

Responding to Students Traveling as Representatives of UNCP

A surprising number of UNCP students travel on behalf of the university and represent UNCP in many capacities.

Facts about students representing and traveling on behalf of UNCP

- Student government officers are often involved in official meetings coordinated by the UNCP Board of Trustees, the University of North Carolina General Administration, or the Associated Student Government of North Carolina.
- NCAA student athletes represent UNCP in the Peachbelt Conference and travel under the supervision of the Athletics Department.
- Students participating in Intramural Sports are not NCAA athletes, but represent UNCP in many sports.
- Students majoring in music or performing arts, and/or students participating in various bands or choral groups travel as cultural ambassadors of UNCP.
- Some students travel as part of research projects and/or attend conferences to present research and papers.
- Intern/externships in some academic programs require students to travel as part of their degree requirements.
- Students travel throughout the state and region on behalf of the university on recruiting trips for Office of Admission.

Are these Student representatives allowed to miss classes and assignments due to their role as a UNCP representative?

Students in these leadership roles and participating in these experiences are still held to the same academic standards and policies as any other students.

However, these students are encouraged to meet with their professors and instructors before missing any classes or assignments to discuss their travel obligations and make appropriate arrangements. It's ultimately up to the individual faculty member as to whether any absence is excused or not.

How are student representatives able to balance their academic responsibilities with these activities?

Most students in these situations have a variety of additional support systems that help them stay focused and successful. But some students struggle to balance all these demands on their time and may need assistance.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Listen to the student's concerns and try to identify the specific assistance the student is requesting.
- Know the university's policies for attendance in class and for student employees.
- Be flexible when possible but hold the student accountable for her/his responsibilities.
- Suggest that the student talk with their organization/group/team adviser or coach about these problems.

AVOID

- Making exceptions that you don't feel good about or seem unfair to others.
- Arguing with the student.
- Giving in to inappropriate requests.
- Ignoring inappropriate behavior that has a negative impact on you or other students.