Faculty Contacts At-A-Glance
Office Phone Number: (336) 334-4781

Thomas Matyók, Ph.D. ...McIver 213... tgmatyok@uncg.edu
Ali Askerov, Ph.D. ...McIver 214... abaskaro@uncg.edu
Emily Janke, Ph.D. ...McIver 208... emjanke@uncg.edu
Jeremy Rinker, Ph.D. ...McIver 211... rarinker@uncg.edu
barbara Strahl, Ph.D. ...Off Campus... btstrahl@uncg.edu
Rebecca McGuire ...Off Campus... rsmcguir@uncg.edu
Welcome
As a new student in the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS), welcome! You are joining a group of scholars and practitioners committed to creating a more peaceful and just world, wherever they find themselves. As a truly interdisciplinary field of study, students in our field come from many different disciplines. This diversity adds to the welcoming nature of our Department. We value your time and energy and want you to have a pleasurable experience with the learning process. The following procedures and guidelines are meant as a reference to some of the more standard issues and practices of the Department. More information on our Department, upcoming events, and faculty can be found on our website: http://pacs.uncg.edu. Additional information is also available in the UNCG Policy Manual and the Graduate School Bulletin, which you can access through the Graduate School website at https://grs.uncg.edu/.

Our curriculum promotes a human rights and social justice perspective on cultural and social analysis. A learning environment is created in which students are involved in collaborative classroom teams, virtual and physical, and are actively engaged in community research and practice. Two professional seminars provide a map for the learning process. The second year research course and integrative colloquium further focus the knowledge building. There is time to discuss your goals with faculty in these seminars as the year progresses, as well as an individual advisor to consult with as you weigh registration and course options each semester. We look forward to getting to know each of you personally and scholastically.

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT
The PACS graduate program is dedicated to knowledge development along with the provision of high-quality, professional training in conflict transformation and peacebuilding. The program focuses on pragmatic approaches to solving problems in a variety of social settings, as well as providing the theoretical foundations for professional practice in the areas of human rights, social justice, restorative practice, and cultural awareness. Our students receive theoretical, hands on training, and skill building in their classes. You will be exposed to a wide array of theoretical approaches, techniques, and strategies for nonviolent solutions to conflicts that arise in diverse personal, professional, organizational, and community environments. In addition, you will become well versed in multiple conflict prevention and intervention skills; these include mediation, negotiation, and conflict transformation, violence intervention, and collaborative problem solving.
Master of Arts in Peace and Conflict Studies (39 semester credit hour)

The Master of Arts (MA) in Peace and Conflict Studies Program was launched in 2004. The Master’s program promotes a systemic perspective to the challenges facing individuals, families, organizations, and communities. With an interdisciplinary sensibility and a commitment to individual, cultural, and social integrity, we train professionals to employ collaborative and equitable methods for resolving human problems. Our goal is to mold reflective conflict practitioners – professionals with a critical understanding of theory and method and who operate within an overarching framework of diversity, human rights, social justice, and responsibility. You are encouraged to explore a range of professional applications of your practice skills, as you are closely mentored and supported by the faculty in the newly created professional seminar series offered throughout your first year of study. The Program is built on a comprehensive integrated core curriculum, varied electives, and flexible time schedules allowing students of all ages and needs to participate in the learning process.

All students entering the Program must take PCS 600, 601, and an elective their first semester. Other required core courses include PCS 605, 606, 607, 609, and 610. The integrative colloquium, PCS 690 is taken during the final semester. An internship is one component of the integrative colloquium. Electives round out your studies. You may choose to take a concentration but that is not required. Three concentrations are offered: Education, International Peace Development, and Conflict Practice. If you do not choose these concentrations, you may take any range of electives that you feel best prepares you for the work you wish to do following graduation.

You will develop a Plan of Study before you start your first semester. After your advisor approves it, this plan will guide your curriculum choices. The core courses are sequenced as outlined below. The 3-Year Course Plan is available on the PCS website.

