester. (Consult the university catalog for details and appeal options.) If you have been academically suspended from Chowan and re-enter in a subsequent semester, you will be on Academic Probation and will have one semester to regain Good Academic Standing.
- 9. What are the requirements for graduation?** Each degree offered at Chowan has specific requirements for graduation, listed in the catalog. Because these requirements may change from year to year, you have the option of graduating under the requirements of the catalog in effect the year you began at Chowan, or the catalog in effect the year you graduate. You may not choose to graduate under a catalog between those two years.
- Keep a copy of the degree planner from your entering catalog and make a notation when you complete each degree requirement. You can also look it up through the archived catalog online. Go to the current catalog [<http://catalog.chowan.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=571>] and use the drop-down menu in the upper right corner to locate the correct catalog year.
 - Talk with your advisor each semester about what courses you need to take next in order to meet your specific degree requirements.
 - If you switch catalogs, work closely with your advisor to compare the changes to the requirements between catalogs for both your major and the General Education requirements, so that you don't find yourself missing required courses as you approach graduation.
 - Near the end of your junior year (two full semesters before graduation), have your advisor request a pre-graduation work-up from the Registrar's Office, to make sure everyone agrees on your remaining requirements. Do this again the following semester.
 - You must apply to the Registrar's Office and pay a graduation fee in order to graduate. If you don't apply, you won't get your degree! You should fill out and file the application form in the Registrar's Office the first week of your last semester at Chowan.
 - You must take the last 25% of your coursework at Chowan. This means you cannot transfer work taken elsewhere back to Chowan to meet that last course requirement.

10. **Can I repeat a course?** Repeating courses for credit is permissible and, in some cases, required; for example, if you fail a course or make a D in a course in your major area of concentration. The last grade earned becomes the official grade for the course. However, transcripts record final grades for all work attempted; the final grade for a repeated course will have an R beside it. Only the final grade will be figured in your GPA. You may take a maximum of six repeats without their being counted as work attempted for calculating your GPA. Thereafter, all repeated courses are counted as work attempted. To take one of these 6 repeat options, you must make a written request on the appropriate form in the Office of the Registrar.

V. **Issues Specific to International Students**

1. **Do all international students have two advisors?** Yes, both advisors work toward the same goals: your successful blending with other Chowan students and your academic success at Chowan. The academic advisor works with you mainly in your field of study. The international advisor keeps track of your academic progress as well but focuses on advising you about immigration requirements and directing you to the appropriate offices when need be. S/he would facilitate a study hall for international students having difficulty with their studies and could arrange for someone to be your “conversational English pal,” someone to help you become more comfortable conversing in English.
2. **How many credit hours does an international student have to take per semester?** As an international student, you must take a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester and be in good academic standing with the university. If you enroll in fewer than or drop below 12 credit hours per semester, you will be deemed out of status and may lose your F-1 student visa. Check with the International Student Advisor for additional requirements.
3. **How can I get a job or an internship?** As an international student, you must have approval in advance (see International Student Advisor or the Registrar).
4. **Do you offer any classes designed to assist internationals with finding a job (resume writing, interview skills, or other related skills)?** There is no specific course for international students. BUS 324 (Business Communications) covers many of these topics. Skills you learn in this course you can apply to other disciplines. COMM 101 (Public Speaking) and COMM 102 (Voice and Articulation) will help you develop verbal communication skills. If you have any specific requests, please contact the International Student Advisor. Different departments may also host job fairs or job skills workshops.
5. **How can I use the International Students Club (ISC) to improve my English?** Although ISC does not offer English classes, it does offer international students an opportunity to practice their English informally. Joining other international students and some native English speakers will help students to become more comfortable with English. See your international student advisor for more details.

6. **If I get sick during the semester, how can I find a doctor?** See the campus nurse in the Student Health Center (Penny Hall 252-398-6248). After hours, call Public Safety: (252-862-5676).
7. **Does Chowan University provide health insurance for international students?** You may purchase a plan from your home country that covers you for medical expenses incurred in the United States. If you do not provide evidence of that policy, you will be automatically enrolled and billed for a plan provided by CU. If you have questions about health insurance, you may ask the Business Office.
8. **Does Chowan offer short-term accommodations during breaks?** Chowan does not routinely offer housing during breaks. However, you can make special arrangements in advance with the staff of Vice President of Student Life (Penny Hall). They will try to accommodate you as best as they can.
9. **Do international students have to get their I-20 signed by the University before temporarily leaving the country (for vacation, study abroad, etc.)?** Yes. You need a valid travel signature on the third page of your I-20 at least once a year. Make sure to contact the Registrar's Office for that signature before you leave.

