

UNC Asheville Family Weekend

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: OCTOBER 16-18, 2026

Welcome, Bulldog Families! We're excited to have you on campus to experience the people, places, and community that make UNC Asheville so special. The schedule below includes events, activities, and ways to enjoy a fall Family Weekend in Asheville with your student.

All events are open to registered families and supporters. Please note the off-campus tours that require additional registration.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
------	-------	----------

12 - 4 P.M.	PARENTS COUNCIL INVITATION ONLY	BLUE RIDGE ROOM HIGHSMITH STUDENT UNION 223
-------------	------------------------------------	--

Members are invited to the first official Parents Council meeting of the year. Hear from leadership about Asheville 2030, the university's strategic plan, and what it means for your student and the future of UNC Asheville. Share your valuable perspective and help guide parent involvement.

Interested in joining the Parents Council? Let us know! Email gwrays@unca.edu.

2 - 5 P.M.	CHECK IN: BULLDOG WELCOME	SILVER BULLDOG UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS & CAMPUS DRIVE
------------	---------------------------	--

Check in with our Welcome Team! Pick up your name tag, grab a printed schedule, and get answers to any questions you have before we officially kick off the weekend!

3:30 - 4:45 P.M.	MEET YOUR STUDENT'S SUCCESS TEAM	ALUMNI HALL HIGHSMITH STUDENT UNION
------------------	----------------------------------	--

Staff from Financial Aid and the Academic Success Center will walk you through how you can support your student throughout their academic journey. Learn about important deadlines, holds, and early warning signs—and leave knowing exactly where to turn if your student needs a little extra support.

4:30 - 6 P.M.	FAMILY SOCIAL	BLUE RIDGE ROOM HIGHSMITH STUDENT UNION
---------------	---------------	--

Meet and mingle with university staff, leadership, other families and supporters while we enjoy some wine, cheese, and hors d'oeuvres before heading out to the Bulldog Block Party!

5 - 8 P.M.	BULLDOG BLOCK PARTY	REED PLAZA
------------	---------------------	------------

Bring on the Bulldog spirit! Join us for a campus-wide pep rally packed with live music, games, and giveaways. Cheer on our Men's and Women's Basketball teams as they gear up for the season!



= Additional Registration Required

8 - 10 P.M.

HAUNTED TROLLEY TOUR

PICK UP: SILVER BULLDOG STATUE

INTERSECTION OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS AND CAMPUS DRIVE



Hop on a nostalgic red trolley and enjoy a tour of all the haunts of Asheville! Your driver and tour guide will take you all over the city, sharing local lore, fascinating facts, and stories from Asheville's historic past. **ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

8:30 - 10 A.M.

CHECK IN: BULLDOG WELCOME
FOR SATURDAY ARRIVALS

REED PLAZA

Arriving Saturday? No problem! Check in with our Welcome Team and get all your materials for the day.

9 - 10 A.M.

DONUTS WITH THE DEANS

REED PLAZA

Start your day with coffee, donuts, and a little quality time with our Dean of Students and Academic Affairs Leadership team before heading out to spend the day with your student.

10:15 - 11 A.M.

BACK TO CLASS SESSIONS

KARPEN HALL

11:15 A.M. - 12 P.M.

RHODES ROBINSON HALL

Step into the classroom with our UNC Asheville professors! Choose one of the mini-lectures below and get a taste of the engaging classes and conversations happening on campus. All classes are offered during both sessions, except Crisis Communications, offered only from 11:15 a.m. – 12 p.m.

You Have 10 Minutes to Respond: Welcome to Crisis Communication (Karpen Hall 038)

Sonya DiPalma, Ph.D., A.P.R., Chair and Professor, Department of Mass Communication

What happens when something goes wrong, social media is buzzing, and everyone expects an answer? Step into the role of a crisis communication professional and make real-time decisions as an organizational crisis unfolds. See how your choices impact public trust and the course of the crisis!

Introduction to Law (Rhodes Robinson Hall 103)

Mark Gibney, J.D., Ph.D. Belk Distinguished Professor of Humanities and Political Science

Explore three fascinating legal cases. From cannibalism on the high seas to a deadly car accident involving a drunk driver, discover who is held responsible and why.

Why Study Birds? (Rhodes Robinson Hall 125)

Andrew Laughlin, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Environmental Science

Birds have fascinated humans for centuries, but they can also teach us a lot about our world. Discover how studying birds helps us understand evolution, animal behavior, and conservation in this introduction to Avian Ecology & Conservation.

Getting to The Good Place (Karpen Hall 033)

Angel Kaur, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Neuroscience

What does it mean to be human? What makes a good life? Explore these big questions through the NBC series *The Good Place* and the philosophical texts that inspired it. Learn skills that can help your student throughout college and beyond.

11:30 A.M. - 1 P.M.

FAMILY WEEKEND PICNIC

THE QUAD

Enjoy live bluegrass on the lawn, a delicious picnic, and time together in one of the most beautiful spots on campus, the Quad that first made you fall in love with UNC Asheville.