**Year One**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester One (9 s.h.)</th>
<th>Semester Two (9 s.h.)</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PCS 600 Fundamentals of Conflict Transformation and Peace Studies</td>
<td>PCS 605, Skills and Techniques in Conflict</td>
<td>Summer I Electives Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCS 601, Global Intercultural Conflict Transformation</td>
<td>PCS 606, Organizational Leadership: Theories and Practice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCS 610, Conflict Transformation: Reconciliation and Healing -OR- Elective</td>
<td>PCS 607, ProSem 2 -Research</td>
<td>Summer II Electives Optional</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Year Two

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester One (9 s.h.)</th>
<th>Semester Two (9 s.h.)</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PCS 609, Community Engaged Research</td>
<td>PCS 690, Integrative Colloquium</td>
<td>Summer I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCS 610, Conflict Transformation: Reconciliation and Healing</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Electives optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>OR</em></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>Electives optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The Integrated Colloquium* (PCS 690) is the capstone course created to bring together the theory and the principles of practice, whether at the micro, meso, macro, and/or mega level. Each member of the class will produce a product that integrates their theoretical, research, and skill based learning. The portfolio started in PCS 607 will be completed providing a record of your formal and informal education culminating in the development of a professional resume. One component of the course will be a 63-hour field experience. You will work with your advisor and the instructor for PCS 690 in designing the internship.

The *Post Baccalaureate Certificate Program* (18 semester credit hours)

The Certificate consists of PCS 600 and 601 followed by four courses from the core curriculum and electives but do not include the Integrated Colloquium. A Plan of Study completed with your advisor by the end of your first semester will guide your curriculum choices. Students in the Certificate Program can only take one PCS course before formal admission credited toward the required 18 hours.

The Certificate Program prepares our students for the changing nature of professions, businesses, and community services. The Certificate Program is beneficial for those who have already received a graduate degree, but would like to specialize in conflict resolution as a new area of focus. It is also appropriate for those who possess an undergraduate degree and are seeking to obtain fundamental knowledge of the conflict transformation field of study or for professionals who have already earned a graduate degree in their professional field, but who would benefit from academic study of applications of conflict transformation in their current profession.

Any earned credits in this Certificate Program can be counted toward the MA in conflict resolution, if the student applies for and is accepted to the Master’s Program at a later date. This is why the admissions criteria are the same for both programs. We recommend that all students take the MAT test to qualify for admission, though you may also take the GRE. These standardize test are not required, only recommended.
Students may enter our Certificate Program in the fall or spring. Students may enroll full or part time, taking 3-8 (part time) to 9 (full time) credit hours per semester. Enrollment in the spring puts you out of sequence for core courses, and it may take you longer to finish. Electives are taken at the student’s convenience. Our Certificate Program is not eligible for federal financial aid.

**Format**

The MA and Post Baccalaureate Certificate are both available through face-to-face residential and/or online delivery methods. Each core course is taught concurrently in both formats or in a “Combo” class where the online and residential students are present in the same class (technologically connected through live and virtual classrooms).

The schedule for all classes, online and residential, can be found on the UNCG website by clicking on UNCGenie and going to the “class schedule” section. We hold all classes on the Main Campus of UNCG from 6:00 – 9:00 P.M. Classroom locations are listed in UNCGenie. You will register online and receive registration codes from your advisor after consulting on your course selection.

Our online offerings use the same syllabi and course materials as the residential programs. A high-speed internet access (ISP) is required and students will need a webcam and microphone to participate in live chats, role plays, and presentations throughout the Program. Additionally, technical requirements and online tuition rates are available at the UNCG Cashier’s Office.

Online classes will meet each week in live chat using the WebEx program found on the class Canvas. Online classes meet for the same three hours on the designated evening depending on the topic; the rest of the course is asynchronous.

**Everyone is required to have a webcam and small portrait of themselves in .jpg format for uploading into WebEx prior to the first class.** WebEx is supported by UNCG’s Information Technology Services. More information can be found here-- https://its.uncg.edu/WebEx/Students/.

*Please be aware that enrollment in the spring (January) or summer (May) puts you out of sequence for the core courses, and it may take you longer to finish the program and/or schedule the electives you prefer.* Students entering in the spring are required to develop an early Plan of Study in consultation with their advisor so they are sure to be in sequence during the second year.

