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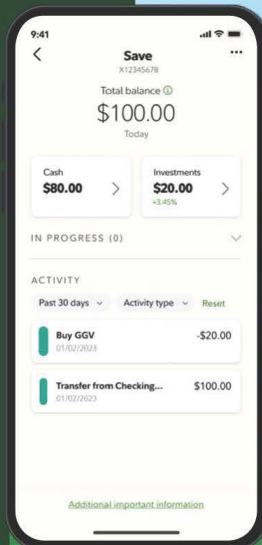


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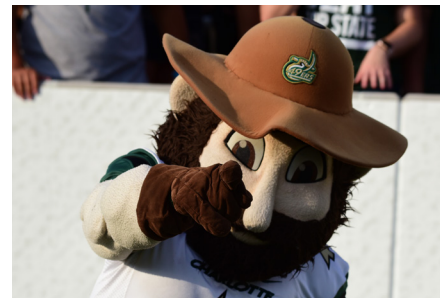
49 things to do as a UNC Charlotte student

Niner Times Archive

Niner Times File

There is an abundance of things to do while being a student at UNC Charlotte, and it can often become overwhelming to navigate them all. Here is a bucket list of 49 fun and interactive things to do before graduating.

1. Throw a coin in the Niner Miner statue
2. Visit the Student Union Art Gallery
3. Walk around the Botanical Gardens
4. Stargaze on top of a parking deck
5. Attend the homecoming football game
6. Grab a late-night breakfast at SoVi
7. Get to know a maintenance employee
8. Check out graffiti at Toby Creek Greenway Tunnel
9. Ride on each Niner Transit bus route (Green, Gold and Silver)
10. Hit up the UREC pool
11. Give a friend or family member a campus tour
12. Get featured on the UNC Charlotte Instagram page
13. Meet Norm the Niner
14. Order food from the Starship robot delivery service
15. Study at the Science Building and enjoy Auntie Anne's
16. Ride the light rail to Uptown
17. Attend a CoA+A performance at Belk Theatre
18. Watch a movie at the Student Union movie theater
19. Attend a career fair
20. Stand in the middle of the Star Quad
21. Try one of the campus food trucks
22. Pick up a Niner Times newspaper
23. Lounge in a hammock between class
24. Get a haircut at Om Salon
25. Grab a snack from the EPIC vending machines
26. Visit Area 49 in Atkins Library
27. Attend a residence hall event
28. Shop at Norm's Vintage Market
29. Go to the campus greenhouse
30. Try the High Ropes Course, Rock Climbing (Venture Outdoors)
31. Tailgate before a football game
32. Try every dining option on campus
33. Pet the puppies between COED and CHHS
34. Visit every academic building
35. Get a gift for someone at the Barnes & Noble book store
36. Make five friends from different majors on campus
37. Apply for a campus job
38. Find free merchandise or t-shirts
39. Take a 'fun' class
40. Get face paint before the first big game
41. Lay out for a tan at the Hunt Hall courtyard
42. Do the winter polar plunge at UREC
43. Visit the newsroom at the Student Union
44. Find a club or organization that fits and supports you
45. Attend an intramural sports game
46. Volunteer at the Jamil Niner Student Pantry
47. Watch out for geese
48. Attend a Campus Activities Board (CAB) event
49. Learn how to cook new foods at the Demo Kitchen in UREC





A of things in and near

Sunnya Hadavi | Multimedia Managing Editor

Charlotte has a lot, and it can be hard to navigate for those new to the city. This guide provides ideas for activities from A to Z in and around Charlotte.

A - Amusement park

Carowinds is a 400-acre amusement park in Charlotte with over 60 thrill rides, a water park and multiple food options.

B - Brakemans Coffee

For a new place to try coffee, Brakemans Coffee is located right outside of South Charlotte in Matthews. Matthews and South Charlotte also feature other unique spots to eat and shop.

C - Crowders Mountain

Crowders Mountain State Park is 32 miles west of Charlotte and has a great view of the region. In addition to hiking, you can go camping, paddling and fishing.

D - Discovery Place

Discovery Place Science Museum is in Uptown Charlotte, featuring an aquarium and other exhibits.

E - Exit Strategy escape rooms

Exit Strategy is one of the spots in Charlotte where you can do an escape room.

Exit Strategy's north location is near UNC Charlotte and has five games. Games are all private and can be done with at least two people.

