University of North Carolina at Wilmington [1]

University of North Carolina at Wilmington

by Craig M. Stinson, 2006

See also: University of North Carolina System [2]

Herbert and Sylvia Fisher Student Center at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Image courtesy of Aaron Alexander. [3] The University of North Carolina at Wilmington [4] first opened its doors in the fall of 1947 as Wilmington College, a county-supported junior college. Classes had begun a year earlier as part of the General Assembly [5]'s plan to accommodate rising enrollment caused by returning veterans. One of 14 such temporary regional institutions that operated under the Extension Division of the University of North Carolina, Wilmington College continued to operate as a junior college under the auspices of the New Hanover County [6] Board of Education.

In 1957 the General Assembly passed the Community College Act [7], and Wilmington College became one of the first three community colleges in the state. By 1961 it had become a four-year institution. In 1969 Wilmington College joined the consolidated University of North Carolina System [2] and became the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. It began offering graduate degree programs in 1977 and was designated a Comprehensive Level 1 university in 1985.

The modern University of North Carolina at Wilmington occupies a 661-acre tract of land with 70 buildings. It has a combined enrollment of more than 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and ranks fourth highest in the UNC system for average freshman SATscores. The university has moved away from its early emphasis on vocational training and now offers degrees from the College of Arts and Sciences; the Schools of Business, Education, and Nursing; and its renowned program in marine biology at the Center for Marine Science Research. It also offers a Ph.D. in marine biology, one of only two such programs on the East Coast.

Additional Resources:

UNC-W: http://uncw.edu/ [4]

UNC-W History: http://uncw.edu/aboutuncw/aboutHistory.html [8]

UNC-W Yearbooks: https://lib.digitalnc.org/search?ln=en&p=691:%22University+of+North+Carolina+at+Wilmington%22%20AND%20655:%22Yearbooks%22&sf=year&so=a [9]

NC Highway Historical Marker D-80: https://www.ncdcr.gov/about/history/division-historical-resources/nc-highway-historical-marker-program/Markers.aspx?sp=Markers&k=Markers&sv=D-80 [10]

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Herbert and Sylvia Fisher Student Center at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Image courtesy of Aaron Alexander. Available from https://www.flickr.com/photos/asalexander/3179747964/ [3] (accessed November 19, 2012).

Subjects:
21st Century (2001-present) [11]
Education [12]

Post War 20th Century (1946-2000) [13]
Universities and colleges [14]
Authors:
Stinson, Craig M. [15]
Origin - location:
University of North Carolina at Wilmington[16]
From:
Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.[17]

1 January 2006 | Stinson, Craig M.