**Community Engaged Scholarship and Student-Centered Learning**

This Program is based upon the principles of engaged scholarship and student-centered learning. Students are expected to engage actively in community-centered research, practice, and service projects. A goal of the MA in Peace and Conflict Studies program is to educate and develop scholar-practitioners capable of integrating academics and practice into local and global communities. You will be provided with many exciting opportunities for community engagement throughout your time in the program. The PACS faculty believes that community-engagement links community action and academic study so that each strengthens the other. Our students, faculty, and community partners WebEx to enable graduates to address community needs, initiate social change, build effective relationships, enhance academic skills and develop civic literacy. Community engagement encourages critical consideration of the ethical dimensions of community engagement and will provide you with real world experience to complement the theory, research, and practice skills acquired during your graduate studies.
The Peace and Conflict Studies department faculty believes in active, rather than passive learning, and is committed to student-centered learning. This graduate curriculum is offered with an emphasis on facilitating deep learning and understanding. Each course is designed with an increased accountability and responsibility on the part of the student, a sense of autonomy for the learner with the creation of interdependence between the teacher and learner in mind. There is a commitment to creating significant learning experiences every day, a dedication to mutual respect within the teacher-learner relationship, and a reflexive approach to the education process embraced by the entire Department. Your professors are here to be inspirational facilitators, co-learners, and mentors that will provide you with timely, constructive, and useful feedback.

**Informational Links:**

- [The Graduate School](#)
- [Housing and Residence Life](#)
- [Parking](#)
- [Registration](#)
- [University ID](#)
- [Student Health Insurance](#)
- [UNCG Computer Accounts Activation](#)

**Other links to visit:**

- [Residency Status for Tuition Purposes](#)
- [Student Employment](#)

**Books**

All books needed for class can be found at the [University Bookstore](#) in the Elliott University Center. Many students find texts available online (Amazon, Google eBooks, eBay, Alibris, etc.) and most book chapters and/or additional articles are posted within the Canvas or, available as eReserves via the Jackson Library.

**Accreditation**

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award bachelor's, master's, specialist, and doctoral degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

The Commission is to be contacted only if there is evidence that appears to support an institution's significant non-compliance with a requirement or standard. All other inquiries, such as admission requirements, financial aid, educational programs, etc., should be made directly to The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 336-334-5000.
Consult the websites for the Graduate School and the Department of Continual Learning for updated tuition tables and figures. Fees for 2014-2015 can be found there.

The University can make arrangements for monthly payment plans. For more information, call (800) 635-0120 or outside the U.S. call (508) 235-2800, weekdays 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (EST). There is also an interactive website at https://tuitionpaymentplan.com/uncg.

Graduate Student Association (GSA)

The GSA’s mission is to enhance the UNCG graduate experience, promote personal and professional growth and to serve as the collective graduate voice to and from the University. GSA is guided by the following goals: EDUCATION – to enhance the potential academic and professional goals of graduate students and, through additional opportunities for learning and development, to contribute to the overall academic experience of all graduate students; SERVICE – to serve the identified educational and developmental needs of graduate students; and ADVOCACY – to promote and support the general academic welfare of graduate students.

POLICIES

Admissions

Your formal letter of acceptance from the Graduate School includes the name of your advisor. You must contact your advisor to discuss your registration each semester; your advisor will then give you your registration (advising) code so you can register after you both have agreed on a Plan of Study.

Cancellation of Classes

The Department reserves the right to cancel any class, residential or online, that has a posted UNCGenie enrollment of less than 10 students one week prior to the start of class. Each class will be handled on a case-by-case basis, and students and faculty will be notified before the start date to enable them to adjust their schedules.

We also reserve the right to cancel individual classes during the semester due to bad weather or faculty illness. You will be notified by email if a class is cancelled, so check your emails often in these circumstances. Your course syllabus has specific information for how to handle inclement weather and University closings. The faculty may assign online work to substitute for the missed class experience.

Please check the local news to see if the University is closed. Residential class will always cancel automatically if the University is closed. Online classes may still occur and faculty may post alternative class assignments on Canvas.
Transfer Credits

Some of you may have taken graduate level courses online or at other colleges and universities. You may request a transfer of those credits for up to one-third the total needed for the degree, or 13 graduate level semester hours in the master’s program. After you have been admitted, submit your request to the Department Chair in writing via email or hard copy. You should include a course title, printed course description from a publication if it is available, and a syllabus if possible. You will receive a reply in 1-2 weeks informing you what courses were accepted for transfer into the Program.