F - Farmers markets

Charlotte has many farmers markets around the city that provide local fresh vegetables and fruit. Some markets include Charlotte Regional Farmers Market, Uptown Farmers Market, North End Farmers Market and Kings Drive Farmers Market.

G - Golf

Charlotte has multiple spots for golfing with friends. Most notably, Topgolf is located near UNC Charlotte. However, Monster Mini Golf is even closer to campus. Frankie's Fun Park also offers mini golf and other activities like laser tag and go-karting.

H - Hall of Fame (NASCAR)

The NASCAR Hall of Fame is located in Uptown Charlotte and showcases the history of NASCAR. The Hall features classic and present-day cars in addition to racing simulators.

I - Ice skating

During the holidays, there are options to ice skate at various locations, such as in Uptown, Carowinds and the U.S. Whitewa-

ter Center. However, for the chance to skate throughout the year, Extreme Ice Center or Pineville Ice House are Charlotte's two spots for ice skating.

J - Jeni's Ice Creams

Jeni's Ice Creams is an ice cream shop with four locations in Charlotte (South End, NoDa, Blakeney and Park Road). It is a great way to explore Charlotte's other neighborhoods.

K - Karaoke

There are many spots for karaoke around Charlotte's different neighborhoods. Seoul Food Market Co. has two locations, one in South End and one in the Mill District, that offer food and karaoke.

L - Lazy 5 Ranch

North of Charlotte, Lazy 5 Ranch is a drive-through animal park with over 750 animals from 6 continents. The animals include giraffes, bison and llamas.

M - MacTabby Cat Cafe

MacTabby Cat Cafe is the best place for cat lovers. Book a reservation to play with the adoptable cats in their cat lounge, or come by for the coffee

Things to do in Charlotte



Niner Times File & Couresty of Carowinds and Jeni's Ice Cream

N - NoDa

NoDa, which stands for North Davidson, is Charlotte's arts district. The area features murals and art from local artists and places to eat and shop, making it a nice place to walk around and take photos.

O - Optimist Hall

Optimist Hall is a dining hall right off the light rail with over 20 food stalls, a brewery and places to shop. The location of the dining hall is historic, as it was originally home to Charlotte's largest textile mill.

P - Parks

There are many parks throughout Charlotte that are ideal for hikes and picnics. In Uptown Charlotte, Freedom Park and First Ward Park provide greenspace in the city. Other parks, like Colonel Francis J. Beatty Park near South Charlotte, are much more secluded.

Q - Quarry at Carrigan Farms

The Quarry at Carrigan Farms is a local farm with options for strawberry picking in late April, open swimming and sunflowers during the summer.

R - Reed Gold Mine

Located east of Charlotte, Reed Gold Mine is the location of the first documented

gold found in the United States. You can go on guided tours of the historic structures, pan for gold and hike the trails there.

S - Sleepy Poet Antique Mall

For those interested in thrifting and antiquing, Sleepy Poet Antique Mall sells unique items from various vendors.

T - Tiger World

Tiger World Endangered Wildlife Preserve is open to the public for educational guided tours and walkabout self-guided tours. The nonprofit animal conservation center rescues, rehabilitates and preserves many exotic animals, including tigers.

U - U.S. Whitewater Center

The U.S. Whitewater Center is an outdoor center with ample opportunities to run, paddle and climb. Activities at the Whitewater Center include ziplining, whitewater rafting and rock climbing. During the holidays, the Whitewater Center has lights and ice skating.

V - Visulite Theater

Visulite Theatre is one of the many spots in Charlotte for live music performances. They have performances slotted throughout each month to attend.

W - Wing Haven Gardens

Wing Haven is a garden and bird sanctuary located south of Uptown Charlotte in the Myers Park neighborhood. The garden is open to the public for self-guided tours and visits.

X - Xtreme Xperience

Xtreme Xperience is an opportunity to drive supercars like a Ferrari 488 and Lamborghini Huracán at high speeds. The chance to race supercars happens twice yearly, typically in March and October, at the Charlotte Motor Speedway near UNC Charlotte.

Y - Yellow Brick Road

Walk on the yellow brick road through North Carolina's Land of Oz. Land of Oz is a theme park that hosts the annual Autumn at Oz Festival, where you can meet the characters from the film. Dates for the park's events change yearly and have yet to be announced for 2024.

