

NINERTIMES

LIVING GUIDE 2025



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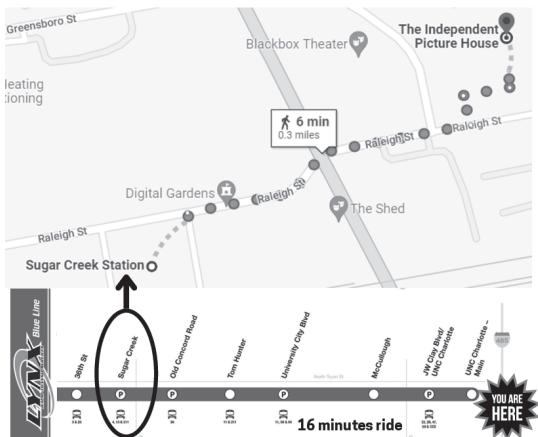
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Ideal Locations

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Granite Countertops



A GUIDE TO LIVING WITH ROOMMATES

Sofia DiStefano | News Editor

Living with roommates is one of the biggest parts of college, and the way you go about it can make or break the overall experience. These tips may only work for some; however, they can be used as a general guideline to keep in mind.

Communication is key

The best thing to do with roommates is to ensure constant communication, whether about your class schedule or the times you will be in or out of the dorm. This also involves establishing boundaries and determining what works best for the room so everyone is comfortable. Before moving in, things to discuss are personal bedtimes, allergies, cleanliness, hobbies, social habits and what utilities you are bringing to the room. It is best to figure these out early so there is no discourse later in the semester.

One thing to remember is that having different living styles as your roommate is entirely okay. If that is the case, setting boundaries and

communicating expectations is critical and can still make for a good experience. Creating a strong bond with your roommate is something that will make the college experience much smoother. Having someone that you can go to or have as a safety contact is something everyone needs in college.

Remember that you and your roommate are in the same boat with starting college and experiencing everything for the first time together, so do not stress out about clicking automatically with your roommate(s); it takes time.

Personalize your area

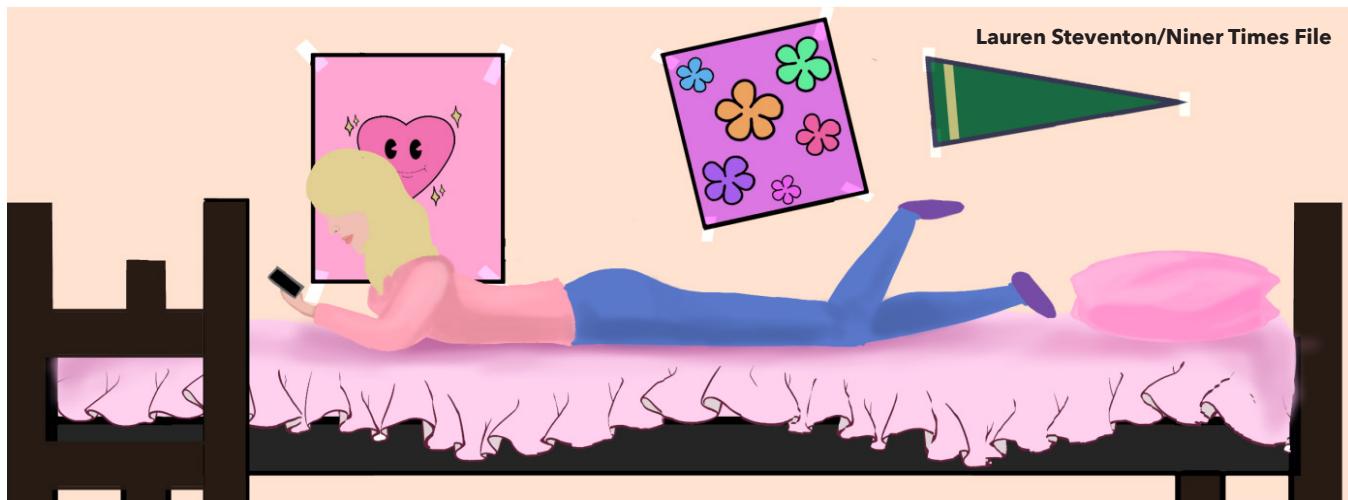
Another part of making your room feel more comfortable is personalizing it to your liking. A good thing to do is find some mutual decorations that you and your roommate both want in your dorm, such as a tapestry or a snack cart. The more you agree on, the better. To make your dorm more personalized, I would recommend hanging up some posters

