

**CHRISTOPHER
NEWPORT**

UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE

FIND THE COLLEGE THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU



COLLEGE SEARCH

- Decide which factors are most important to you (see list at right)
- Research schools
- Look for information on specific programs of interest to you, including majors, minors, and advising tracks
- Build a tentative list of colleges that meet your criteria
- Visit colleges on your list — virtually and in-person
- Narrow your search to the schools to which you plan to apply
- Think long term. What do you want to do after college? Find a school that offers undergraduate research, internships, study abroad, and other opportunities beyond the classroom that will prepare you to meet your graduate school or professional goals.
- College is more than just classes and studying; student life is also important! Explore the various clubs, organizations, athletic offerings, and leadership opportunities your potential schools provide.

COLLEGE SEARCH TIP #1: AFFORDABILITY

A college education is one of the most important investments you'll make. There are often scholarships, grants, and opportunities that make a place like CNU more affordable and manageable than you might expect. Start the conversation about pricing early and ask questions. We're here to help you navigate the process.

Robert Lange
Vice Provost for Enrollment Management



FACTORS TO CONSIDER

- Size
- Location
- Cost
- Areas of study
- Campus life/culture
- Facilities/amenities
- Admission requirements
- Outcomes

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Online

CNU.EDU

niche.com/colleges/christopher-newport-university

schev.edu

youvisit.com/cnu

[ChristopherNewportU](#)

[christophernewportuniversity](#)

Print

College materials
Join mailing lists!

In Person

Campus visits
College representative visits at your high school
High school counselors
Local college fairs
On-campus interviews
Off-campus events



STANDARDIZED TESTING

- Check to see if the SAT, ACT, or other tests (e.g., CLT) are required for admission or if you can apply test-optional.
- Find out if the SAT or ACT is required for scholarship consideration.
- Many schools will super score, which means they will consider your highest combination of subscores on multiple SAT or ACT results. Christopher Newport super scores multiple SATs, not ACTs.
- Since most schools consider your highest equivalent score on the SAT or ACT, it is in your best interest to take each at least once.
- Verify if optional writing sections are required at the schools to which you are applying.
- Check available test dates and register at sat.collegeboard.org/register, actstudent.org/register and cltexam.com
- Take practice tests available in your high school guidance office and online.
- Investigate school and community-sponsored test preparation, online resources, and private testing centers.

COLLEGE PREP

- Select rigorous classes — Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and dual-enrollment — that you can succeed in and that meet the expectations of your top college choices
- Take advantage of opportunities to engage in leadership and service activities
- Participate in summer programs that promote your academic and co-curricular interests
- Choose extracurricular activities that demonstrate a commitment to purpose

WHAT COLLEGES LOOK FOR:

The Christopher Newport University Perspective

You are more than your test scores and grades. That's why our holistic admission review considers your entire background, as together we determine if Christopher Newport is the "right fit" for you.

OVERALL ACADEMIC RECORD

We expect to see a cumulative record of academic success. Christopher Newport considers such factors as the rigor of your high school curriculum and observable trends in your performance.

- **Cumulative GPA:** We evaluate your class standing using your cumulative GPA. Class rank is considered only if provided by your high school.
- **Curriculum rigor:** We consider what classes you have chosen to take within the context of course offerings at your high school. To be competitive for admission, students must have taken a college preparatory curriculum, such as the advanced studies diploma offered in Virginia. A program is considered rigorous if it includes significant college-level coursework, such as AP, IB, or dual-enrollment.
- **Grade trends:** We expect you to work to your full potential. Are your grades consistent year to year? Did you have a rocky academic start in ninth grade but improve over time? Have your grades gotten better each year or seen a downward trend? If you have a glaring inconsistency in your grades, we encourage you to explain why in the additional information section on the Common Application. **Remember: Based on the application schedule, your junior-year grades are of utmost importance.**
- **SAT or ACT or CLT:** If you submit scores from different tests, we use the highest equivalent score when making an admission decision. If you have tested more than once, we consider your best ACT composite score or a super score of your highest SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math subscores.

TEST-OPTIONAL

Students may choose to apply as test optional; strong standardized test scores may make you more competitive for admission and merit scholarships, but they are not required. We consider SAT, ACT, and CLT scores, if submitted, as part of our holistic review.

ADDITIONAL FACTORS

High school involvement can positively impact your application. Our students demonstrate leadership ability, a commitment to service, diverse talents, and extracurricular experiences. Through applicants' essays, recommendations, and interviews, we can recognize traits that help distinguish your admission application.

