Below is a sampling of the eclectic and diverse opportunities you can access and get connected to in the surrounding Asheville area. Please review the following listings, along with their corresponding descriptions, to get an idea of what you might be interested in pursuing in the local community while you’re a student at UNC Asheville.

**Community and Non-Profit Organizations**

**2-1-1 of Asheville and Buncombe County**
United Way’s 2-1-1 of Asheville and Buncombe County is a 24-hour community services info line. Call 2-1-1 and reach a referral specialist who assesses your needs and determines the service provider best equipped to handle your request. It’s free and confidential. (From a cell phone, payphone, or hotel/motel room, call 252-HELP.)

[www.211wnc.org](http://www.211wnc.org)

**Arc of Buncombe County**
The Arc of Buncombe County mission is to empower individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in our community. We achieve our mission by helping clients realize their highest potential through advocacy, education, programming and family support.

[www.arcofbc.org](http://www.arcofbc.org)

**American Business Women's Association Sky-Hy Chapter**
American Business Women's Association- ABWA Sky-Hy Chapter is a networking group for businesswomen. The mission of the American Business Women’s Association is to bring together businesswomen of diverse backgrounds and to provide opportunities to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support, and national recognition. This group meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month for dinner, speakers, and networking opportunities.

[www.abwaskyhy.com](http://www.abwaskyhy.com)

**Asheville Downtown Association**
The Asheville Downtown Association is the voice of the downtown community, promoting and supporting quality economic, cultural and residential development in downtown Asheville.

[www.ashevilledowntown.org](http://www.ashevilledowntown.org)

**Asheville GreenWorks**
As a local affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Asheville GreenWorks is a non-profit organization of concerned volunteers dedicated to creating a clean and green Buncombe County. Since 1976, Asheville GreenWorks has promoted anti-litter, recycling, pedestrian and planting efforts through grassroots activities, school programs and public awareness.

[www.ashevillegreenworks.org](http://www.ashevillegreenworks.org)

**Asheville Humane Society**
Animal Shelter and Pet Adoption Facility. Working in Buncombe County to reduce pet overpopulation through education in the classrooms and by providing financial assistance for the spay/neuter surgery. Through our volunteer program, we offer pet therapy to the elderly, and foster care for animals of owners going through transition; i.e. sickness or death, and for victims of domestic violence.

[www.ashevillehumane.org](http://www.ashevillehumane.org)

**Big Brothers Big Sisters**
Adult mentors are matched with youth ages 6-14 to provide friendship and encouragement. Volunteers choose from 4 programs. Call 253-1470 for information.

[www.bbbs.org](http://www.bbbs.org)
Black Mountains Program
The goal of the Black Mountains Program is to 1) build an identity for the Black Mountains as a discrete and recognizable region, unique in its biological value as a rich wildland, 2) provide education about the area and its virtues, and 3) work with local communities to develop a conservation plan for the area that would ensure the protection of its inherent values.
www.main.nc.us/BMCP

Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation
The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 1997 through a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service to provide private financial support for the Blue Ridge Parkway.
brpfoundation.org

Buy Local
Many Western North Carolinians are busy making products or providing services that you can use! WNC’s small business community is diverse and creative, producing everything from bicycle brake pads to custom lamps to apples and herbs.
ashevillegrown.com

Barony of Hawkwood
Want to relive the middle ages? Come visit the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA). The Barony of Hawkwood is the local group for WNC!
www.hawkwood.atlantia.sca.org

Earthaven
Earthaven, a growing neo-tribal eco-village, is dedicated to caring for people and the Earth by learning, living and demonstrating holistic, sustainable culture. Culture's Edge, our non-profit education center, offers hands-on workshops and programs throughout the year which are integral to the overall vision of Earthaven as a living demonstration eco-village.
www.earthaven.org