and or photos based on how much room you have. The more fun you have with decorating your space, the more connected you will feel with it.

Personalizing your room is also a great time to bond with your roommate and determine what similarities you might have in things like music, movies or anything else. This is your space, and making it your own can give you a sense of control and comfort in your new environment.

Branch out and have fun

Your roommate does not have to be your only friend on campus. Try to put yourself out there by joining clubs or student organizations that spark your interest. It is a great way to expand your circle of friends. Try to attend as many University events as possible with your roommates, such as football games or late nights at the dining halls. These can make for some great memories and also help you get closer to your roommates and new friends.



Lauren Steventon/Niner Times File

TV SHOWS TO WATCH THIS SEMESTER

Ronnie Taylor | Staff Writer

A fresh wave of TV show premieres is set to hit screens this spring and summer, bringing new series and returning favorites. From gripping dramas to must-watch comedies, here are the biggest shows to keep on your radar in 2025.

Daredevil: Born Again

Set to release on Disney+ on March 4, Matt Murdock (Charlie Cox) will reprise the role of Daredevil in his first solo Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) project. While he has made cameos in films like "Spider-Man: No Way Home," having his own show is sure to be a breath of fresh air.

Your Friends and Neighbors

Produced by Apple Studios, "Your



Friends and Neighbors" is set to star Emmy winner Jon Hamm. The Mad Men star plays a recently divorced hedge fund manager who lost his job. He begins stealing from his rich neighbors to maintain his lifestyle but makes a fatal error. Join Hamm on April 11 as he tries to escape a sticky situation.

Andor season 2

Second only to The Clone Wars, Andor is one of the most loved and critically acclaimed Star Wars series to hit screens. After the heartbreak ending of season 1, the second season, premiering on April 22, is something to look forward to.

The Last of Us season 2

After a two-year break, Pedro Pascal and Bella Ramsey reprise their roles as Joel and Ellie. While there is



no release date yet, there is a teaser trailer, and it is presumed to release sometime in April on Max.

Ironheart

Dominique Thorne's Riri Williams is returning to the big screen in this new series. After being expelled from MIT, Riri must find a new way to make money, so she joins forces with Anthony Ramos' character, The Hood. The six-episode series will release on Disney+ on June 24 and conclude Phase Five of the MCU.

We Were Liars

Based on the New York Times bestseller of the same title, the "We Were Liars" series is going to come out this summer on Prime Video. Starring Emily Alyn Lind, Shubham Maheshwari, Esther-Rose McGregor and Joseph Zada as the four 'liars,' the show is sure to be a crowd-pleaser, especially for those who are into thrillers.

The Summer I Turned Pretty season 3

More love triangles and chaos are coming this summer with the third and, likely last, season of "The Summer I Turned Pretty." The season will

be extra long with 11 episodes and will likely be as fun and engaging as the previous two seasons.

Wednesday season 2

Jenna Ortega is back as Wednesday Addams, and her studies continue at Nevermore Academy. The sneak peek shows her visiting old friend turned nemesis, Tyler, at the asylum where he resides. While no other characters were shown in the sneak peek, it is confirmed that Emma Myers (Enid Sinclair), Joy Sunday (Bianca Barclay), Catherine Zeta-Jones (Morticia Addams) and Luis Guzmán (Gomez Addams) will

all be returning with Ortega sometime this year.

