

The Environmental Affairs Committee (EAC) of Student Government is hoping to work with the faculty of UNC to establish baseline requirements for papers submitted in classes, in the hopes that this will help UNC reduce its paper consumption and help the school become more sustainable.

To maximize each piece of paper, the EAC recommends the following standards. These standards are used in this template to provide an example:

- One inch margins
- 12-point Times New Roman font
- 1.5 inch line spacing
- Double-sided pages (as is standard for all CCI printing)
- Specifications about whether or not cover sheets are necessary
- Page numbers
- For your reference, with all the above changes included, there are approximately **400-450** words per page

We understand that some professors prefer more specific standards for their papers. Thus, we suggest this basic foundation be set for all classes, after which professors can decide if their class should differ. Ideally, this information would be distributed through the faculty to the students via syllabi, so that the students may refer to it when writing their papers.

Changes like these have proved to yield significant impact on paper use at schools. For instance, Pennsylvania State University saved an estimated 72 acres of forest and over \$120,000/year simply by reducing margin settings from 1.25in to 0.75in! Considering UNC currently uses over 100 million sheets per year (<http://www.climate.unc.edu/portfolio/>, page 4) or about 500 tons of paper, we certainly have a significant opportunity for change. This will result in positive impacts on UNC's waste management as well as general environmental impact.

The Penn State facts come from their "Green Destiny Council", which is a collaborative effort by students, faculty, and staff to increase environmental responsibility on their campus. The homepage is <http://homes.bio.psu.edu/greendestiny/>, and the actual facts come from <http://homes.bio.psu.edu/Greendestiny/publications/1.pdf>.