- **Common App Essay:** An essay or personal statement of approximately 650 words is required on the Common Application.
- **CNU Essay (scholarships):** Two additional short-answer essays are required for scholarship consideration for CNU'S President's Leadership and Honors Programs.
- **Recommendations (strongly encouraged):** Send us one to three recommendations, preferably from your school counselor and core-subject teachers.
- **Personal interview (strongly encouraged):** An interview is a great way to personalize your application and demonstrate your interest in Christopher Newport. Interviews are required for scholarship consideration.

INTERVIEWS

Interviews are available June through February to rising high school seniors applying as first-time freshmen. We offer both in-person and virtual interviews. Schedule your interview online at cnu.edu/interview.

COLLEGE SEARCH TIP #2: INTERVIEWS

An admission interview is one of the best ways for us to get to know you beyond your application and for you to get to know us. This is your opportunity to ask questions and see if CNU feels like the right fit. While interviews aren't required, they can strengthen your application and help you stand out.

Kelly Scallion
Senior Associate Director of Admission



WRITING THE COLLEGE ESSAY

Admission officers read thousands of essays each year.
So how can you make yours stand out from the rest?

THE FOLLOWING TIPS SHOULD HELP MAKE THE PROCESS EASIER AND MORE REWARDING:

- Personalize your essay and be yourself, helping us get to know you as an individual
- Stay to the recommended length
- Use your own language — be genuine and true to your own voice, but grammar and sentence structure rules still apply
- If you choose to describe an obstacle you've encountered, explain how you overcame it and how it has made you who you are — don't just focus on the obstacle itself
- It's OK to show emotion; however, this is not your private journal
- Read your essay aloud, use spell check, proofread your writing, and have someone else review your essay — a second pair of eyes is always helpful
- Have fun writing your college essay — show your personality and don't be afraid to make us laugh!

AND REMEMBER NOT TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Don't tell us what we can read on your application — go beyond those facts to help us get to know you personally
- Don't plagiarize
- Don't focus your essay solely on someone else — we want to get to know you!
- Don't mistakenly name an unintended college or university in your essay

COLLEGE SEARCH TIP #3: ESSAYS

The most memorable essays are authentic, reflective, and truly your own. Don't focus on what you think we want to hear, share a story or perspective that shows how you think, what matters to you, and how you've grown. Your essay doesn't need to be dramatic to stand out; it just needs to be real. When your voice and personality come through, we can begin to see the kind of person you'll be in our community.

Yoma Miller
Senior Associate Director of Admission



CHOOSING AN APPLICATION PLAN

Early Decision

By applying Early Decision, you agree to enroll at a school if offered admission. While you may apply to other colleges, you agree to withdraw all other applications if admitted. If you feel a school is the right fit for you, applying Early Decision will give you the best chance for admission. Applying Early Decision demonstrates your passion for and commitment to a specific school, which most colleges take into account when reviewing your application. At Christopher Newport, for example, the competitive nature of our overall applicant pool means we must select among highly qualified students. We give every possible consideration to Early Decision applicants. Remember that Early Decision is binding and will require an earlier enrollment verification deposit for admitted students.

Early Action

Early Action is a nonbinding option and a great choice for students very interested in a school but still considering multiple colleges. By applying Early Action, a decision will be made long before the traditional spring notification date. At Christopher Newport, we will re-evaluate any deferred Early Action applicants during Regular Decision review. This gives you the opportunity to provide updated senior-year academic information to strengthen your application.

Regular Decision

Regular Decision is also nonbinding and provides the most time to submit your application; however, it has the latest notification date and is the most competitive.



COLLEGE SEARCH TIP #4: APPLYING

It's easier to be competitive for Early Decision and Early Action admission than Regular Decision. Your best chance for admission is Early Decision. However, if the awarding of an academic scholarship or the ability to compare financial aid plays a role in your college choice, we recommend applying through the nonbinding Early Action option.

Kim McDaniel
Assistant Director of Admission



CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY

Application Type	Deadline to Apply	Notification Date	Binding
Early Decision	November 15	December 15	Yes
Early Action	December 1	January 15	No
Regular Decision	February 1	March 15	No

APPLYING TO CNU



APPLY ONLINE:
cnu.edu/apply

SCHOLARSHIP CONSIDERATION

Christopher Newport's Early Decision applicants are the first students considered for our signature scholarship programs: the President's Leadership Program and Honors Program.