Z - Zoo

The North Carolina Zoo is perfect for a day trip further out from Charlotte. The zoo features various animals from the African and North American continents and is working on an Asia expansion.

What to keep in your backpack during spring

Ronnie Taylor | Staff Writer

A Winter is finally ending, and spring is here. The new season will require new necessities. Many of which should be kept on hand, especially for college students.

Here is a list of spring must-haves and why you should add them to your bag this semester.

Tissues

Spring, also known as allergy season, is a miserable time for those allergic to pollen. If you have bad allergies, tissues will be your best friend.

Allergy medicine

Allergy medicines are a godsend for people with allergies. While they may only provide minimal relief, something is better than nothing.

Chapstick and lotion

Chapped lips and cracked hands are no one's friend, but they are common with cold weather. Having chapstick and lotion on hand can prevent peeling skin long enough for you to find warmth in a building and until the weather warms up.

Sunscreen

Spring is one of the best times of year to get outside and enjoy nature. The sun is shining, and protection from UV rays is important. A bottle of sunscreen is vital in protecting your skin and preventing sunburn.

Aloe vera

If you happen to get burnt this spring, aloe can relieve the pain and take the burn from your skin.

Sunglasses and a hat

The heat of the sun also comes with the brightness of it. Sunglasses and a hat will let

you enjoy the sun without being blinded by it this spring, and they make a great addition to any outfit.

Coat or jacket

While the sun is shining, spring can still be cold. A coat or jacket will keep you from chilling to the bone while chilling with friends. Once the weather gets warmer, switch to a light coat for cover in cold buildings or from the rain.

Water and snacks

Water and snacks are always essential, but they are even more so when spending lots of time outside, which spring is undoubtedly the season for. Having snacks and water on hand can be the difference between a good and bad day. Good snacks include trail mix, almonds, granola, gummies, crackers, goldfish and dried fruits like strawberries and blueberries.

Umbrella

Everyone has heard the saying, "April showers bring May flowers," but no one wants to get caught in the spring rain without protection. An umbrella will

keep you dry and content during a spring day.

Insect Repellent

The worst part of spring is the amount of bugs out and about. While there is no perfect solution, insect repellent and bug spray can keep them at a distance while outside.

Other handy items

While they are not spring necessities, hair ties or scrunchies, earbuds and disposable cameras can all be great additions to a spring bag.

Hair ties and scrunchies let you pull your hair out of your face when smelling the flowers. Earbuds will allow you to listen to music while hiking or taking strolls through the park, and disposable cameras will let you document the season's beauty in a memorable way.



Rue Thi/Niner Times

Guide: Tips and tricks to study for exams

Niner Times Archive

Megan Khor/Niner Times

Although it might seem a little early, final exams will be here sooner than you expect.

Before you begin: Get organized

The first studying is making sure you have everything you need. Find a comfortable study space and get your materials ready. One of the most valuable resources you have is class materials, such as old exams, assignments or notes from your classes. Make a list of assignments and exams based on priority—it is often easier to finish low-effort assignments that have a bigger impact on your grade first before moving on to high-effort assignments.

While studying: Use on-campus resources

First and foremost, do not be afraid to go to your pro-

fessor's or TA's office hours, usually listed on their syllabus or Canvas page. Even though this advice has been repeated a lot, it is important to know that your professors want to help you succeed.

The University Center for Academic Excellence (UCAE) provides study groups and one-on-one tutoring. Other on-campus tutoring resources include:

The Language Resource Center: This is for the Department of Languages, Cultures and Translation. Their website provides more information.

The Math Learning Center: This is for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in Fretwell 330.

CCI Undergraduate Tutoring Center: This center is available for the College of Computing and Informatics.

The Writing Resources Center: This center provides help with writing assignments across disciplines. However, if you prefer studying on your own, here are a few study methods to help you get through exam season.

Method 1: The Stoplight Method

Look at the syllabus, notes or other materials for your class and color code each topic based on how familiar you are with it.

Topics you will need the most help with would be in red, topics you have a loose understanding of but still need help with would be in yellow, and topics you feel confident about would be in green. Focus on studying the red topics first before moving on to the yellow and green sections. Studying the topics you are least sure about first may seem overwhelming, but it is better to get these topics out of the way.