Percy Jackson and the Olympians season 2

Percy Jackson (Walker Scobell) travels through the Sea of Monsters later this year, and viewers can join him on his quest to save Grover (Aryan Simhadri) from the Cyclops Polyphemus. Leah Jeffries is returning as Annabeth, and some new faces, like Tamara Smart as Thalia, are joining the gang.

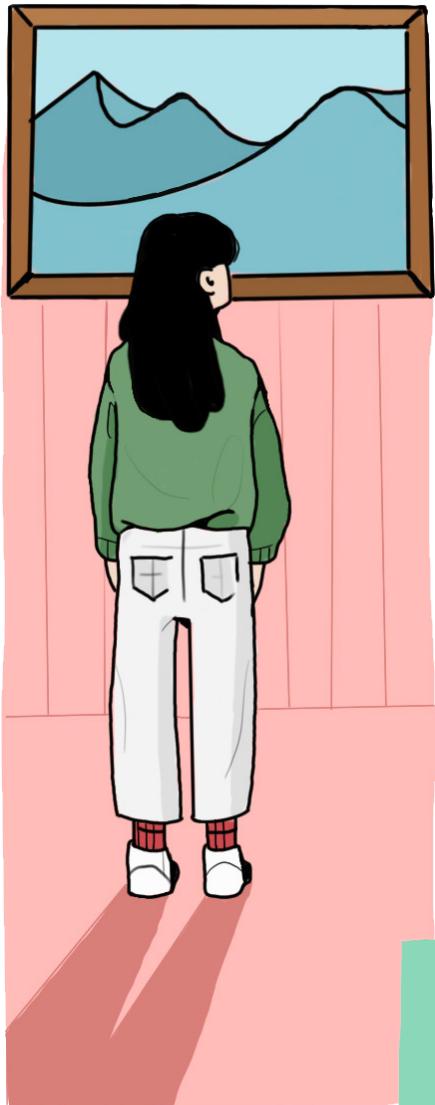
Squid Game season 3

Filmed right after season 2, season

3 of Squid Game continues the previous season's plot. Lee Jung-Jae's Gi-Hun continues fighting for his life in what is sure to be an action-packed, gruesome season.



THINGS TO DO IN CHARLOTTE



Siri Bharadwaj | Staff Writer

Wintertime in Charlotte is the perfect time to explore festivities, outdoor activities and other experiences to make the season worth remembering. Whether you are visiting Queen City for the first time or a Charlotte native, the city offers plenty of ways to enjoy the season. Here is a guide for some of the best things to do in Charlotte during the colder months.

Enjoy outdoor adventures

Charlotte typically has mild winters, which make outdoor activities enjoyable, even during the colder months. The U.S. National Whitewater Center is a great place to visit to enjoy activities like ice skating,



shopping at winter markets, moonlight zip lining, winter trail walks and more.

For the folks who love hiking, the Crowders Mountain State Park is the place to check out. The cool weather makes the trek comfortable, and the stunning views from the summit make the climb worth it.

The Charlotte Motor Speedway is a unique place offering a thrilling experience. During the winter months, the speedway hosts various events, including exhibits and drive-through light displays. For motorsport enthusiasts and families, this spot is a must-visit.

Experience art and culture

The art and culture scene thrives in Charlotte, making the winter season a wonderful time to appreciate what the city has to offer. For art lovers, both the Mint Museum and the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art have a vast array of exhibitions and collections hosted throughout these months.

For fans of live performances, the Blumenthal Arts Center is a performing arts complex where you can watch different winter shows. Some of the city's historic theaters also feature concerts and performances.

Another popular destination to visit is Camp North End. This community hub features food stalls, public art, shops, live performances and

DURING WINTER IN CHARLOTTE

events. It is a vibrant area, making it a perfect place for gatherings with friends and family.

Indulge in popular cuisines

The culinary scene in Charlotte is special during the winter due to seasonal menus and cozy dining experiences. Farm-to-table restaurants, like Kindred, offer hearty meals and are popular in the Charlotte area.