Priority consideration is given to applicants who complete the required essay and interview by December 15.

FINANCIAL AID AND THE FAFSA

When reviewing college financing decisions, gather as much information as possible to make the most informed choice you can. Do your homework and research all financial aid options, those available at specific institutions and from outside sources.

Be smart! Assess the value of the degree you will earn and the educational experience you imagine. Many students apply to multiple colleges and must compare financial aid packages. Published tuition and fees are only part of the story — investigate other costs along with available financial aid.

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

To apply, complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**, available online at studentaid.gov. The FAFSA will gather income and other information about your household to determine an estimated family contribution (EFC). Your EFC will be used to determine your eligibility for federal and state aid. At Christopher Newport, we don't require any additional forms. Remember: The FAFSA is a free application, so be wary of any website or service requiring submission fees.

WHEN TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

State, federal, and university financial resources are limited. Each year, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens in early fall and should be submitted as soon as possible. Christopher Newport sets a priority filing deadline each award year. Be sure to check the priority deadline on our website when submitting your application for admission. We recommend that you submit the FAFSA as soon as you are able to receive an early aid package. The FAFSA is based on prior-prior-year income, so your tax information should already be complete and available to report when the FAFSA opens. We strongly encourage all students to apply for financial aid, even after the priority deadline has passed, in addition to merit scholarships at the colleges you apply to.

COLLEGE SEARCH TIP #5: FINANCIAL PLANNING

Planning for college starts with understanding your options and creating a thoughtful financial plan. Be sure to ask your school counselor about scholarships from local and outside organizations and explore every opportunity available to you, including financial aid. With the right approach, a CNU education can be both meaningful and manageable for your family.

Curtis Davidson
Director of Undergraduate Admission



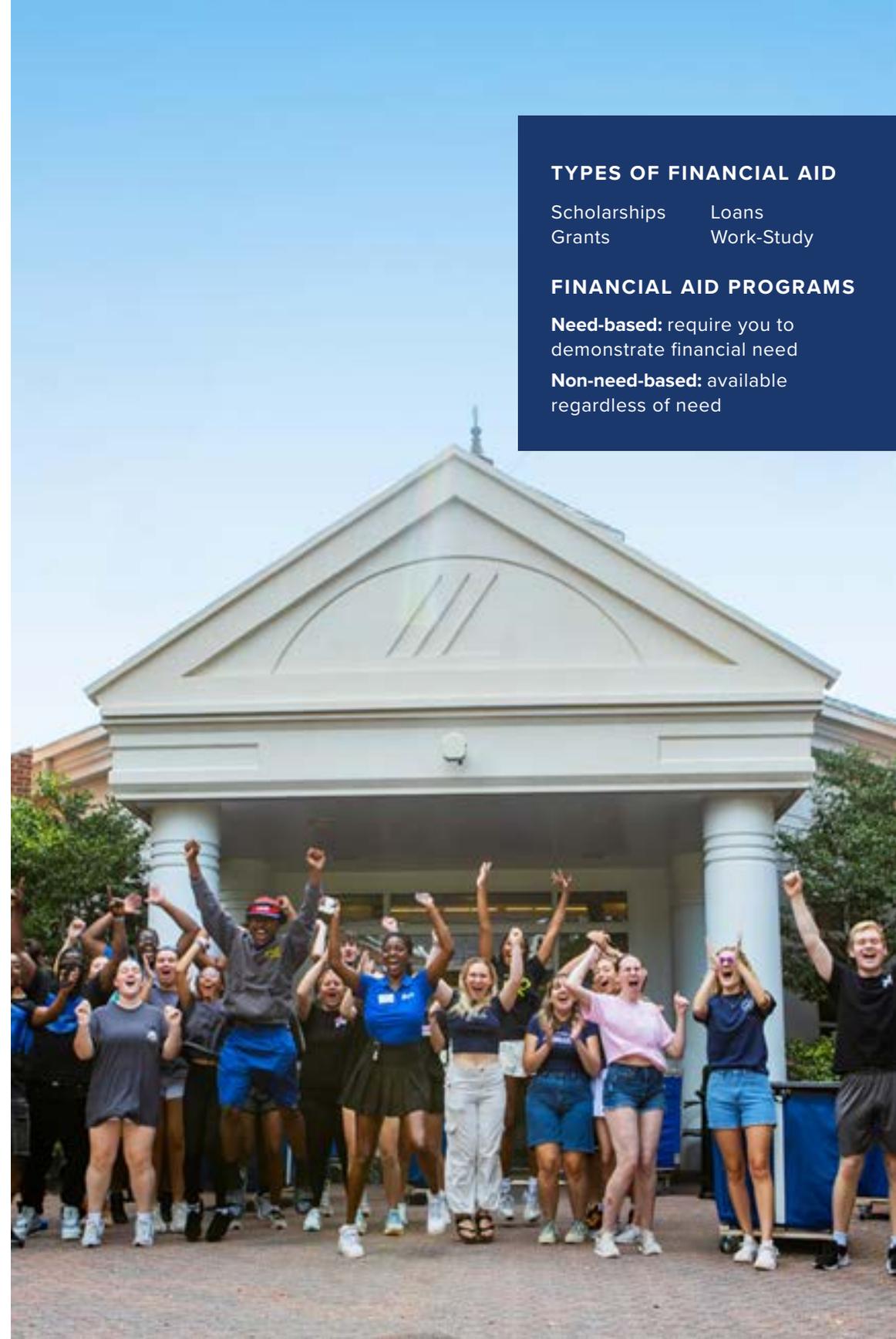
TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

