

Curriculum Action Items for 2025-2026

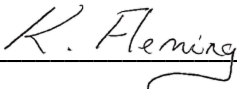

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the curriculum action items presented for academic year 2025-2026.

BACKGROUND

One new master's degree and one new certificate program are proposed for the 2025-2026 graduate catalog; one new bachelor's degree and three new certificate programs are proposed for the 2025-2026 undergraduate catalog.

All of the new degree and certificate programs are summarized on the included BOT Curriculum Action Items Summary. Academic Affairs has notified HLC of our intent to offer these programs and received assurance that no further HLC review is required. The programs have now been fully approved through the curriculum process as outlined in University Regulations Title 3, Article 3, Part 5. Prior to notification to the CDHE and implementation, the programs require approval by the Board of Trustees. We are recommending these changes be approved for the academic year 2025-2026.

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Responsible Staff	Date	President	Date
_____	_____		
Board Action	Date		



Board of Trustees – Curriculum Action Items

Summary of Change: One new master's degree and one new certificate program are proposed for the 2025-2026 graduate catalog; one new bachelor's degree and three new certificate programs are proposed for the 2025-2026 undergraduate catalog.

Background: All of the new degree and certificate programs are summarized on the included *BOT Curriculum Action Items Summary*. Academic Affairs has notified HLC of our intent to offer these programs and received assurance that no further HLC review is required. The programs have now been fully approved through the curriculum process as outlined in University Regulations Title 3, Article 3, Part 5. Prior to notification to the CDHE and implementation, the programs require approval by the Board of Trustees. We are recommending these changes be approved for the academic year 2025-2026.

Rationale and Budget Impacts: Both of the "new" degree programs elevate concentration pathways that were previously embedded within other existing degree programs, and the new Applied Leadership Certificate replaces an existing minor. None of these three programs require the creation of additional courses, increases FTE, or alters current course rotations in the sponsoring academic units. Repositioning these programs as independent credentials simply enables UNC to more effectively serve students and showcase existing faculty expertise.

- The ***M.A. in Inclusive Early Childhood Education/Early Childhood Special Education*** is replacing a concentration in Early Childhood Special Education within the M.A. in Special Education. The existing concentration has long been one of the largest and most successful graduate programs in the College of Education & Behavioral Sciences and will no longer be offered if this degree program is approved. The proposed program has the full support of the Colorado Department of Education and is the largest provider of Early Childhood Education/Early Childhood Special Education personnel in the state. Positioning it as a standalone credential is directly aligned with our mission and may serve to attract even more students.
- The ***B.S. in Climate Sciences*** is part of a wider revitalization plan within the Department of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences. The plan was developed by the College of Natural & Health Sciences Dean Haddad (see the *BOT Curriculum Information Items Summary* for the remaining parts). For many years this department has housed a single B.S. in Earth Sciences with specialized pathways in Environmental Earth Sciences, Geology, Science Teaching, and Meteorology. Though students interested in Climate Science careers have always been supported, this option was largely invisible to students. Creating a B.S. in Climate Science to house the Meteorology Concentration makes this option more visible to students.
- The undergraduate ***Applied Leadership Certificate*** will replace a Leadership Minor. Three existing LEAD prefix courses have been redesigned to support the certificate's core program outcomes, and courses across a number of other departments have been identified to serve as

applied electives. The certificate is directly linked to our Presidential Leadership Program (PLP), which is supported by foundation funds. Most of the funds are dedicated to student scholarships, and since all PLP students are required to complete the certificate, enrollment is guaranteed. Tuition revenue will be sufficient to support costs for LEAD prefix instruction at the scholarship-supported cohort of twenty students/year, and there is room for an additional five students in each course before we would need to consider offering additional sections. The certificate complements any undergraduate degree program and may also be attractive to non-degree seeking students interested in developing leadership skills.

The remaining three proposed certificates continue our efforts to respond to the state and national movement to create more flexible formats by which students can obtain postsecondary credentials. Each of the proposed certificate programs supports career readiness for students and is designed to attract and retain students to existing degree programs. All involve repackaging of existing coursework; no increases to FTE or course rotations in the sponsoring units are required.

