



A-01 - INTRODUCTION

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill continues to evolve to meet dynamic campus growth and the evolution of technology. The University Design Guidelines incorporate the unique principles of the University to support Carolina's mission of teaching, research, and public service, and to promote its spirit and culture.

In planning for the University's future, the Main Campus master plans were completed in 2001, 2006, 2009, and 2017. The first phase of the master plan for the Carolina North campus was completed in 2009, and the Mason Farm Road campus master plan is on-going. These three campuses are efficiently and effectively integrated to meet the University's divergent needs.

The Design Guidelines reflect the University's flexibility without compromising the goal of excellence in providing sustainable development and operations, accessibility for all campuses, and environmental stewardship. Coherent transportation and infrastructure, juxtaposed with the expanding open space network, underpins the integration of the three campuses.

Design Guideline Compliance

Beginning with the programming phase contracted design teams are expected to use and reference any exceptions to the latest version of the Design Guidelines. The front of each phase of the documents submitted for review is to note the date stamp of the version of the Design Guidelines used for the project. In addition, the Designer is to use other requirements by the State of North Carolina.

The Guidelines are generally organized to follow the sequence of the design process. They are to be used as a core tool by the contracted design team to direct them through project development, but they do not substitute for the optimum design solution. The Guidelines are a baseline outlining the unique requirements of the University. They allow the contracted designer to introduce alternative or improved concepts, methods, and products.

Any and all exceptions to the Design Guidelines shall be reviewed and approved by the University's Project Manager prior to implementation.

2021 Edition

This year's edition of UNC's Design Guidelines reorganizes the design guidelines content into three categories beginning with a broad administrative view and progressing towards a narrow focus on specific buildings systems as one continues through the document.

"Section A – Capital Project Administration" contains sections related to capital project processes, phases of design & construction, as well as pan-University guidelines.

"Section B – Campus Wide Site Design Guidelines" focuses on guidelines, principles, and procedures related to the campus utilities, site hardscape and landscape.

"Section C – Building Design Guidelines" moves to the build form and provides specificity on building envelope, building systems, and special construction elements.