Scholarships	Loans
Grants	Work-Study

FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

Need-based: require you to demonstrate financial need

Non-need-based: available regardless of need



CNU AT A GLANCE

A liberal arts education, like you find at CNU, prepares you not just for your first job, but for a lifetime of opportunity. By learning to think critically, communicate clearly, and adapt to change, you'll graduate ready to lead in any field. It's an education that gives you both depth in your major and breadth across disciplines.



CAMPUS

260 acres, adjacent to the 550-acre Mariners' Museum and Park, the Noland Trail, and the James River.

CAMPUS LOCATION

Newport News, Virginia, between historic Williamsburg and Virginia Beach.

CARS ON CAMPUS

Ample on-campus parking for all students, including freshmen.

CLASS SIZE

Average class size: 24; nearly 60% of classes have 19 or fewer students.

CLUBS & STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

More than 200 academic, social, athletic, and other clubs and student organizations.

ENROLLMENT

4,500 students; 1,150 freshmen.

FACILITIES

Nearly \$1 billion in new construction in recent years has created a beautiful campus with world-class facilities.

FACULTY

Nearly 90% hold a PhD or highest degree in their fields. Our professors were called "dedicated and caring" in a Washington Post survey of our students.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Students are enrolled from every region in Virginia, 30 other states, and 14 foreign countries.

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

NCAA Division III Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference New Jersey Athletic Conference (football only)
24 varsity teams

Nearly every year we have the top winning percentage among all Virginia schools.

MALE-FEMALE RATIO

48% male; 52% female

RACIAL DIVERSITY

Minority students comprise 25% of the student body.

RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

Modern and spacious residence halls. All freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are required to live on campus.

SCHOLARSHIPS

More than 400 renewable freshman scholarships awarded each fall to honors, leadership, performing arts, and pre-med scholar students.

TYPE

Four-year public university

AREAS OF STUDY

- Accounting
- ● American Studies*
 - Constitutional Studies
 - Humanities
 - Social Science
- ● Anthropology
- ● Art History
- ● Biochemistry
- ● Bioethics
- ● Biology
 - Black Studies
 - Business Administration
 - Cellular, Molecular, and Physiological Biology
- ● Chemistry
 - Child Life
 - Childhood Studies
 - Chinese Studies
 - Civic Engagement and Social Justice
- ● Classical Studies
- ● Communication
 - Computer Engineering
- ● Computer Science
 - Creative Writing
- ● Criminology
- ● Cybersecurity
 - Dance
- ● Data Science
 - Digital Humanities
 - Discrete Mathematics
- ● Economics
 - Mathematical Economics
 - Economic Policy
 - International Economics
- ● Elementary Education (PreK-6)
- ● Electrical Engineering
- ● English
 - Literature
 - Writing
- ● Environmental Studies
 - Film Studies
- ● Finance
- ● Forensic Science
- ● French
- ● German
 - Geography
- ● Global Commerce and Culture
- ● Greek Studies
- ● Health Studies
 - Health, Medical, and Wellness Studies
- ● History
 - Human Rights and Conflict Resolution
- ● Information Science
- ● International Affairs
- ● International Culture and Business
- ● Integrative Biology
- ● Journalism
- ● Judeo-Christian Studies
- ● Kinesiology (Biology)
- ● Latin
- ● Latin American Studies
- ● Leadership Studies*
- ● Linguistics
- ● Literature
- ● Management
- ● Marketing
- ● Mathematics
 - Mathematics – Computational and Applied
 - Biology and Life Sciences
 - Economics
 - Electrical Engineering
 - Physics and Engineering
- ● Medieval and Early Modern Studies
- ● Mechatronics

