ACADEMIC ORGANIZATION OF THE UNIVERSITY

The faculty and academic departments of the University are organized into the College of Arts and Humanities, College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences, and College of Social Sciences. The chief academic officer of the University is the Provost. The chief administrative officer of each college and school is its Dean, who reports directly to the Provost. Each academic department within a given college or school is responsible for the content and prerequisite structure of courses offered by the department and specifies the requirements for the department’s degree and certification programs. The Chair is the chief administrative officer at the departmental level.

Baccalaureate Degrees Offered

Christopher Newport University is approved to offer a wide variety of baccalaureate degree programs. Primary areas of study within a degree program are known as majors. An area of specialization within a major is a concentration. A sanctioned secondary field of study completed in addition to the major is called a minor. The following degree programs are offered:

Bachelor of Arts

- Biology
- Communication Studies
- Economics–mathematical economics concentration optional
- English–literature, or writing concentration optional
- Fine and Performing Arts–fine arts, music or theater major required
- Fine Arts major–art history or studio art concentration required
- Theater major–acting, arts administration, design/technology, directing/dramatic literature, music/dance, or theater studies concentration required
- Foreign Languages and Literatures – classical studies, French, German, or Spanish major required
- History
- Interdisciplinary Studies–American studies, environmental studies, major optional
- Mathematics
- Philosophy–pre-seminary studies or religious studies concentration optional
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology–anthropology or criminology concentration optional
- Social Work

Bachelor of Science

- Biology–cellular, molecular and physiological; environmental; integrative; or organismal major required
- Chemistry–Biochemistry major optional
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Foundations–applied physics, computer science or information systems major required
- Interdisciplinary Studies–neuroscience major optional
- Mathematics–computational and applied mathematics major optional
- Psychology

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Accounting, finance, management, or marketing major required

Bachelor of Science in Information Science

Minors

African-American studies, American studies, anthropology, applied physics, art history, Asian studies, biology, business administration, chemistry, childhood studies, civic engagement and social entrepreneurship, classical studies, communication studies, computer science, dance, economics, environmental studies, film studies, French, German, history, information science, international culture and business, Judeo-Christian studies, Latin, leadership studies, linguistics, literature, mathematics, medieval and renaissance studies, Middle East and North African studies, photography and video art, philosophy and religious studies, philosophy of law, political science, psychology, sociology, Spanish, studio art, theater, U.S. national security studies, women’s and gender studies, writing
GRADUATE STUDIES

CNU provides three master’s level programs for the educational, professional enhancement and enrichment of students in response to the needs of the CNU community:

- M.S. in Applied Physics and Computer Science
- M.S. in Environmental Science
- Master of Arts in Teaching

Bachelor’s to Master’s Program

Through the Bachelor’s to Master’s Five-Year Program, eligible CNU students, who apply February 1st in their junior year and are accepted, can earn a master’s degree in one of our graduate disciplines with one additional year beyond the senior year by following a prescribed curriculum and taking graduate level classes in their senior year. At the end of four years of study, a student earns a bachelor’s degree, and the student enrolls the next semester/term in graduate courses leading to a master’s degree. Please note that the use of the term “five-year” is not meant to insure the completion of the master’s in precisely five years. While in most cases this should be possible, the number of graduate hours completed while an undergraduate, the number of hours required for the master’s, and the time necessary for thesis research may require a specific student to take longer than five years.

Master of Science in Applied Physics and Computer Science

The degree is designed to produce graduates ready to make strong contributions to their professions and/or to continue toward a Ph.D. degree in applied physics, computer engineering or computer science. Students may select from three concentrations: computer science, computer systems engineering and instrumentation, or applied physics. Many opportunities are available to CNU graduate students because of our location in the heart of high-tech Hampton Roads and our ties with area national labs and newly developing companies. Graduate students will be able to:

- participate in funded research at both the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility and the NASA Langley Research Center
- conduct research in solid state materials, digital signal processing, high-speed data acquisition, artificial intelligence, smart sensor design, application-specific integrated circuits, modeling and simulation, nuclear physics and pattern recognition
- solve business and industry problems at the Applied Research Center (ARC), a state-of-the-art research consortium for several universities
- learn in an interdisciplinary and collegial environment
- work in well-equipped laboratories on campus, NASA Langley, Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility and the ARC
- publish their research in papers and conference presentations nationally and internationally

Master of Science in Environmental Science

Designed for current and prospective students in the rapidly growing field of environmental monitoring and conservation, this degree program is flexible enough to fit the interests and needs of a wide variety of students who are planning to pursue a Ph.D. or interested in careers involving environmental assessment, monitoring and conservation. The core courses are those mentioned most frequently by employers, consultants and educators as those needed for successful employment. The remainder of the curriculum is designed to enhance the understanding of ecosystem ecology, the conservation of organisms and their environment, and environmental chemistry. Many of these courses involve or consist entirely of fieldwork, since the majority of the employers surveyed are seeking graduates with first-hand knowledge of analyzing the environment. Graduates from this program will:

- have a solid background in ecological and environmental conservation theory
- have the skills required for employment with environmental assessment/monitoring businesses, and state and federal governmental agencies
- have research and technical writing skills
- be prepared for further graduate work, e.g., a Ph.D.

Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T)

This is a practitioner-oriented degree program designed to translate theory into effective instructional practice. The curriculum is based on recognized needs for teacher education as identified by bodies such as the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards and the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium. The mission of the CNU Teacher Preparation Program is to prepare students to become highly qualified teachers, licensed to teach in the Commonwealth of Virginia and in reciprocal states throughout the United States. Five-Year M.A.T. students select one of the following endorsement areas: art (visual arts), biology, chemistry, computer science, elementary, English, English as a second language, history and social science, mathematics, music (choral or instrumental) physics, or Spanish. Faculty are utilized from 12 academic departments and supplemented by practicing public school educators to provide students with a strong background in their selected teaching areas.

The Office of Graduate Studies is located in McMurran Hall 159F and welcomes undergraduate students interested in the Bachelor’s to Masters Five-Year programs. From their web site: gradstudies.cnu.edu/fiveyear/, students may view the Graduate Catalog to see a specific curriculum and course descriptions, apply for admission, contact the graduate program coordinator of their choice and learn more about such topics as research for theses or financial aid. Please contact the Office of Graduate Studies at gradstdy@cnu.edu or (757) 594-7544.