Life after Graduation
A Guide for New Grads and Young Alumni

GENERAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Congratulations on earning your Carolina degree. With your degree you enter into a family of alumni that is more than 291,000 strong. To ease your transition into “the real world,” your General Alumni Association has created this handbook for you to use and reference often.

Your GAA exists to keep you informed about and connected to our University, your classmates and Tar Heel friends. I hope that with the resources found inside this handbook, you will look to the GAA as your resource for all alumni needs, and that you will always consider Carolina your home.

Welcome to the very special and ever-growing family of Carolina alumni.

Yours at Carolina,

Douglas S. Dibbert ’70
President, General Alumni Association
The University of North Carolina
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Welcome to life after graduation! On behalf of the General Alumni Association, congratulations on your degree and welcome to the Carolina family—which includes plenty of young alumni.

Whether you find yourself near or far from Chapel Hill, our goal is to help you stay connected to your home away from home. Take comfort in knowing that Carolina young alumni all around you are sharing the same trials and triumphs as we begin life after our undergraduate years.

This resource guide is full of information that will be most helpful during the first few months after graduation. We hope this handbook can be your one-stop resource that you find yourself referencing over and over again.

As the GAA continues to develop a special space for young alumni, I look forward to hearing your thoughts and feedback.

With warm Carolina wishes,

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LEAVING THE HILL
- You’re in Good Company
- Relocating
- Career 101
- We’ve Got You Covered: Insurance Options for Tar Heel Alumni
- Tar Heel Discounts

STAYING CONNECTED
- An Open Door Policy
- Help Us Help You: Update Your Alumni Record
- Home Base and Social Media
- A Space Just for You
- Alumni Publications
- Email Forwarding

STAYING INVOLVED
- Carolina Clubs
- Alumni Admissions Volunteers
- Tar Heel Travel
- Cheer on the Heels

COMING HOME
- Historic On-Campus Accomodations
- Homecoming
- Affinity Reunions
- Black Alumni Reunion
- Dining in Style, Without the Wait

A LIFELONG LOVE FOR CAROLINA
- Join Your Association; Join the Tar Heel Family
- Great Links
You’re in Good Company

You’ve taken the pictures by the Old Well, you’ve moved out of your apartment and the last of the goodbyes have been said. Now what? Whether you are relocating within the state, across the nation or halfway around the world, we are here to help you in your transition. The most common worries for young alumni focus on relocation, the new job process and building a support network in your new town. Relax! Read more in this section to find tips, advice and resources that will help put your mind at ease.
1. Make copies of records, official transcripts, bank statements and utility bills from your time at Carolina.
2. Update your address book of friends, professors and relatives.
3. Update your alumni record.
4. Set a firm start date with your new company and confirm offer and salary in writing.
5. Create a budget to estimate the amount you will be able to spend on rent.
6. Search reputable websites and connect with Tar Heels in your new city to find housing options. Once you have found housing, purchase renters’ insurance.
7. Work with companies such as power, water, internet and phone to have all utilities turned on one week prior to your arrival. Notify your current utility companies of disconnect dates.
8. Contact the visitor’s bureau to obtain free maps and visitor guides for your new city.
9. Set up mail forwarding with the United States Postal Service.
10. Update your license and license plate.
11. Select a new bank and establish or transfer accounts. Notify all billers of new billing address.
12. Obtain copies of medical records (eye, general practitioner, dental, etc.) to establish yourself at medical offices in your new city.
13. Work with local grocery stores and businesses to reserve cardboard boxes and packaging materials. And don’t forget that GAA members receive discounts on renting moving trucks from Budget, another member benefit from your GAA.
Relocating to a New City

AFTER you move

1. Test security and smoke alarms in your new housing
2. Make a spare copy of your house and car keys
3. Conduct a home inventory and create a shopping list of items you will need
4. Do a walk-through of your new property and document any pre-existing damage
5. Set up trash and recycling services
6. Check the location of your fuse box and water valve
7. Register to vote
8. Drive or walk around your neighborhood to get acclimated
9. Do a test drive to gauge time and traffic for your morning and evening commute
10. Meet Tar Heels in your area with your local Carolina Club
Alumni Career Services provides the following for Carolina alumni:

Career Coaching – Linda can help you (via phone, email or in-person) address any career-related priority such as resume review, interview preparation and/or job search strategies to increase your current job satisfaction. Unlimited complimentary sessions are provided for new grad alumni members.

Alumni Advisor Network – GAA members receive access to more than 7,000 Tar Heel alumni volunteers. These alumni have agreed to help you explore career options and provide contacts. Search by profession, region, job title and company.

Job Postings – GAA members seeking a position can search postings listed across an international network of colleges, universities and organizations.

Additional GAA Alumni Career Services resources are available at no additional cost to GAA members:

- Job Search Essentials Handbook
- Resume Tips
- Linda’s Career Advice

Campus Resources
University Career Services provides free career assistance to Carolina alumni until six months after graduation. After graduation, alumni can seek assistance from the GAA’s certified career coach.
We’ve Got You Covered: 
Insurance Options for Tar Heel Alumni

Life and Health Insurance – Don’t let your health insurance lapse during the time between graduation and starting your new job.

Sporting Carolina Pride Wherever You Go
You’ll never outgrow your love for being a Tar Heel. Spread your Carolina pride in your new city by purchasing Tar Heel gear from our GAA online alumni store.

GAA members: Show your alumni pride on your ride with a GAA car decal and a young alumni bumper sticker.

