Academic Organization

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 and the Joseph W. Luter, III School of Business. 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
Music major-creative studies or music studies concentration required
Foreign Languages and Literatures–classical studies major;
classical languages or classical studies concentration required; French, German, or Spanish major required
History
Interdisciplinary Studies–American studies, environmental studies, major optional
Mathematics
Philosophy–pre-seminary studies or studies in religion concentration optional
Political Science
Psychology
Sociology–anthropology or criminology concentration optional
Social Work

Bachelor of Music

Choral music education, composition, instrumental music education, or performance concentration required

Bachelor of Science

Biology–cellular, molecular and physiological; environmental; integrative; or organismal major required
Chemistry–Biochemistry or Chemistry major required
Computer Engineering
Computer Foundations–applied physics, computer science or information systems major required
Electrical Engineering
Interdisciplinary Studies–neuroscience major optional
Mathematics–computational and applied mathematics major optional
Computational and applied mathematics major–Biology and Life Sciences, Computational Chemistry, Economics, or Physics, Dynamics and Engineering concentration required
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, digital humanities, discrete mathematics, economics, environmental studies, film studies, French, German, Greek studies, history, human rights and conflict resolution, information science, international culture and business, Judeo-Christian studies, Latin, Latin American studies, leadership studies, linguistics, literature, mathematics, medieval and renaissance studies, Middle East and North African studies, military science, museum studies, philosophy and religion, philosophy of law, photography and video art, 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 by 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 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 nuclear physics, astrophysics, robotics, sensor networking, artificial intelligence and multi-agent systems
• 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

This degree program is designed to meet the interests and needs of students pursuing careers in environmental assessment, monitoring, and conservation, and students planning to pursue a Ph.D. in these fields. The curriculum is designed to enhance the understanding of ecosystem ecology, the conservation of organisms and their environment, and environmental chemistry. Courses address skills and content mentioned by employers, consultants and educators as those needed for successful employment. Students spend considerable time in the field collecting data and gain experience in analyzing and presenting their findings. Graduates from this program will:

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

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

CNU’s Master of Arts in Teaching Program (MAT), is nationally-accredited by the Council for Accreditation for Educator Preparation (CAEP), the sole nationally recognized accrediting body for educator preparation. In addition to meeting the rigorous, nationally recognized standards developed by CAEP to ensure excellence in educator preparation programs, CNU’s MAT 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. Students select one of the following endorsement areas: art (visual arts), biology, chemistry, elementary, English, English as a second language, history and social science, mathematics, music (choral or instrumental), physics, or Spanish. Faculty from 12 academic departments and practicing public school educators provide students with a strong background in their selected teaching areas.

Office of Graduate Studies

The Office of Graduate Studies is located in Trible Library 243 and welcomes undergraduate students interested in the Bachelor’s to Masters Five-Year programs. From their web site: cnu.edu/admission/graduate/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) 594-8585.