

# Access better at UNC

By GORDON RANKIN  
Staff Writer

"What mountains are moved with sheer inspiration," the poet Emily Dickinson once wrote.

The words are a sort of motto for the disabled students at UNC, who, despite their physical handicaps, are able to overcome the obstacles they encounter on their way to careers.

Employers "almost always" hire handicapped people if they are the most qualified, a recent survey by Michigan State University reported. Most of the handicapped employees were identified through regular interviewing and hiring procedures.

UNC attempts to make the campus accessible to handicapped students to support their studies and put them at an advantage when they apply for jobs, officials said.

"The University makes every effort to assist disabled students during their years here," said Laura Thomas, UNC coordinator of Handicapped Services.

Seventy-five percent of the University-owned buildings are equipped to accommodate the students, Thomas said. In the registration processes each semester, the counselors attempt to ensure that the classrooms into which disabled students are placed are accessible. In the event of a mistake, adjustments are guaranteed and quickly made, she said.

For the blind and other vision-impaired students, books with Braille are supplied, as is special equipment for laboratories. Also available are special reading and tutorial assistant programs.

For the students in wheelchairs, mechanically operated doors are at the Student Union and the Studio Art Classroom Building, among other places. There are ramps throughout campus.

Although education and social life themselves are essential to the students' success, more profound are their long-term results. The jobs handicapped graduates apply for cover a broad range of interests, and the success rate of those applicants is relatively high.

For handicapped graduates seeking jobs, the key concerns are the availability of transportation and accommodations of buildings. For these reasons, the majority of handicapped graduates choose to work in large urban areas.

A survey conducted by the University found that handicapped UNC students had been accepted for positions as teachers, travel agents, computer experts, state and federal government employees, and private-sector businessmen.

Large numbers of handicapped students also choose to continue their education and receive graduate degrees for many professions, Thomas said.

## Business

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job.

"I think that sometimes students go to MBA school for the wrong reason — many times a MBA degree isn't necessary at all," she said.

Rather than going straight into MBA school, it is better to get a couple of years of work experience, said Wiatt.

"Sometimes undergraduates going straight into the MBA school won't be able to get in, or

if they do, they don't really have enough experience to be competitive in the programs," she said.

In a recent banking seminar in Hanes Hall, Buffie agreed that an MBA wasn't necessary to a successful career with his bank.

"We feel that with the first two years you spend at NCNB (in the training program) you can do just as well, in fact even better than the two years you spend back in business school," he said.

## Internships

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the experience can be invaluable. Also, some students can receive

academic credit for work done through internships. Joseph said while some businesses offer internships solely as a means of getting cheap labor, most do not.

"I don't necessarily see it (internship) but as the need by an employer to produce a specific product or service that they can get done with

their professional staff. Internships are based on pre-professional, substantive work — it's not clerical work or just summer work.

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