Method 2: Engage with the material

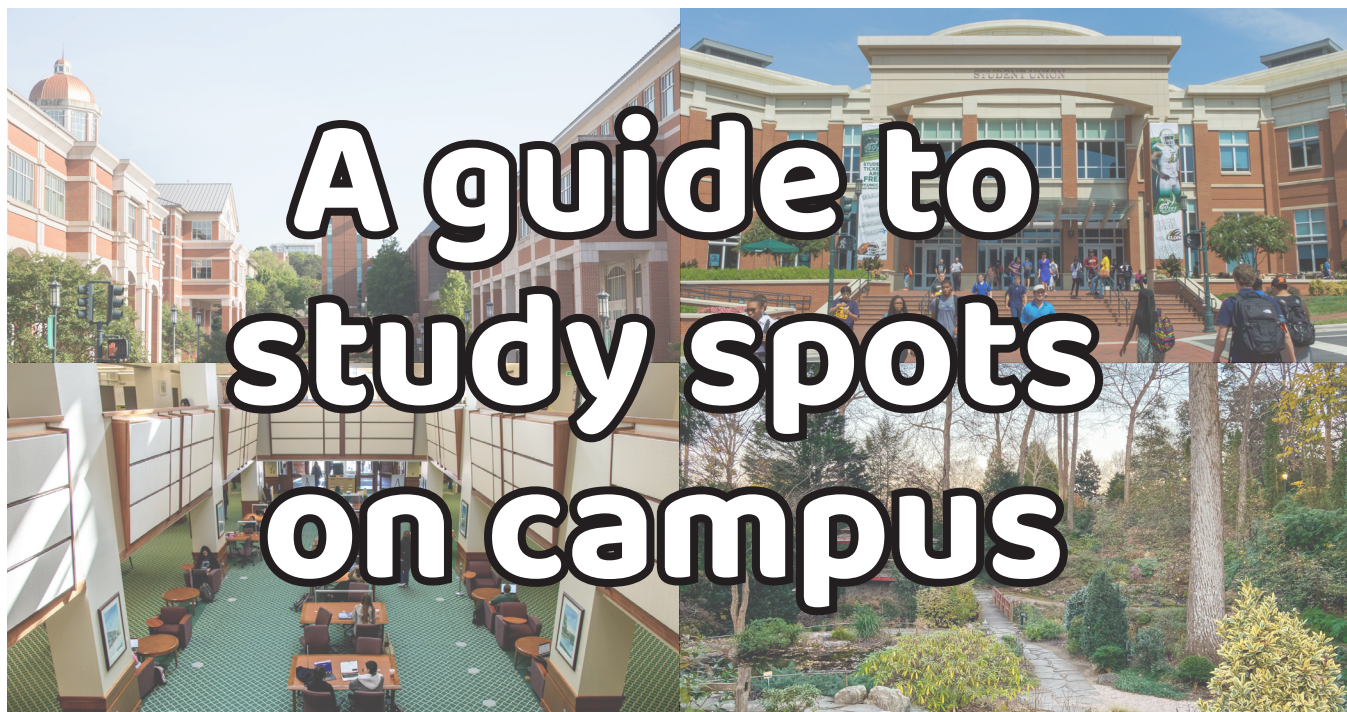
Reading and rereading your notes might not be enough to gain a more in-depth understanding of the material. If you have access to them, look back at old exams or assignments to determine what to expect from your next exam.

If your exam is cumulative, look at old questions you answered incorrectly, figure out what you did wrong. Create your own exam questions for topics to test your knowledge.

Method 3: Listen to the material

This method is for people who learn best through auditory learning. If your classes do not have prerecorded lectures, record your notes from class in a quiet environment and listen back to these recordings to prepare for your exam.





A guide to study spots on campus

Niner Times Archive

Niner Times File

It may be hectic to look for good study spots when preparing for the start of the semester. Finding that perfect spot will ease the transition into the school year and allow your academics to prosper.

Finding comfortable areas on campus to work can take some time, so here are a few cute spots to settle down and get work done so you do not have to look for them.

Popp Martin Student Union: The Student Union is the most notable place on campus; it is not easy to miss. From the couches on the first floor to the cubicles on the fourth floor, every level in this building allows you to choose the area of your interest. Students can choose the Mezzanine level, where Norm's Lounge is located, or the second floor, where the Student Involvement Center offers cubicle spaces and tables to sit at. There is also the first floor by the food court where students can sit at tables or booths to people-watch as they write notes.