It Pays to be a Member: GAA Discounts
Check out all the ways your GAA membership can save you money. Discounts are available whether you live close to or far from the Southern Part of Heaven.
An Open Door Policy

Whether down the road or across the world, we have an open door policy, and we’d like for you to drop in whenever and as often as you can. Our services and staff don’t stop working for you when 5 o’clock rolls around. Stay connected to the GAA, Carolina and fellow Tar Heels through alumni.unc.edu, our social media outlets, the award-winning alumni magazine and more.

Help Us Help You: Update Your Alumni Record

Got five minutes? Updating your official alumni record is quick and easy. Change your physical address, email address and provide life updates by submitting a Class Note.
Home Base and Social Media

alumni.unc.edu – Your Home Base
Need to manage your alumni membership, update your record, learn more about a certain event, or are you just not quite sure what you’re looking for? Our website, alumni.unc.edu, is your home base for everything related to alumni life and Carolina. Be sure to check back often for updated news, video and pictures.

Connect With @UNCGAA
The GAA offers several online social networking options designed to help you build your personal and professional networks. These services are free, open to all alumni, and we hope you’ll check them out at alumni.unc.edu/stayconnected.

A Space Just for You
We are committed to helping young alumni stay involved and connected to Carolina. Find young alumni exclusive information all in one spot at alumni.unc.edu/youngalumni.
staying connected

Alumni Publications

**Carolina Alumni Review** – The GAA’s award-winning magazine, the *Carolina Alumni Review*, is your way to stay connected to campus happenings and town/gown relations. Search back issues, submit a class note and reminisce over pictures of campus. You have the option of reading online or in print. **GAA MEMBER EXCLUSIVE.**

“**Out of the Blue**” – This monthly email news summary from the GAA provides brief headline updates along with a link to where subscribers can read the complete text of a story. **GAA MEMBERS ARE AUTOMATICALLY SUBSCRIBED.**

“**The Quad**” – This monthly young alumni e-newsletter features four short points of interest, including GAA events, news from campus and a young alumni profile.

Email Forwarding

The GAA offers a free email forwarding service that allows you to share your @alumni.unc.edu email address with friends and family. The best part is you don’t have to worry about letting others know when your internet service provider (ISP) changes. You just redirect your @alumni.unc.edu email address to your new ISP.
Carolina Clubs
No matter where you live, you’re likely to count at least a few fellow Tar Heels as neighbors. View a map (PDF) of where alumni and GAA members are located around the world. Meet up with your local Carolina Club for game-viewing parties, happy hours and community service events.

Alumni Admissions Volunteers
In conjunction with the Office of Admissions, help share your Carolina experience during an Admitted Student Reception, a student send-off event and/or refer a student you’d think would be a great new addition to the Tar Heel family.

Tar Heel Travel
Gather your friends and book a trip today. More than 11,000 fellow Tar Heel alumni and friends who have already traveled with the GAA can’t be wrong. Check back often for affordable trips for a young alumni budget.

Cheer on the Tar Heels
No matter where you live, support Carolina athletic teams through game-viewing parties, tailgate events, send-off opportunities and more.
Historic On-Campus Accommodations
Southern charm, modern amenities and gracious service await you at The Carolina Inn. You can’t beat the location, and GAA members receive a minimum 15% discount on room reservations.

Homecoming
Reunite with your Carolina friends and reconnect with your alma mater during Carolina’s annual Homecoming celebration. Enjoy our annual bar night, tailgate party, postgame party and more.

Affinity Reunions
Affinity reunions are gatherings of alumni based on their involvement in or allegiance to a particular group, experience or common connection. Let the GAA help you reconnect with your friends and the student organizations you were a part of during your undergraduate career.

Black Alumni Reunion (BAR)
BAR is an annual favorite among Tar Heel faithful. It presents a unique opportunity for Carolina’s African-American alumni to reconnect with one another. BAR reaches out specifically to young alumni with their annual Hip-Hop Party.
Dining in Style, Without the Wait

When you return home, take advantage of on-campus, five-star dining at The Carolina Club. Club staff commit to providing members and guests excellent cuisine, unparalleled service and unique opportunities for business and social networking, all in a traditional Southern setting. Members of The Carolina Club must be members of the GAA. Special young alumni pricing for membership is available here.
Join Your Association...
Join the Tar Heel Family

As former Tar Heel students, we share a bond that connects us to Carolina and to each other. GAA membership strengthens that bond by keeping us involved in and informed about Carolina’s achievements and challenges. It also keeps us connected to our classmates and Blue Heaven. **GAA member dues assist in preserving the value of our Carolina diplomas** through advocacy, recruitment and student enrichment.

Annual membership rates start as low as $25 and affordable life membership options are available. Join by phone or online. Call our membership services office at (800) 962–0742 Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Eastern Time, or visit alumni.unc.edu/join.
Great Links

The GAA is proud to help all alumni and Tar Heel friends stay connected and informed. Below are some great links we think you’ll enjoy and find useful.

- **Athletics** – goheels.com
- **The Daily Tar Heel** – dailytarheel.com
- **Chapel Hill Visitor’s Bureau** – visitchapelhill.org
- **UNC Student Stores** – store.unc.edu
- **Campus Libraries** – lib.unc.edu
- **Giving to UNC** – giving.unc.edu
- **Campus Maps** – maps.unc.edu
- **Campus Calendars** – unc.edu/events
- **Memorial Hall** – carolinaperformingarts.org