Greater Asheville Section of the Society of Women Engineers
The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) is a non-profit, educational, and service organization driven to establish engineering as a highly desirable career aspiration for women. SWE empowers women to succeed and advance in those aspirations and be recognized for their life-changing contributions and achievements as engineers and leaders.
www.geocities.com/swewnc

Grove Arcade Public Market Foundation
The Grove Arcade Public Market Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation with the mission of restoring the Grove Arcade to its original use: that of housing for-profit, locally owned and operated shops and services.
www.grovearcade.com

Guardian ad Litem Program
A Guardian ad Litem is a community volunteer that advocates for abused and neglected children whose cases are going through the court. A GAL focuses on the best interest of each child, and helps to ensure the permanent and safe placement of the child within the shortest time possible.
www.nccourts.org/Citizens/GAL

High Country Art & Craft Guild
High Country Art & Craft Guild is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing an environment conducive to the preservation, development, and promotion of the heritage of fine traditional and contemporary art & craft work in Western North Carolina and beyond. High Country works with and helps young and emerging artists and craftsmen to develop their products and marketing skills.
hcaandcg@gmail.com
Long Branch Environmental Center
Set aside in 1974 as an ecological sanctuary and land trust, it has developed into an educational center for sharing positive strategies of local self-reliance in the areas of environmental design, organic food production, renewable energy, shelter design and construction, appropriate technology, resource conservation, recycling, wildlife protection and improved environmental quality.
www.longbrancheec.org

NC Center for Nonprofits
This lists services offered by nonprofit or public organizations to nonprofit organizations in WNC, to encourage support for the nonprofit sector and enhance the capacity of nonprofits to serve the people of North Carolina.
www.ncnonprofits.org

Orelena Hawks Puckett Institute
The Orelena Hawks Puckett Institute is a not-for-profit organization engaging in activities that enhance and promote healthy child, parent and family functioning.
www.puckett.org

RIVERLINK
RiverLink is a regional organization spearheading the economic and environmental revitalization of the French Broad River and its tributaries as a place to work, live, and play.
riverlink.org

Southern Appalachian Biodiversity Project
The Southern Appalachian Biodiversity Project is a regional citizen’s organization dedicated to the defense and restoration of the native biodiversity of Southern Appalachia.
getsustainablenow.org/sabp

Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition
The Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, a collaboration of national, regional, state, and local environmental organizations formed in response to the threats facing the public lands and heritage of the Southern Appalachian Mountains.
www.safc.org

Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
The mission of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy is to protect the world's oldest mountains for the benefit of present and future generations. To this end, our volunteer-based organization works with individuals and local communities to identify, preserve, and manage the region's important lands.
www.appalachian.org

Southern Highland Craft Guild
The Southern Highland Craft Guild is a non-profit educational organization of over 700 craftspeople living and working in the mountainous regions of nine southern states: AL, GA, KY, MD, TN, VA, WV, SC and NC.
www.southernhighlandguild.org

Team In Training
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team in Training Program is the world's largest endurance sport training program. Participants train for a marathon, half marathon, or cycle event while raising funds to find cures for blood-related cancers.
www.teamintraining.org
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
The mission of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is to find cures for leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, Hodgkin's disease and other blood-related cancers and to improve the quality of life for patients and their families.
www.lls.org/

WENOCA Group
The Western North Carolina (WENOCA) Group of the Sierra Club is a regional group of the NC Chapter of the Sierra Club.
www.wenoca.org/

Western North Carolina Alliance
The Western North Carolina Alliance represents democracy in action - a grassroots organization of people who care about the quality of life in our towns and countryside. For the past fifteen years, we've been bringing people together to address critical environmental issues facing our mountain communities - issues that have local, regional, state, and national impact.
www.wnca.org/

Western North Carolina Green Building Council
The Western North Carolina Green Building Council's mission is to promote environmentally sustainable and healthy building practices through community education.
www.wncgbc.org/