VI. Issues Specific to Student Athletes

1. **How many credits do I have to be enrolled in to be able to participate in athletics?** You must remain enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits each semester.
2. **If I am thinking about dropping a class with whom do I need to speak?** You will need to speak with both your advisor and your head coach before you may drop a class.
3. **What are the requirements for me to be eligible after two full-time semesters at Chowan?** You will need to have passed 24 credit hours and earned a minimum GPA of 1.80 to be eligible at the beginning of your sophomore year. Note: The NCAA requirements are more stringent than Chowan University's requirements for satisfactory academic progress.
4. **As a sophomore, what are the requirements for me to be eligible after four full-time semesters at Chowan?** You will need to have passed 48 credit hours and earned a minimum GPA of 1.90 to be eligible for your junior year. Note: SAP for Chowan is a 2.0 GPA.
5. **What are the requirements for me to be eligible after six full-time semesters at Chowan?** You will need to have passed 72 credit hours and earned a minimum GPA of 2.00 to be eligible for your senior year.
6. **As a senior, what are the requirements for me to be eligible after eight full-time semesters at Chowan?** You will need to have passed 96 credit hours and earned a

minimum GPA of 2.00 to be eligible for your 5th year (if you are eligible for a 5th year).

7. **When do I have to declare a major?** You must declare a major after four full-time semesters and no later than the start of your junior year.
8. **I am a transfer student, how do I know what my requirements are?**
You must remain enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits each semester.
You must declare a major after four full-time semesters no later than the start of your junior year.
You must set up a meeting with the Director of Compliance
[\[http://gocuhawks.com/sports/2007/7/31/Compliance_NCAA.aspx\]](http://gocuhawks.com/sports/2007/7/31/Compliance_NCAA.aspx):

VII. The Honors College

1. **What is the Honors College?** The Honors College at Chowan University is a program designed to offer challenging opportunities for intellectual growth to well-prepared and highly motivated students. The College has both curricular and extracurricular components. The Honors College Committee normally considers the following criteria for recommending incoming students for acceptance into the Honors College.
 - Freshman: Minimum 3.25 high school grade point average; 1100 or higher SAT score
 - Transfer students and Chowan rising sophomores: Minimum 3.50 GPA; B in English composition
2. **How do I join the Honors College?** The Provost issues a special invitation to these students to join the Honors College. If you are invited and join the Honors College, you will have opportunities to strengthen your ability to relate knowledge of a subject to others, to think independently, and to write and speak clearly and effectively. Honors classes are generally smaller than usual classes and provide opportunities for in-depth class discussion and innovative teaching. Participation in the Honors College gives you opportunities to publish original work and to attend special lectures and cultural events. When you successfully complete the requirements of the Honors College, you will graduate with the special designation of “Honors College” on your diploma and transcript. Graduation from the Honors College is a distinction that will strengthen your résumé and, consequently, your ability to compete successfully against other college graduates in the job market.

VIII. Achieving Academic Honors

1. **How do I get on the Dean’s Honors List and the President’s Honors List?** The President’s List and the Dean’s List are awarded every semester based on the GPA earned that semester. This recognition becomes part of the official record. The following GPAs for a semester’s work entitle students, if they are full-time students, to honors at the completion of the semester.
 - The President’s List 3.80–4.00

- The Dean's List 3.25–3.79

Any grade below a C in a particular semester will disqualify a student from placement on any honors list in that semester. A grade of F or U in a non-credit course is considered less than C for these purposes. Only students enrolled in twelve (12) or more credit hours are eligible for placement on the President's List or the Dean's List.

2. **Are there any annual awards?** Yes. On Awards Day, Chowan University recognizes academic achievement and rewards students whose performance merits special attention. The Best All-Around Student, the Merit, and the Superior Citizenship awards recognize scholarship and participation in University activities. The Order of the Silver Feather is an honorary service fraternity, the purpose of which is to give recognition to those students who have been especially outstanding in their service to the campus community and whose loyalty to Chowan University has been extremely noteworthy. Awards are also made to outstanding students in many individual disciplines. The winners of these awards are selected by the faculty and staff of the University. As recognition of outstanding academic achievement and as a means to further encourage sound scholarship, the University awards an Honor Scholarship to each freshman, sophomore, and junior student who has attained the highest GPA for the class. Commencement Marshals are also selected from those members of the junior class with the highest GPA. The Senior Scholastic Award, which is announced at Commencement, is the most prestigious award the Chowan academic community bestows. This award is presented to that senior who has achieved the highest academic average in the graduating class.
3. **How do I get my name in *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*?** You may earn a place in *Who's Who* by being nominated by the faculty of the University and approved by the Honors Committee. Criteria for nomination to *Who's Who* include junior or senior status, scholarship ability, active participation and leadership in academic and extracurricular activities, citizenship and service to the college, and potential for future achievement. The Honors Committee reviews nominations and makes final selections. The Committee sends a list of nominees to the Provost's Office. The Provost sends the list to the *Who's Who* organization.
4. **How do I graduate with honors?** Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Cum Laude are awarded for superior scholarship in work leading to the bachelor's degree. These honors, based upon graduation GPA, become part of the official record and are awarded upon graduation.
 - Summa Cum Laude 3.80–4.00
 - Magna Cum Laude 3.50–3.79
 - Cum Laude 3.25–3.49