Your Afternoon, Your Way

This time is yours to explore! We've left the afternoon open so families can choose what works best for them, with a few optional on- and off-campus activities planned throughout the day. Pick and choose what works for you, spend time with your student, or explore Asheville together.

2 - 4 P.M.

RIVER ARTS DISTRICT (RAD) TOUR

OFF CAMPUS: 346 DEPOT STREET, ASHEVILLE, NC.



Explore Asheville's thriving arts scene! Take a walking tour through one of the city's most dynamic and ever-evolving creative neighborhoods, with an inside look at the artists, galleries, and culture shaping Asheville today. **ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

4 - 6 P.M.

LAZOOM COMEDY TOUR

PICK UP LOCATION: REED PLAZA



Historical and hysterical, the Lazoom City tour features outrageously entertaining tour guides, giving a raucous, irreverent tour bus ride around downtown Asheville. Not for the easily embarrassed. Recommended for ages 16 and up. **ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

4 - 7 P.M.

WELL PLAYED BOARD GAME CAFE

OFF CAMPUS: 162 COXE AVE STE. 101, ASHEVILLE, NC

Well Played is an alumni-owned board game cafe located in the lively downtown area of Asheville. We're picking up the tab for all game passes this evening! *Your Family Weekend name tag will be your key to a FREE pass.*

5 - 8 P.M.

E-SPORTS OPEN HOUSE

STUDENT REC CENTER

Our E-sports Center throws its doors open, with PC's, PlayStations, Xbox, and racing rigs all live and ready to go. Free to play, and worth grabbing a controller for yourself instead of watching from behind your student's chair.

8 - 10 P.M.

STARGAZING, OVERLOOK BONFIRE, AND S'MORES

PICK-UP LOCATION: PARKING LOT P8

Hop on our shuttles and head up to Lookout Observatory! Enjoy s'mores around the fire!

8 - 10 P.M.

DECADES SILENT DISCO

REED PLAZA

End the day with some family fun at our silent disco! Bring the whole family, pick your decade, put on your headphones, and dance along to your favorite hits from over the years.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

12 - 2 P.M.

BAKING CLUB TEACHING KITCHEN

SHERRIL CENTER 346

Get a taste of campus life with a student organization! Join the Baking Club as they whip up delicious rice krispy treats to take with you! See the creativity and community that make UNC Asheville feel like home.

EXPLORE ASHEVILLE: EVENTS TO CHECK OUT AROUND TOWN

We've identified a few non-university events to check out around town to make sure you have a well-rounded Asheville experience.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

Pack Square Artisan Market

3 - 9 p.m. Pack Square Park, Downtown (80 Court Plaza, Asheville, NC)

The Pack Square Artisan Market offers handmade goods from independent artists that call the Asheville area home. The market is free to attend and welcomes pets and families of all ages.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

North Asheville Tailgate Market

8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Parking Lot: P34 (275 Edgewood Road, Asheville, NC)

This market, located on the edge of campus, is open every Saturday morning to students and community members with local vendors, great food, and usually a musical performance or two!

Ooh La La Curiosity Market

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Pritchard Park (67 Patton Ave, Asheville, NC)

Shop local artists, enjoy live music at this vibrant Asheville market in the park.

Irene Worthan Fall Festival

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (916 W. Chapel Road, Asheville, NC)

A fun-filled day of family-friendly activities! Enjoy bouncy houses, food trucks, pumpkin decorating, face painting, treats, prizes, a live DJ, and so much more. This is a free community event.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

Junebug Creek Lounge Sundays

12 - 5 p.m. (355 Clarks Chapel Road, Weaverville, NC)

The Creek Lounge is a unique outdoor music venue just north of Asheville in Weaverville, surrounded by nature and Flat Creek. Bring a lounge chair or blanket, or relax in a hammock while enjoying food, drinks, and live music.

UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE AND CAMPUS DINING HOURS

UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE

HIGHSMITH STUDENT UNION FIRST FLOOR

Friday and Saturday, October 16 - 17: **9 A.M. - 5 P.M.**

Sunday, October 18: **9 A.M. - 1 P.M.**

The campus bookstore will be open for family members to purchase any UNC Asheville gear during Family Weekend! **Everyone will receive 10% off their entire purchase!**

ROASTED COFFEE

HIGHSMITH STUDENT UNION SECOND (MAIN) FLOOR

Friday, October 16: **7:30 A.M. - 7 P.M.**

Saturday and Sunday, October 17 - 18: **8 A.M. - 2 P.M.**

Grab a coffee break at Roasted! Stop by for coffee, tea, refreshing beverages, and sweet treats—and **enjoy a 20% off voucher just for Family Weekend.**

BROWN DINING HALL

Friday, October 16: **7:30 A.M. - 7 P.M.**

Saturday: **9 - 10:30 A.M. and 3 - 7:30 P.M.**

Sunday, October 17 - 18: **9 A.M. - 7:30 P.M.**

Our main dining hall will be open for you to enjoy an all-you-can-eat meal with your student. Utilize a meal plan swipe or purchase a meal at the welcome kiosk.

Campus Map