Fretwell: This building offers a variety of choices for students to sit down and unwind. The Thoughtful Cup is an excellent option on the bottom floor. Here, tables and seating

allow students to get that smell of coffee to start their day. Students can also find seating outside the cafe if they want a more natural landscape while studying. Feel free to explore all floors to find single couches to relax at before classes begin as well.

Denny: This building is excellent for students to people-watch while working. The ground floor of Denny allows you to turn on your headphones and sit in the lounge to get some work done before classes begin. The second-floor cubicles may be a better option if you want a more personal space. Here, you can watch the geese as there is a big window where the light shines.

Cone: This building offers a notable space students can visit during lunch or study hours. Cone After Hours, located on the second floor, has plenty of seating. Stop by to get that student lounge feel with a variety of food options, from Panda Express to Subway. Additionally, other floors have couches for students to use.

Botanical gardens: If students want a significant change of scenery from being inside all day, the Botanical gardens may be what they need. The green views while do-

ing homework will allow you to clear your mind. As students take a lap, benches and tables will be found around the many paths.

Hammocks: Another place to study outside is the Hammocks scattered over campus. Students can find them by the pond behind the SoVi Pavilion, outside Fretwell's ground floor, outside Atkins Library and beside Wallis Hall. These places offer one or more hammocks to lay or sit down on to do homework.

Star Quad: This area outside the Atkins Library has a big lawn where students can bring a blanket for a picnic or do homework. People pass by often as it is in the heart of campus, so if you want a good view of campus, this may be for you. The giant steps are also a great way to soak up the sun and focus when the weather is right.

Choosing the right study spot is a crucial part of effective studying. It can help you concentrate better, retain information more effectively, and ultimately, perform better academically. So, as you prepare for the new semester, consider these study spots as your allies in achieving your academic goals.

A guide to athletic clubs at UNC Charlotte

Davis Cuffe | Editor-In-Chief

If you were an athlete in high school or want to stay active during the academic year, joining a sports club is the perfect way to do that and more.

These recreational sports programs at UNC Charlotte provide competitive, instructional and recreational groups to help students have fun and stay fit.

Intramural leagues

This program offers three divisions: recreational, intermediate and competitive. The recreational division focuses on beginner-level skills, typically with a four or six-game season. Intermediate gears towards moderate-level skills that compete in a single-elimination playoff season. The competitive design is the highest skill level that follows a regular season along with playoffs that crown a championship team.

Some examples of intramural leagues include:

- Outdoor and indoor basketball
- Outdoor and indoor volleyball
- Outdoor and indoor soccer

Sports clubs

This program features competitive and instructional teams. The competitive sports clubs compete in a regional league with other universities, while the recreational teams are not governed by any governing body. To be eligible for sports clubs, students must be in good academic standing and pay the annual or semester-based Student Activity Fees that vary with each club.

Some examples of sports clubs include:

- Men's and women's volleyball
- Men's and women's lacrosse
- Men's and women's rugby

Personal interest sports clubs

This category within club sports includes sports not commonly played by most students. These clubs frequently are not under any governing body or league and are not instructional based but more for fun. That being said these clubs often compete against each other or in tournaments.

Some examples of personal interest clubs include:

- Quidditch
- Laser Tag Corps
- Ski & Snowboard

Do not see a club that interests you?

Students are encouraged to start their own clubs to meet personal interests!

Meeting with the assistant director of sports clubs and the associate director of student organizations is one of two steps required to create your own club.

For further information on how to start your own club, visit urec.charlotte.edu/sport-clubs/about-sports-clubs.



Top 10 spots to get your graduation photos this year

Niner Times Archive

Blaise Uy/Niner Times

Graduation season is approaching quickly. Check out these spots picked by Niner Times for your graduation sessions this school year.

On-campus locations

Botanical Gardens: Students can take photos in the circular arch, gazebo, bridges or picnic tables.

Popp Martin Student Union: Students can take photos in the lobby, bookstore, theater, art gallery, ground-floor pool tables, dining hall, front of the building or on the third-floor rooftop balcony.

J. Murrey Atkins Library: Students can take pictures down the tree-covered walkway in front of the building. They can also take photos reading books, exploring Area 49 or in front of the Atkins library sign.