YWCA
Helping to empower women and their families and to eliminate racism. Building futures, Child Care, Youth Programs, Women's Services and Health and Fitness.
www.ywcaofasheville.org/

Social Groups

Asheville Area Holistic and Integrative Professionals™
The Asheville Area Wholistic and Integrative Professionals™ (AAWIP) are collaborators, co-creators, co-catalysts, co-leaders that promote education, production and sales of professional wholistic and integrative products/services in the Asheville area – included but not limited to integrative health, personal growth, earth-friendly, eclectic artisans/musicians/authors. We co-provide a forum for exchange of information and ideas to expand the wholistic, integrative, green and related professions, companies involved in production, creation or manufacturing, or providing services, or individuals genuinely interested or are involved in the wholistic and integrative marketplace serving the Asheville area.
www.meetup.com/Wholistic-Professionals-Asheville

Asheville Business Connections
The purpose of this group is to build relationships and help each member's business grow through professional networking. Our focus is building relationships. Members are committed to helping each other take their businesses to the next level FAST by sharing information and flowing leads to each other. There is a structured format but there will be plenty of time to respectfully network with others before and after the meetings.
www.meetup.com/ashevillebusinessconnections

Asheville Conscious Connections
Asheville Conscious Connections is a meet up group designed to bring together like-minded spiritual individuals from communities such as but not limited to Centers for Spiritual Living, Jubilee, and Unity etc. The purpose is to network, educate, promote, empower and PROSPER the light workers of Asheville and surrounding areas.
www.meetup.com/Asheville-Conscious-Connections
The Asheville Welcome Transplants™ Meetup Group
Welcome to Western North Carolina’s Meetup Group for all ya’ll who have come from all over the world to make these mountains your home. Whether you just got off the plane or have been here for decades, this group is for you. We are a group for all ages. For the last five years, even as we have been known as the Asheville Ex-New Yorkers Meetup Group, we opened up this great group to include folks from cities all over the world. As long as you are friendly, inclusive, participative, and enjoy good conversation, you’ll fit right in.
www.meetup.com/AshevilleExNY

The Asheville Hiking Group
Interested in taking a short, long, or somewhere in the middle length hike/stroll in western North Carolina? Look no further!!! Everything from a quick (3-4 hour) hike to a full day of hiking to overnight backpacking trips, we will try it all! Check us out and experience the pristine and amazing wilderness of western North Carolina!!! Everyone is welcome to the group, beginner or expert, 2 legs or 4, young and old.
www.meetup.com/asheville-hiking

Asheville Mountain Biking Meetup Group
The Asheville Mountain Biking Meetup Group is a networking group specifically setup to get people together that enjoy the sport of mountain biking. It is a way of introducing people to new areas and new trails. It is an opportunity to be around others who can share what they have learned and everyone can gain new skills and confidence in the sport. We will be offering rides for all individuals, beginners to advanced, children to senior citizens.
www.meetup.com/Asheville-MTB-Meetup-Group

Asheville Pay It Forward Network
There is more joy in giving than receiving. Every little thing we receive in life should be seen as a gift. When we feel gratitude for what is given to us, we should do our best to pay it forward to the next person in whatever ways that is within our means. Life is a constant flow of gifts and gratitude. It is not just about the "Have's" giving to the "Have not's". Everyone has something to give, be it money, time, service, or simply a small act of kindness.
www.meetup.com/Asheville-Pay-It-Forward-Network

Asheville Songwriters, Lyricists, and Composers Network
Meetup details are available only to members. Our Mission Statement: Promote the creation of original music by our members, and share our music within the community and beyond. The purpose of this group is to bring together lyricists, songwriters, and composers to connect, collaborate, provide feedback and critiques, learn from each other, and provide a support network of like minded musically creative folks.
www.meetup.com/Asheville-Songwriters

