From short and simple to more adventurous off-pavement excursions, the on and off-campus walking trails surrounding UNC Asheville offer a variety of courses to suit your style and fitness goals.

The Quad:
This easy loop around UNC Asheville’s Quad is suitable for walkers of all skill levels. One loop is equivalent to .25 miles.

Rocky’s Walk:
This .5 mile loop though the core of UNC Asheville is perfect for a quick exercise break. Beautiful landscaping and the pulse of student activity will put you in touch with campus life.

University Heights:
Gentle to moderate slopes and hard surfaces make this .9 mile loop the great all-purpose trail for daily exercise.

Bulldog Boundary Trail:
This 2.1 mile walking adventure to the outskirts of Bulldog territory features both urban and natural environments. See the reverse side of this brochure for a complete description for the points of interest along this trail.

Gardens Walk:
At nearly one mile (.8), this route takes walkers off campus to Asheville’s beautiful Botanical Gardens. A riparian stretch along Glenn Creek provides glimpses of fish, wading birds and other wildlife. Approximately 90 feet of elevation change make this route perfect for a short but energetic break.

Chestnut Ridge Trail:
Explore the wooded, higher elevations of UNC Asheville along this 1.5 mile trail providing occasional mountain and downtown viewpoints. Access to this trail begins along a paved road within an undeveloped area of campus located above the Reuter Center.

South Campus Trails:
Beginning at the Pagah House located across from the US Forest Services Southern Research Station, this 1.5 mile, evergreen-enshrouded loop passes vestiges of an old dairy.
Walking Trail Mileage Tracker

Keep track of the miles you walk along UNC Asheville’s trail system to be eligible to receive prizes and special recognition. Employees who complete 100 miles are eligible to receive a free polo shirt emblazoned with the official trail logo and a “100-Miler” designation. Please photocopy the tracking sheet below as needed to monitor your progress. Only record mileage accumulated on UNC Asheville trails. Please forward completed forms to Chris Dahlquist, CPO 1450.

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Bulldog Boundary Trail

This trail is a 2.1 mile walk around the perimeter of campus. Located one mile from downtown Asheville, the UNC Asheville campus is an urban oasis of native woodlands as well as cultivated garden spots. The campus property has a rich and varied history. Cherokee trails ran along Glenn Creek, and one of the first gristmills in Asheville utilized its waters. At the time of the Civil War, the campus was part of a 400-acre farm owned by Nicholas Woodfin. In 1960, 161 acres were purchased for the new campus of Asheville-Biltmore College, later to become the University of North Carolina Asheville.

Along the trail…

1. Asheville Greenway—This section of the Asheville greenway system connects Merrimon Avenue to Broadway.
2. The Meadow Walk—The area of the trail runs from the floodplain zone along Glenn Creek up the hill toward University Heights. This area is dominated by pine species with large oaks and hickories growing along natural drainage ways. Native meadow wildflowers have been restored to this area to replace exotic ornamental grass.
3. Glenn Creek—The headwaters of Glenn Creek begin on Town Mountain and join Reed Creek at Broadway for a short trip to the French Broad River.
4. Asheville Botanical Gardens—Begun 50 years ago by nature-loving Asheville citizens, the gardens still function primarily as a volunteer organization. The 10-acre gardens are home to hundreds of plant species native to this region.
5. Battle of Asheville—On April 6, 1865, during the final days of the Civil War, the Battle of Asheville was fought along the ridge overlooking the Buncombe Turnpike. More than a thousand men fought a five-hour battle in which there were no deaths. It was a Confederate victory due to the hasty retreat of Union forces.
6. Old Buncombe Turnpike—Finished in 1827, the turnpike was a major travel and trading route between Tennessee and South Carolina until the coming of the railroad in the 1880s. Like many of our modern roads, the turnpike was originally part of a Cherokee trading trail that extend to Charleston, South Carolina.