

Summertime courses key for students

6,000 students attend each year

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STAFF WRITER

It will not be a summer of lazing around and playing Nintendo Wii for some UNC students.

Instead, many will be enrolled in UNC's Summer School, which begins with the first session from May 13 to June 17. The second session runs from June 19 to July 25.

Far from the remedial summer school of the K-12 years, summer school at the collegiate level is typically pursued by students trying to get ahead, complete a second major or minor, lighten the course load during the school year or enroll in classes previously unavailable.

And UNC does not shut down just because summertime hits. Nearly 6,000 students attend summer school in each session.

"It's like having a university run here in the summer, only a smaller scale version," said Janet Gautier, director of UNC's summer school.

Summer school is an option for students who might have a difficult time completing their major requirements in eight semesters.

"I'm doing it to get my major requirements done so that I can study abroad," said Bunsree Patel, a freshman biology major.

"For science majors, it's harder to find study abroad programs and still get major requirements done."

The majority of courses offered during summer school are geared toward completing these major requirements.

"The sum of courses are the popular courses that you have in the fall and spring and fall that are over-enrolled in the school year that we can offer in the summer session," Gautier said.

UNC's summer school offers 700 courses, 250 of which satisfy perspective requirements.

Students can earn up to eight hours of credit in each session and also take advantage of the smaller

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class sizes.

Although classes in the summer move at a different pace, they're not always necessarily more relaxed.

"They tell you it's easier, but it's intense and a lot in six weeks," said Emily Lanning, a senior sociology major.

Lanning has attended both summer sessions for the past three years.

And this is not unusual, as about 75 percent of UNC graduates will attend summer school at some point in their undergraduate careers.

"I think that it keeps you in that mind-set so that you're still able to do work and stay focused when you come back to school in the fall," Lanning said.

Students from all across the country and the world attend summer school here in Chapel Hill, usually representing at least 98 of 100 North Carolina counties, 48 states and 60 foreign countries.

This diversity is a major incentive for some students to attend summer school.

"I want to spend some time away from my home because there's a wide variety of experience and diversity on campus," freshman biology major Andrew Lu said of why he chose to attend summer school.

The dining halls, some recreation centers and even the Student Union all are open and offer activities throughout the summer.

While many students enroll in summer school for the obvious reasons of keeping up academically, some are more interested in the life than the academics.

"I just didn't want to go home," said Katie Peede, junior and political science major.

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