Asheville Wine & Food Society
"To bring together and serve all who believe that a right understanding of good food and wine is an essential part of personal contentment and health, and that an intelligent approach to the pleasures and problems of the table offers far greater rewards than the mere satisfaction of appetite."
www.meetup.com/iw-fs-asheville

Connect Up WNC
This group is for entrepreneurs, business people and others to get together and help each other grow their business. There are no cumbersome membership requirements, rules or fees. We will have opportunities for everyone to get to know everyone else. We will also have brainstorming and other activities to help build your business. Come with an attitude of giving and you will get. We will be having meetings around the western North Carolina area.
www.meetup.com/Connect-Up-WNC
Detoxification for Health; Education & Business Forum
Meet other local people who are interested in Detoxification of heavy metals and chemicals. Learn how such toxins contribute to a myriad of chronic diseases, how to rid your body of toxins, completely, safely, naturally; how to restore health; how to help in educating others regarding this critical issue. The needs are incredible, the solutions are simple, and the rewards (health and financial) are many.
www.meetup.com/The-Asheville-Detoxification-for-Health-Forum

Portrait Photography Group - Asheville
All photography skill levels are welcome. Our focus has always been on the art of photographing people, but we have recently expanded to incorporate other forms of portrait art, including food photography, still life, landscapes, and the world of digital manipulation. Our group activities include meet & greets, charity events, and classes and workshops.
www.meetup.com/PPGAsheville

Urban Legends: The Most Active Social Club in Asheville!
Become a part of a friendly and fun community! We are an active, friendly group constantly making new friends while participating in outdoor adventures and daily social events. Single and couples of all ages, longtime residents and new to Asheville. Urban Legends meet several times a week in different areas of town.
www.meetup.com/Urban-Legends

WNC Survival and Thrival Group
If you are dependent upon the culture that is predicting its own collapse: Come on in! This Meetup Group is here to help you remember how to THRIVE! Take back your individual responsibility and prepare for the BEST! We are here to help you make a transition into whatever level of self-sufficiency and co-empowerment you desire. We will help you plan and prepare for abundance. Our meetings will be the foundation for our individual, family and community planning.
www.meetup.com/WNC-Survival-and-Thrival-Group

The WNC Web Technology Network
Meet others interested in all aspects of Web Technology. Gather to discuss Development, Standards, Networks, Marketing, New Web Technology, Graphic Design, Digital Photography, Databases, Corporate Web, Webmasters, Contract Development, Promotion and Business. Open to anyone interested in learning more about web technology! Meetings feature presentations, opportunities to get involved with web-based projects, and some great networking.
www.meetup.com/wncwebtech

Women Living in Community- Asheville-NC
Providing connection, information, and action. We work to inspire the age wave of Boomer women looking for alternative living situations; to provide information, networking, and a forum to meet together; to form connections with existing community models and their successes. For all women - single, married, widowed, and women with families who are looking for alternative models of living as we age with connection and camaraderie. We want to bring women together to share information and form connections.
www.meetup.com/Women-Living-in-Community-Asheville

Other Arts and Recreation

UNC Asheville Campus Recreation
recreation.unca.edu

Asheville Parks and Recreation
www.ashevillenc.gov/Departments/ParksRecreation.aspx
Buncombe County Parks and Recreation  
www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/parks/Default.aspx

North Carolina Parks  
www.ncparks.gov/Visit/main.php

Asheville Area Arts Council  
ashevillearts.com

US Cellular Center  
www.uscellularcenterasheville.com

The Altamont Theatre  
thealtamont.com

The Magnetic Theatre  
www.themagnetictheatre.org

Asheville Community Theatre  
www.ashevilletheatre.org

Museums  

Pack Place  
www.packplace.org

Other Resources

Alliance of Disability Advocates  
www.alliancecil.org/resources/res_cilloc.htm

North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities  
www.nc-ddc.org

North Carolina State Disability Resources  
www.education.com/reference/article/Ref_North_Carolina_State

Our Voice  
www.ourvoicenc.org