If your credits are accepted, you will then need to get official transcripts sent to the Graduate School so they are in your file at the time you are ready to graduate. The Graduate School will not complete your graduation audit if official transcripts are not on file.

Be sure to list these courses on your Plan of Study, which will be completed at the end of your second semester of coursework at UNCG and again the semester you plan to graduate (see below).

Elective Approval

You must take 3 out of 5 electives within the department. However, if you see a course in another department that you think is relevant to your studies, discuss this with your advisor. Once approval is given, you may enroll for the new elective. Please note that you may not take any course with a number lower than 500 for graduate credit towards your degree.

Plan of Study (POS)

Your advisor must approve the Plan of Study at the end of your first semester. It will be kept in your program file. Each semester, you will review your progress with your advisor.

If you are unsure who your advisor is, login to UNCGenie with your 9-digit student ID number and PIN. Select the “Student” tab at the top of the page. Click the “Registration” link ad then the “Look up Advisor” link toward the bottom of that page. Select any semester (your advisor should remain the same throughout your academic career) and your advisor details will be listed. You can request a change of advisor.

The preliminary version of your POS stays with you but the semester before you plan to graduate you will need to update the form to list the actual courses you have taken and submit the final POS to your advisor for review and signature.

You also MUST notify the Graduate School the first week of the semester in which you plan to graduate. Check the dates on the Academic Calendar if you are unclear about the timing. Your advisor, Director of Graduate Studies, and Department Chair will need to review and sign the final POS the semester you apply for graduation; it is then reviewed by the Graduate School and compared with your final transcript in a process called a graduation audit before you can be approved for graduation.
Leave of Absence

If for any reason you must take a semester off, you must file for a formal Leave of Absence with the Graduate School. If you are just entering, you can defer your admission for up to a year, but will need to file a Request for Deferral of Admission Form. Contact the Chair for more details. If you do not file for a leave of absence, you will be required to pay all fees and reapply for admission when you wish to return.

Grievances

There is a formal grievance process run by the University at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Please consult the catalog for the details; you are subject to the process publish in the catalog the year you enter a graduate program.

Within the Department, if you have a dispute or conflict with an instructor, the first line of action is to talk directly to the person, student or instructor, and see if you can reach an understanding. If this is not successful, then call the Department Chair, who will initiate some type of mutual discussion process or refer you to campus mediation services.

Plagiarism Policy

Academic integrity is founded upon and encompasses the following five values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Supporting and affirming these values is essential to promoting and maintaining a high level of academic integrity. Each member of the academic community must stand accountable for his or her actions. As a result, a community develops in which students learn the responsibilities of citizenship and how to contribute honorably to their professions. If knowledge is to be gained and properly evaluated, it must be pursued under conditions free from dishonesty. Deceit and misrepresentations are incompatible with the fundamental activity of this academic institution and shall not be tolerated. Members of the UNCG community are expected to foster in their own work the spirit of academic honesty and not to tolerate its abuse by others. Responsibility for academic integrity lies primarily with individual students and faculty members of this community. A violation of academic integrity is an act harmful to all students, faculty and, ultimately, the University.

The Center for Academic Integrity (1998). Fundamental principles of academic integrity.

Plagiarism: Representing the words of another, as one’s own in any academic exercise. Plagiarism may occur on any paper, report, or other work submitted to fulfill course requirements. This includes submitting work done by another, whether a commercial or non-commercial enterprise, including web sites, as one’s own work.
Types and Sanctions

➢ Failure to Cite References
  o Intentional or obvious failures to properly cite sources
    ▪ Recommended sanctions range from requiring the student to re-do the paper to a zero on the paper

➢ Submitting, as one’s own, work done by or copied from another
  o Includes work done by a fellow student, work done by a previous student, or work done by anyone other than the student responsible for the assignment.
    ▪ Recommended sanctions range from F on assignment to a recommendation for expulsion

You should recognize your responsibility to uphold the Academic Integrity Policy and to report apparent violations to the appropriate persons.