- Middle East and North Africa Studies
- Military Science (Army ROTC)
- Museum Studies
- Music
 - Performance
 - Composition
 - Music Studies
 - Creative Studies
 - Pre-Certification: Choral
 - Pre-Certification: Instrumental
- Not-for-Profit Business Administration
- ● Neuroscience
- ● Nursing**
- ● Organismal and Environmental Biology
- ● Philosophy
 - Pre-Seminary Studies
 - Studies in Religion
- ● Philosophy and Religion
- ● Philosophy of Law
- ● Photography and Video Art
- ● Physics
 - Applied Physics
- ● Political Science
- ● Psychology
 - Social Work
- ● Sociology
- ● Spanish
- ● Studio Art
 - 2D and 3D Media
 - Graphic Design
- ● Theatre
 - Acting
 - Arts Administration
 - Design/Technical Theatre
 - Directing/Dramatic Literature
 - Musical Theatre
 - Theatre Studies
- U.S. National Security Studies
- Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies
- Professional and Public Writing

ADVISING TRACKS

Pre-Law

Pre-Med and Pre-Health

BACHELOR'S TO FIVE-YEAR MASTER'S PROGRAMS

Applied Physics and Computer Science⁺

Environmental Science⁺

Teaching⁺

GRADUATE STUDY

Financial Analysis

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Baccalaureate Certificate in Data Analytics in the Social Sciences

Baccalaureate Certificate in Professional Ethics

Undergraduate Certificate in Sustainability

Undergraduate Certificate in Research and Creative Activity

NAVAL ROTC AGREEMENT

cnu.edu/academics/programs/naval-rotc

● **Major**

● **Minor**

● **Concentration**

**Approved as a second major only*

***3+2 program with Riverside Health System*

**Also part of the Graduate Study Program*



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

BONNER SERVICE SCHOLARS

The Bonner Service Scholars Program is a four-year, developmental initiative that educates, equips, and inspires students to engage our local community and beyond through a partnership with the national Bonner Foundation.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING SCHOLARS

Scholarships are awarded to students who intend to major in computer science, computer engineering or information science.

FERGUSON ENTERPRISES PERFORMING ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are awarded to outstanding students in music, theater and dance based on special talent and potential demonstrated during audition performance.

HONORS PROGRAM

The Honors Program features stimulating interdisciplinary seminar courses and requires at least two Honors inquiries chosen from study abroad, independent research, civic engagement, or internships. Honors students are also afforded more academic freedom, with seminar coursework satisfying liberal learning core requirements.

PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (PLP)

PLP is for high-achieving students who have shown a passion for engagement while in high school and who demonstrate leadership potential. This program uniquely integrates the academic study of leadership, service learning, and personal development.

RIVERSIDE MEDICAL GROUP (RMG)

Chosen from among the top incoming Pre-Med Scholars, RMG Scholars are mentored by Riverside Health System physicians and gain clinical experiences through summer medical rotations, as well as other medical education activities.

For scholarship details and how to apply, visit cnu.edu/scholarships

OUR LOCATION

NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

Christopher Newport is in the heart of one of the most historic and beautiful areas of the United States and conveniently located amid, popular Virginia attractions. When you venture off campus, you'll find unlimited activities for all interests, as well as cultural and historical treasures. Plus, we make exploring our region easy because freshmen can have cars on campus.

The area offers so much to do, and our mild, four-season climate makes venturing outdoors a year-round pursuit!

- + Mountain Biking and hiking trails at Newport News Park, which is nine times the size of Central Park in NYC
- + Unique restaurants, from quiet cafes to eclectic eateries
- + The Noland Trail, a five-mile wooded path with views of the majestic James River
- + The Mariners' Museum, home to the USS Monitor Center
- + Nearby beaches are perfect for relaxing, exploring, and water sports

Visit cnu.edu/visit to learn more about our campus.



**EXPLORE OUR BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS
AT [YOUVISIT.COM/CNU](https://youvisit.com/cnu)**