If you are in the mood for a sweet treat, you can enjoy pastries like macarons, tarts, cakes and more at local bakery spots like Amélie's French Bakery. If you are in a savory mood, this bakery menu also includes sandwiches, salads and soups.

The city is also known for its thriving brewery scene, where, during the wintertime, breweries have seasonal beers and ciders on the menu. A popular business, NoDa Brewing Company, hosts live music and winter-themed events.

If you are looking for a more interactive experience, you can check out The Secret Chocolatier to take a chocolate-making class. You can also sign up for cooking classes at Chef Alyssa's Kitchen, where you learn how to cook and prepare winter comfort foods.

Family-friendly entertainment

For families with children traveling to Charlotte, do not worry; the city offers a variety of kid-friendly activi-

ties. You can check out the Discovery Place Science Museum, which often has various winter exhibits. Another family-friendly favorite is the SEA LIFE Charlotte-Concord Aquarium for interactive underwater exhibits.

For families who are sports enthusiasts, catch a Charlotte Hornets basketball game at the Spectrum Center or a Charlotte Checkers hockey game at the Bojangles Coliseum.

Charlotte's wide range of activities makes it a lovely place to explore during the winter. Whether you want to take winter hikes, try new food or watch epic shows, the city offers plenty of fun for everyone. Be sure to explore Charlotte and make the most of the winter season.

Rue Thi/Niner Times





Richard Nuzzo/Niner Times File

A COLLEGE STUDENT'S GUIDE TO THE LIGHT RAIL

Clare Grealey | Copy Editor

For students wanting to navigate Charlotte and Uptown without a car, the Lynx Blue Line is the perfect option. Running from UNC Charlotte's main campus to I-485/ South Boulevard, the light rail is accessible and easy to use.

Running from 5:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday and 6:15 a.m. to midnight Sundays, the light rail is reliable and quick transportation. Trains arrive at a given station every 20-30 minutes and generally linger at stations for a minute or two. However, the trains stay at the UNC Charlotte Main Station for around 10 minutes to allow students to get on.

Beginning in the fall of 2024, students must switch from using their Charlotte IDs to the CATS-Pass app to use their All-Access Pass. To do so, sign in with your NinerNET email address and create an account, and

you will be able to see your All-Access Pass in the app.

While the light rail serves 26 stations, here are a few notable ones for those new to Charlotte.

UNC Charlotte Main Station and JW Clay Station

These two stations serve the UNC Charlotte main campus: the Main Station just outside of North Village residence halls and the JW Clay Station near the engineering side of campus. On-campus students can board these stations to reach Uptown and the greater Charlotte area.

36th Street Station

This light rail stop covers the North Davidson (NoDa) neighborhood, an area brimming with cultural wealth. There are bakeries, restaurants, parks, live music venues and much more at this stop that are

worth a trip out there.

9th Street Station

The 9th Street Station connects UNC Charlotte's main campus to the Dubois Center, an extension of the Charlotte campus. The Dubois Center offers 23 academic programs and is home to the School of Professional Studies.

Spectrum Center/Arena

This station is aptly named, as it lets out right across from the Spectrum Center, home to the Charlotte Hornets and host to many musical artists, including Aerosmith, Nicki Minaj, Billie Eilish, Travis Scott and many more. On the other side of the station are shopping areas and restaurants such as the RedEye Diner and Insomnia Cookies.

10 TIPS FOR LIFE AT CHARLOTTE

Ruhshona Soledjona | Staff Writer

As the fall semester creeps up, having a list of tips in your back pocket is crucial for a productive semester. From study recommendations to lifestyle hacks, this list is curated to make a positive student-living experience.

Take advantage of the library

UNC Charlotte is proud to supply students with a long list of amenities, including the J. Murrey Atkins Library. Students can check out leisure books and find class readings for free. Remember to check the library database before buying books.