UNC Charlotte Sports Fields: Students can take photos of the sport of their choice, including football, soccer, baseball, tennis and more (some areas require permission to enter).

Colvard: This building has various outdoor walkways on different levels and many colorful murals. At sunset, the sun shines directly through the building.

Off-campus locations

Rosie's Coffee & Wine Garden, located at 940 N Davidson St, Charlotte: This location is light rail accessible. Students can take pictures day and night. Rosie's is also a coffee shop and accepts entries of all ages. It is about 20 minutes

away from campus by car and is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

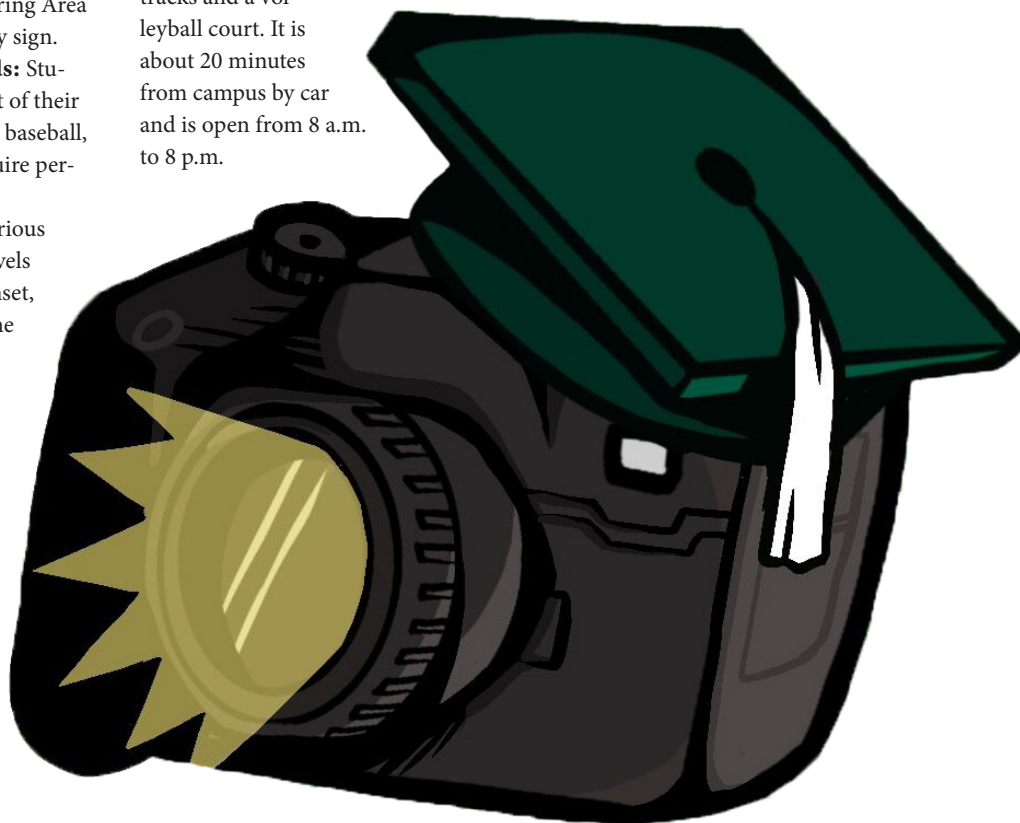
Streets of Uptown: This location is light rail accessible. Students can take streetwear-type photos with many different backdrops. They can also take pictures in parks, hallways, coffee shops, diners and streets. You can shop and eat during or after your session—it is about 20 minutes from campus by car.

Bonus: You can take fun photos riding the city's electric scooters with your cap and gown on.

Frank Liske Park, located at 4001 Stough Rd SW, Concord: This location is not light rail accessible. The park has many features, including a lake, picnic tables, train tracks and a volleyball court. It is about 20 minutes from campus by car and is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Murals in NoDa: This location is light rail accessible. Students can take pictures with murals that suit their needs the most. You can shop and eat during or after your session. It is almost 20 minutes from campus by car.

Camp North End, located at 300 Camp Rd, Charlotte: This location is not light rail accessible. Students can take pictures on overgrown railway tracks with the uptown skyline. Many rustic backdrops are available, including warehouse interiors, old water towers and a parking deck with a view of uptown. You can shop and eat during or after your session. This location is open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and is almost 20 minutes from campus by car.



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