Each student is required to sign the Academic Integrity Pledge given below on all major work submitted to an instructor. Your work need not be graded until you have signed the statement.

Appropriate persons or offices may specify exceptions to the requirement of signing the statement, as, for example, on theses and dissertations. In the absence of such exceptions, students who do not sign the pledge may be assumed to have violated the Academic Integrity Policy. In signing the pledge, the student indicates his/her knowledge that the Academic Integrity Policy governs his/her academic activities at the University.
Academic Integrity Pledge

I HAVE ABIDED BY THE UNCG Academic Integrity Policy ON THIS ASSIGNMENT.

Student’s Signature __________________________________ Date ______

Students should recognize their responsibility to uphold the Academic Integrity Policy and to report apparent violations to the appropriate persons. Students who do not understand the Policy or its application to a particular assignment are responsible for raising such questions with their faculty member.

During the orientation period for new students, each student is asked to sign the following statement affirming his/her understanding and acceptance of the principles of the Academic Integrity Policy:

My words and actions will reflect Academic Integrity.
I will not cheat or lie or steal in academic matters.
I will promote integrity in the UNCG community.

Student’s Signature ____________________________ Date ______

Each student is required to sign the Academic Integrity Pledge given below on all major work submitted to an instructor. A student’s work need not be graded until he/she has signed the statement.

Appropriate persons or offices may specify exceptions to the requirement of signing the statement, as, for example, on theses and dissertations. In the absence of such exceptions, students who do not sign the pledge may be assumed to have violated the Academic Integrity Policy. In signing the pledge, the student indicates his/her knowledge that the Academic Integrity Policy governs his/her academic activities at the University.
Faculty Bios

Thomas G. Matyók, Ph.D., Department Chair, Director of Graduate Studies
tgmatyok@uncg.edu

Dr. Matyók worked as the Director of Organization Development for Southeast Georgia Health System and as a human rights activist for the International Seafarers’ Center located in Brunswick, Georgia. He advocated for international merchant seafarers’ rights, analysis of elements of modern slavery in the life of merchant seamen, and resolution of many complex, international conflicts. Dr. Matyók had a previous career in the United States Army as an Infantry Officer; his military career provided him with opportunities to work throughout the United States, Europe, and the Middle East. His electives focus on conflict resolution in health care settings, best practices in conflict interventions, global violence, war and remembrance of the fallen, facilitation, and conflict in the workplace.

Ali Askerov, Ph.D.
abaskaro@uncg.edu

Ali Askerov is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at UNCG. He has been teaching in the areas of peace studies, international relations, political history, public international law, and political ideas. He received his PhD from the A. V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice, the University of Manitoba. His publications include numerous articles as well as a book: Chechens from Past to Future. His research fields include ethnic conflict, peace education, theories of conflict resolution, qualitative research methods, and the history of political ideas.
Laura K. Taylor is an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at UNCG and an Assistant Professor (Lecturer) in the School of Psychology at Queen’s University, Belfast. She earned a dual Ph.D. in Psychology and Peace Studies from the University of Notre Dame. Her research applies a risk and resilience framework, within a developmental psychopathology approach, to examine the impact of political violence on children, families, and communities in Colombia, Croatia and Northern Ireland. She is also expanding this international research to work with immigrant and refugee youth in the United States. In addition, she has research and operational knowledge in conflict transformation, mental health, and transitional justice with six years of field experience in rights-based empowerment in the Caribbean, Latin America, and Nepal.

Emily Janke is an Associate Professor in the Peace and Conflict Studies department and the founding Director of the Institute for Community and Economic Engagement (ICEE). Emily’s teaching and scholarship explores multiple aspects of community engagement, including community-university relationships and partnerships, institutional culture and change strategies, and the role of reciprocity, communication and tension in win-win negotiations and collaborative relationships. As the director of ICEE (a university-wide institute) Emily leads initiatives that encourage, support, elevate, and amplify faculty, staff, student, and community colleague community-engaged teaching, learning, research, creative activity, and service in ways that promote the strategic goals of the university, address pressing issues in the Piedmont Triad and serve the public good of communities across the state, nation, and world.