Use your study senses

When studying before an exam, be in tune with your senses. Chew on your favorite gum or snack every time you study—you can also use scents. During the exam, chew that same gum or snack. This tactic will help you recall the material better.

Sit closer to the front of class

While being seated close to the

professor may be nerve-wracking, sitting near the front of the class will help students pay attention and focus better.

Set notes as your lock screen

What better way to learn the material than constantly viewing it before unlocking your phone? Using your notes as your lock screen is a quick way to remind you of the material and quiz yourself throughout the day.

Join class group chats

Students are encouraged to make class group chats during the first weeks of school. These group chats are a great way to make friends, form study groups and ask questions if you miss a day.

Quizlet is your best friend

Be the one to make a study Quizlet for the class or befriend somebody who is.

Reserve library space early

Prioritizing and reserving study

spaces ahead of time makes all the difference. Once you know your exam schedules, book a study room or try to do so at least a week or two in advance.

Avoid 8 a.m. classes

Remember that you know yourself better than others; find what fits best in your comfort zone.

Campus life is music to the ears

Sometimes, the best experiences and interactions happen right under our noses or outside our headphones. When walking to class, take your headphones off and be present in the environment. Spend that time between classes, work and extracurriculars to immerse yourself in the Charlotte campus culture.

Ask about discounts

One of the many advantages of being a student in a big college town is the various vendors that offer student discounts. It does not hurt to ask; it can save you a lot of money in the long run.



BUDGET-FRIENDLY THINGS TO DO ON CAMPUS AND AROUND CHARLOTTE

Emsley Jackson | Opinion Editor

Niner Times File

College students are always on the prowl for fun ways to spend their time and not necessarily their money. Charlotte students are no different, and big-city living can be pricey, with everything seemingly costing more than you can bear.

So, look no further for those interested in exploring campus and the Queen City. Below are various free and cheap ideas for both.

Free on campus

Student Union Theater

In the Popp Martin Student Union, there is a fully functioning movie theater that shows movies free of charge to students. Depending on the season, there are weekly showings of newer movies and older favorites. This is a great way to catch up on new movies or revisit classics without spending movie theater money. The monthly showings and their scheduled times are posted on the Student Union's Instagram account and outside the theater in Popp Martin. Why watch that movie on your laptop when the real thing is just a short walk away?

UREC

Many students do not take advantage of the abundant amenities available at the University Recreation Center (UREC), of which admission price is included with tuition. Some of these forgotten treasures include workout classes, cooking classes, workshops in the demo kitchen and an outdoor pool complete with in-water lounging chairs. Using your

UREC membership to the fullest extent can be beneficial to your health and your wallet. During the first week back at school, UREC will be hosting RecFest starting on August 21. Some of the listed events include Capture the Flag, a group fitness sampler and a movie night by the pool. According to the UREC website, the week is "filled with activities, events, giveaways, and awareness for all the on-campus Recreation and Fitness Facilities."