A student who earns a grade below C at any point during his or her university career is ineligible for summa cum laude honors at commencement but may qualify for other honors.
5. **What are honor societies? Are they different from other student organizations?** Honor societies at Chowan University exist to recognize and promote excellence in

academic accomplishment. Whether individual societies serve a broad spectrum of academic disciplines or only a single, specific, academic major, their overall purpose is to encourage and recognize students who have achieved a high level of academic competence. Membership is by invitation only. Honors societies at Chowan University include:

- **Alpha Chi.** The North Carolina Phi Chapter of the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society is an interdisciplinary honor society dedicated to academic excellence, outstanding character, and honor. The purpose of Alpha Chi is to recognize scholarly merit and character qualities that contribute to the academic advancement of the entire student community. Its name derives from the first letters of the Greek words for *truth* and *character*. Membership is limited to the top ten percent of juniors and seniors at Chowan. Membership is only at the invitation of Chowan's chapter. The Chowan chapter was established February 28, 1998.
- **Alpha Lambda Delta.** Alpha Lambda Delta is a national honor society recognizing high academic achievement in the first year of college to encourage superior academic achievement among college and university freshmen, to promote intelligent living and a continued high standard of learning, and to assist students in recognizing and developing meaningful goals for their roles in society. Invitation to membership in Alpha Lambda Delta is made only to an academically elite group: those freshmen earning a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher and achieving a position in the top twenty percent of the class. The Chowan chapter was established September 26, 2004.
- **Alpha Theta Lambda.** The Alpha Theta Lambda Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society promotes the study of history by encouraging research, good teaching, publication, and the exchange of learning and ideas among historians. Phi Alpha Theta recognizes overall academic accomplishments as well as academic achievement in the study of history. Open to all majors, invitation to membership is limited to who have achieved a GPA of 3.1 in at least twelve semester hours in history, have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better, and are in the top 35% of the class. The Chowan chapter was established February 28, 1997.
- **Alpha Phi Sigma.** Alpha Phi Sigma is the nationally recognized honor society for students in the criminal justice sciences. The society recognizes student academic excellence. It is open only to students who have declared a criminal justice major or minor, have completed one-third of their total hours required for graduation at Chowan, maintained a minimum 3.0 overall grade point average and a 3.2 grade point average in criminal justice courses, are ranked in the top 35% of their class, and have completed a minimum of four courses in the criminal justice curriculum. The Chowan chapter was established November 4, 2000.
- **Sigma Beta Delta.** Sigma Beta Delta is an honor society for students of business, management, or administration. Invitation to lifetime membership and national recognition is open only to juniors and seniors who rank in the upper 20% of their class. Faculty members who are inducted as members manage the chapter. The

Society's principles focus on wisdom, honor, and the pursuit of meaningful aspirations, three guidelines important to success in academics and to leading a fulfilling personal and professional life distinguished by honorable service to humankind. The Chowan chapter was established April 26, 1995.

- **Sigma Tau Delta** The Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society's central purpose is to confer distinction upon students of the English language and of literature. Membership is open by invitation to students with a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average in English, who rank at least in the highest 35% of their class, and who have completed at least three semesters of college work. Students who are not English majors or minors but meet the rest of the criteria may be invited to become associate members. The Chowan chapter was established April 3, 1997.
- **Psi Chi.** Psi Chi is the International Honor Society in Psychology, founded in 1929 for the purposes of encouraging, stimulating, and maintaining excellence in scholarship, and advancing the science of psychology. Membership is open to graduate and undergraduate students who are making the study of psychology one of their major interests and who meet the minimum qualifications.
- **Beta Beta Beta.** Beta Beta Beta is a national honor society for students who demonstrate superior academic achievement in the biological sciences. Qualifying students participate in activities with Chowan University's local chapter and may attend district and national conventions which offer members a chance to share their interests with students and faculty from universities throughout the nation. Members may also compete for awards and scholarships offered by the society. To become eligible for membership, students must complete at least 12 credit hours (three courses) in biology (one of which must be an upper level course) with a GPA of 3.0 in all biology courses.
- **Kappa Delta Pi.** Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education is committed to recognizing excellence and fostering mutual cooperation, support, and professional growth for educational professionals. Founded in 1911, the Society's membership now exceeds 55,000 individuals around the world, all of whom are involved in the field of education. To receive an invitation to membership, students must have completed at least 30 hours of college course work, with 12 hours of education courses completed or in progress, achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater, and intend to continue academically and professionally in the field of education.