Frequently Asked Questions for Students Taking a Gap Year

What steps do I need to take before embarking on my gap year?
Please pay your enrollment deposit and confirm your enrollment online through your ConnectCarolina Student Center. You must also request permission in writing (by letter or through email to unchelp@admissions.unc.edu from the Office of Undergraduate Admissions no later than July 1. Correspondence should be addressed to Barbara Polk, Deputy Director of Admissions. Read more at: http://admissions.unc.edu/policies-and-reports/deferring-your-enrollment/.

Is there anything I need to do while I am on my gap year?
Please write again to Ms. Polk by December 31 to confirm your enrollment for the following fall. The Admissions Office will be in touch with the most recent enrollment brochure so that you may sign up in May for orientation over the summer for the year in which you plan to enroll. The enrollment brochure will also be available online.

During the summer before you join us at Carolina, you should also log into your Connect Carolina Student Center to check for outstanding items on your to-do list. Your list will include the immunization form that is required of all enrolling students and may include items related to financial aid that require action on your part. Please also be sure to update your personal contact information if it changes during this time.

Towards the end of the summer before you enroll, please look for an email from a student organization known as GAPPL (UNC’s Gap Year People) for invitations to special events just for returning gap year students. These events are a great way to network with other returning gap year students who will be eager to welcome you to Carolina.

Will $7,500 enough to fund a gap year?
Yes! Since the focus of the Gap Year is service, with proper budgeting the funds will usually cover all expenses related to the project you choose, especially since most of the projects tend to be located in underdeveloped nations. At the conclusion of the service project, you may elect to embark on independent travel. To meet these expenses, Fellows will use personal funds they have saved or earned while working. Please know that if you are selected for a Fellowship, the Global Gap Year Fellowship team at the Campus Y will help you plan and budget for a meaningful year without having to worry about funds running out.

Will my scholarship or financial aid package still be valid when I return?
Merit-based aid awards are transferable. Please follow the directions provided in your award letter and notify the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid when your plans for a gap year have been confirmed. Need-based recipients are required to resubmit the FAFSA and Profile by March 1 of the year in which they plan to enroll. Recipients of awards with both a need and merit component should also follow the terms specified in the award letter and resubmit the FAFSA and Profile by March 1.

Are my deposits and fees refundable?
The enrollment deposit is nonrefundable and will automatically be applied toward your first-semester charges at the University. The orientation fee may be carried over for the following academic year.

Will I still be eligible for campus housing?
Yes. Please follow the steps provided in the enrollment brochure that you receive and apply for housing by the specified deadline.

Will credits for course placement remain valid?
Yes. Credits that you receive for AP and IB exams taken in high school will remain valid. The rules for course placement for credit by exam and how these courses fulfill graduation requirements will be based upon rules in place during your first term at Carolina.