Campus events

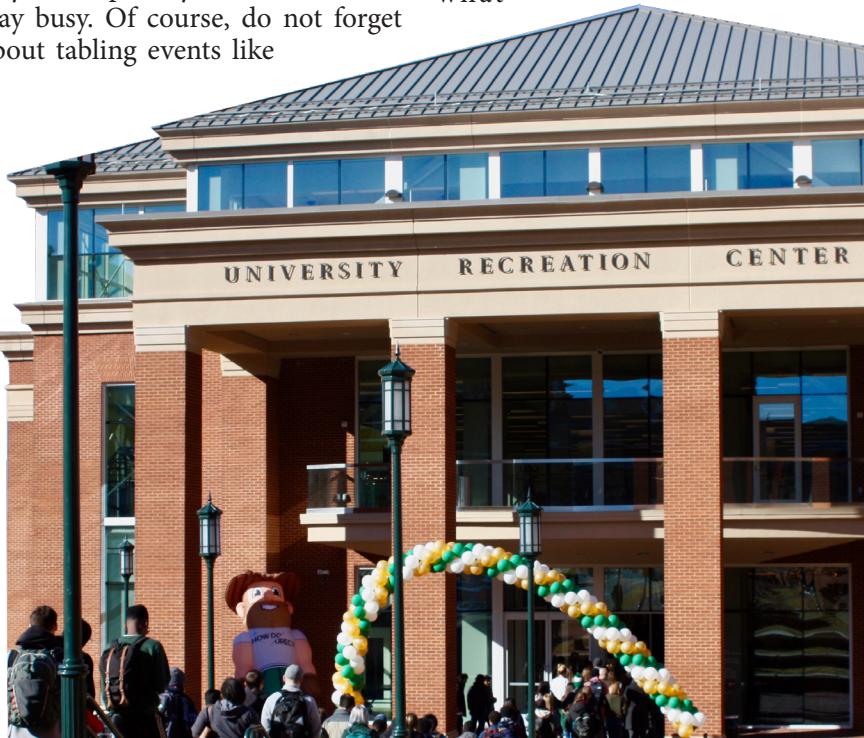
Keep yourself updated on the school calendar as fun and free campus events occur practically every day. Sports events, club-hosted events and community gatherings such as the International Festival are great ways to expand your horizons and stay busy. Of course, do not forget about tabling events like

the Student Organization showcase; tablers always hand out freebies and spread the word about more social opportunities. There is no rhyme or season to any of these events; free things are happening all year, so it pays off to keep an eye out.

Cheap on campus

Campus performances

The College of Arts + Architecture (CoA+A) always has exhibitions, concerts, performances and cool displays of talent within the student body and the area. Tickets are cheap for all students and free for those in CoA+A. The performances are always well done and allow you to support fellow students in their passions. For more information on what

