What does a good 1st year schedule look like?

15-16 credit hours (5 academic classes)
To graduate in 4 years, you need to take (and complete) 15 credit hours per term. Since most of our classes are 3 credit hours, that is five classes this Fall. You might have 16 credit hours if you have a 4 credit hour class with a lab. College classes require 2-3 hours of work outside of class for every 1 hour in class, so 15 credit hours is plenty of work to keep you busy.

1-2 major classes, 3-4 General Education classes
We hope you are very excited to take classes in your major. But your first semester at UNCG should include a mixture of major & General Education classes. By mixing your classes, you can have a more balanced workload involving different types of academic skills. It also allows you to discover and explore classes you might not have had the chance to study in high school. If you change your major (lots of UNCG students change their major at least once) before you graduate, the major classes you’ve taken become electives. But your GEC classes will continue to meet requirements even if you change majors.

At the 100- and 200-level
At UNCG, 100- & 200- level classes are designed for Freshmen. That doesn’t mean they are easy, it just means that they are the right kind of hard. 300-level courses are designed for Juniors and Seniors. If you see a 300-level class you would like to take, make a note of it and plan to take it when you have more university level experience.

Reflect your interests & strengths
You will be more successful your 1st semester if your classes reflect your academic strengths & interests. That’s why we asked you so many questions on the Academic Advising Inventory, so that we could take what you told us about yourself and match those interests to classes that meet requirements. When you review your schedule, you might see a class that *doesn’t* reflect your interests as much as we thought it would. You will be able to work with an advisor to see if there is a better option.

Distributed over the entire week
If you attended a traditional high school, you likely attended school 5 days a week for at least 7 hours a day, and you went to the same class at the same time everyday. Your classes at UNCG won’t be scheduled that way. We schedule classes on a Monday/Wednesday/Friday pattern for 50 minutes, or Tuesday/Thursday pattern for 75 minutes. To give you the best chance of getting all your work done for every class, you should plan to have 3 classes on one pattern and 2 on the other. You *might* be tempted to schedule all of your classes on the same schedule to keep the other days open, but that is really not a good idea, as all your work (tests, papers, reading assignments, etc) will be due all at the same time. Spreading your classes out also allows you to spread out the work you do to succeed in your classes!

Might have classes at night
Weird, right? But some classes have to be taught in very specific rooms-- like laboratories, production studios, etc. And we have to offer lots of sections because lots of students need and want to take them, which means you might have a night class. Getting to and from class is safe; UNCG Police offer a Walk Safe program and the Spartan Chariot shuttle operates when our night classes release too.