



UNIVERSITY OF  
**NORTHERN COLORADO**

G.O.A.L. Program

GOAL is an inclusive higher education program for people aged 18 and older with intellectual and/or development disabilities. GOAL offers students a variety of opportunities, including access to college courses and residential hall living. GOAL students are UNC students first, and, as a result, have full access to UNC resources, activities, clubs, and events.

**Position Title:** Student Wellness and Engagement

### Program Summary

The position aims to empower students by promoting self-care practices, engagement with campus resources, and community involvement. The Graduate Assistant will play a vital role in delivering holistic support and facilitating growth-oriented experiences for students.

### Program Goal

GOAL's purpose is to provide students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities the opportunity to attend the UNC. GOAL is designed for students to achieve increased self-determination through the development of academic and social skills, career preparation, and campus engagement that includes the successful completion of traditional, inclusive college courses and GOAL courses.

### Graduate Assistant Expectations

#### Duties and Responsibilities

The graduate assistant will provide direct support to the GOAL Program by completing the following responsibilities:

- Facilitate student-led meetings to evaluate progress and address support needs.
- Develop and present wellness workshops covering various topics, including self-care, budgeting, and wellness.
- Offer guidance on self-care strategies in both one-on-one and group settings.
- Create resources to help students incorporate leisure and life balance practices.
- Encourage participation in campus clubs and organizations to foster community and engagement.
- Conduct workshops on personal budgeting and financial planning for students.
- Assist in organizing and executing events to promote holistic student success. Complete various career projects and other duties as assigned.



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### Hours and Availability

This position may require flexibility in scheduling to accommodate evening (after 5pm) and on weekends.

### Physical Demands

This position requires daily use of a computer for work and the ability to facilitate wellness, recreation, and leisure. The position requires resilience, a high energy level, the ability to manage stress and multitask. Frequently, there is a need to be available during non-traditional office hours.

*Additional expectations related to academic course load and outside employment are outlined in the [Graduate Assistant Handbook](#).*

### Qualifications and Additional Requirements:

#### Minimum Qualifications:

- Accepted into a Master's degree program at UNC (prefer a maximum of 12 credits per semester to allow for necessary scheduling flexibility).
- Be in good academic standing (*Students admitted with a lower than 3.0 gpa and academic provisions may not be hired in assistantship positions until they earn at least a 3.0 gpa or their academic provisions are met*)
- Outstanding communication skills including strong interpersonal skills.
- Ability to positively contribute to a team.

#### Preferred Qualifications:

- Interest in pursuing employment with adults with disabilities in an adaptive recreation settings, mental health, or related services such as occupational therapy or rehabilitation counseling.
- Ability to engage students in wellness and leisure activities.
- Commitment to empowerment, integrity, social justice, character, and relationships.

#### Additional Requirements:

- By applying, applicants consent to a conduct check completed by Student Conduct & Accountability.

#### Training Commitments:

- Complete training in FERPA, and other training offered by the supervisor.
- Additional on the job training will be outlined by supervisor upon start of position.

#### Compensation and Contract Period for Position:



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This is a .40 FTE position with in-state tuition paid (work 18 hours per week during fall through spring semester, 17 weeks per semester) plus a monthly stipend. All Graduate Assistants must be available to work the week before classes begin each semester. The starting date for this position will be January 6, 2025.

The schedule of a student in fiscal year contract follows the UNC calendar, which includes the expectation to work during spring, fall, and winter breaks. Fiscal year contracts allow one week of vacation during the fiscal year. Graduate Assistants receive sick leave, as outlined in the [Paid Sick Leave Policy](#).

### Employment Outcomes:

By serving in this position, the Graduate Assistant will be able to:

- **Facilitate Student Growth and Independence:** Develop skills in mentoring and supporting students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, fostering increased self-determination, and assisting students in achieving academic and social growth.
- **Enhance Program Development Abilities:** Gain experience in designing, implementing, and assessing workshops and events that promote wellness, self-care, and financial literacy for diverse student populations.
- **Promote Inclusivity and Campus Engagement:** Cultivate a deeper understanding of inclusive practices in higher education by encouraging and supporting GOAL students' engagement in UNC's campus life, clubs, and events.
- **Strengthen Counseling and Support Skills:** Build expertise in providing one-on-one and group guidance on wellness, self-care, and life balance strategies to support students' holistic success.
- **Develop Organizational and Event Management Skills:** Assist with planning and executing events that create enriching, growth-oriented experiences for students, reinforcing time management, teamwork, and event coordination skills.
- **Prepare for Careers in Student Services and Adaptive Recreation:** Gain valuable experience applicable to careers in student support services, adaptive recreation, mental health, and rehabilitation counseling, especially those focused on serving adults with disabilities.

### Application Procedure:

Please submit a resume, cover letter explaining interest in the position, and a list of 3 references to Christina Ruffatti at [christina.ruffatti@unco.edu](mailto:christina.ruffatti@unco.edu) **Priority deadline for submitting application materials is November 30, 2024.**



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