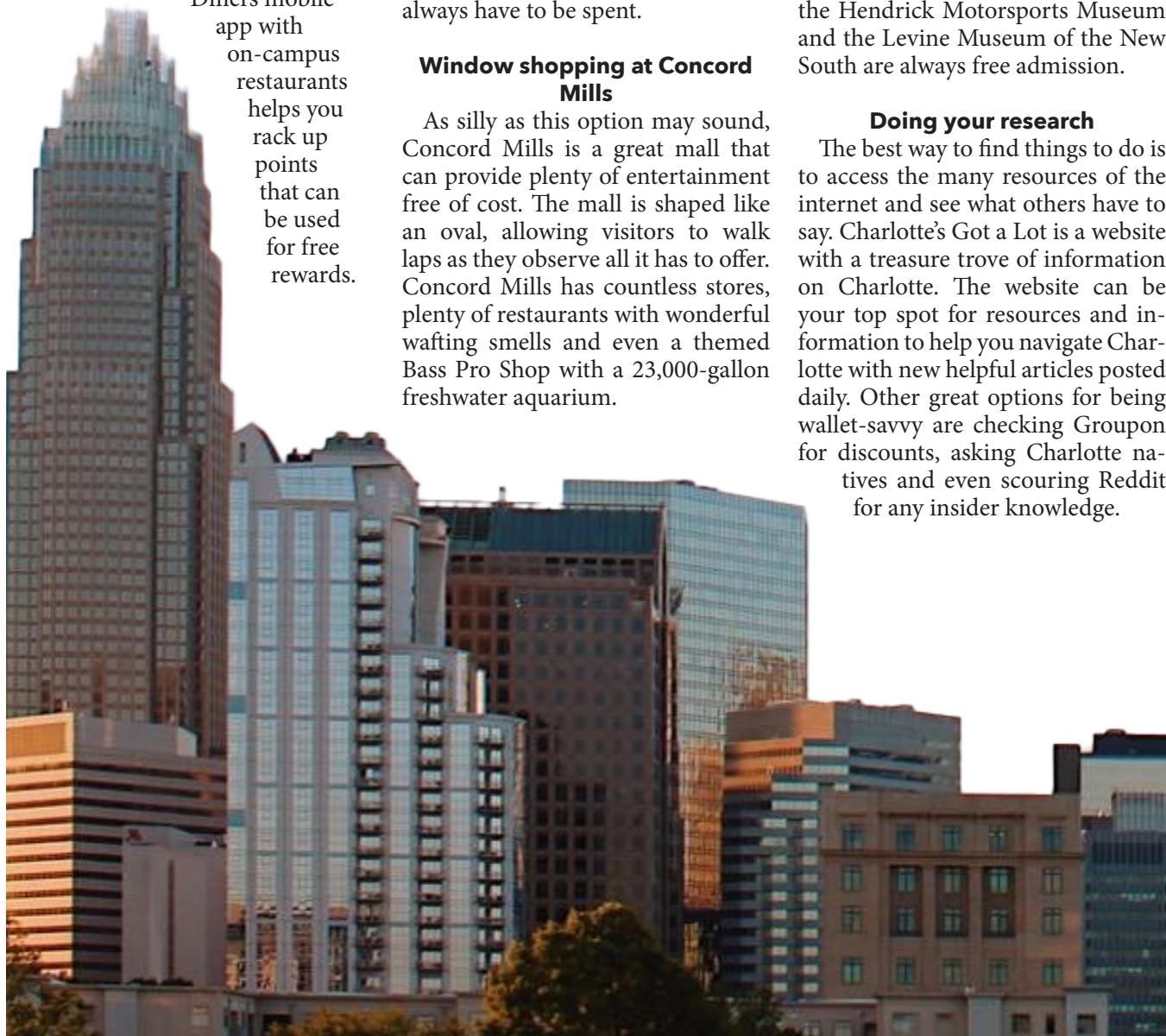


comes next, visit the CoA+A's website calendar.

Grabbing a bite to eat

With the dozen options for non-dining hall food all across campus, there are so many possible combinations of fun and food. Grabbing a coffee or chai at Thoughtful Cup for a serene visit to the botanical gardens, picking up some sushi to fuel a study session in the Prospector dining room or getting some pretzel bites at Auntie Anne's after a lab in the Science Building.

Using the Niner Diners mobile app with on-campus restaurants helps you rack up points that can be used for free rewards.



Free in Charlotte

Transport Uptown

With your student ID card, use of the light rail is completely free, and with a stop on campus, it is easy, too. Take advantage of this free transport by going uptown and stopping in cool neighborhoods like NoDa, South End, or the four wards in the heart of uptown. Each ward boasts a unique park, one of which happens to be directly in front of the Charlotte DuBois Center right next to the light rail stop. There is so much to see in the city, and money does not always have to be spent.

Window shopping at Concord Mills

As silly as this option may sound, Concord Mills is a great mall that can provide plenty of entertainment free of cost. The mall is shaped like an oval, allowing visitors to walk laps as they observe all it has to offer. Concord Mills has countless stores, plenty of restaurants with wonderful wafting smells and even a themed Bass Pro Shop with a 23,000-gallon freshwater aquarium.

Cheap in Charlotte

Museums

The Queen City has an abundance of great museums that display the area's history, culture, community, and creativity. Luckily, many of these places have reduced ticket prices for college students. Some of these places include the Harvey B. Gantt Center of African-American Arts + Culture, The Mint Museum of Art and the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art. The Mint and the Bechtler have free admissions every Wednesday from 5 to 9 p.m. In addition to these, the Hendrick Motorsports Museum and the Levine Museum of the New South are always free admission.

Doing your research

The best way to find things to do is to access the many resources of the internet and see what others have to say. Charlotte's Got a Lot is a website with a treasure trove of information on Charlotte. The website can be your top spot for resources and information to help you navigate Charlotte with new helpful articles posted daily. Other great options for being wallet-savvy are checking Groupon for discounts, asking Charlotte natives and even scouring Reddit for any insider knowledge.



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