- The graduate ***Business Analytics Certificate*** completes the process begun by the Monfort College of Business last year to develop stackable certificates for a wide variety of specialized pathways within the M.B.A. It was requested by Risepoint, our enrollment and admissions partner for the M.B.A., who estimates that it will help them attract additional students to our program. All certificate coursework can also be used to fulfill business elective requirements for M.B.A. students. New sections of courses that serve the certificate will only be opened if enrollments are sufficient to cover the additional instructional cost.
- The undergraduate ***Professional Selling and Customer Management Certificate*** provides a formalized, credentialed pathway focused on specialized education in sales and customer relationship management skills. This certificate program is designed to make our graduates more competitive by highlighting their specific coursework in sales. Some outdated courses were revised to create this certificate option, and all certificate coursework can also be used to fulfill business elective requirements for students in our B.S. in Business Administration as well as non-business majors and non-degree seeking students who wish to prepare for careers involving marketing and sales activity.
- The ***Analytical Chemistry Certificate*** develops student competencies in chemical analysis, from sampling to acquisition of data and statistical treatment of data to assess quality and reliability, as well as proficiency in using a variety of instrumental methods of chemical analysis. These techniques are used in a variety of research and industrial settings and hence the ability to add this credential to an existing degree program - including degrees like Health Sciences or Criminology & Criminal Justice as well as Chemistry – assists students seeking careers that require these skills. Non-degree seeking students seeking these skills may also pursue the certificate.

BOT Curriculum Action Items Summary

College	Unit	Level	Name	Target Audience	Implementation Costs	Notes
Education & Behavioral Sciences	Special Education	Graduate	Inclusive Early Childhood Education/Early Childhood Special Education M.A.	Students seeking professional careers in Early Childhood Education/Early Childhood Special Education.	None: this program previously existed as a concentration within our Special Education Masters Degree. It is consistently fully enrolled and is the largest provider of ECE/ECSE personnel in the state.	Program has been revised and repositioned as a standalone master's degree to better serve existing students and align with updated Colorado Department of Education Licensure Requirements.
Monfort College of Business	All	Graduate	Business Analytics Certificate	Business professionals seeking to upskill in Business Analytics.	None: relies on existing courses embedded in M.B.A.	This completes the process of developing stackable certificates to all M.B.A. concentrations that was requested by our enrollment partner (the other certificates were created last year).
	Management	Undergraduate	Professional Selling & Customer Relationship Mgmt Certificate	Existing and new undergraduate students seeking careers in customer relations and sales.	None: relies on existing and revised coursework embedded in the Business Administration B.S.	Certificate is expected to increase recruitment and retention of business majors, and can enhance career readiness for students pursuing any bachelor's degree at UNC by providing them with a basic marketing credential.
Natural & Health Sciences	Chemistry & Biochemistry	Undergraduate	Analytical Chemistry Certificate	New or existing undergraduate Chemistry students.	Existing courses embedded in the Chemistry B.S.	Certificate will highlight enrolled students' career readiness and may enhance efforts to recruit students considering a Chemistry degree. Also may be used to supplement Health Sciences and Criminology & Criminal Justice degrees.
	Earth & Atmospheric Sciences	Undergraduate	B.S. in Climate Science	Undergraduate students seeking Climate Science/Meteorology degrees.	None: this degree program was developed using a subset of existing courses from the Earth Sciences B.S.; that degree program has also been renamed and repositioned as an Environment Earth Sciences degree with less focus on atmospheric science.	This is part of our Earth Sciences B.S. revitalization plan. This new degree will better showcase faculty expertise in Meteorology and is positioned to attract new students interested in careers related to climate change.
Undergraduate Studies	Academic Engagement	Undergraduate	Applied Leadership Certificate	Required for scholarship students in Presidents Leadership Program (PLP). Available as a standalone or embedded certificate to any UNC student who wishes to develop leadership skills.	Foundation funds are available to support up to 20 PLP students with scholarships that cover tuition for certificate coursework. Tuition covers the cost of instruction at 20 students and we can support up to 25 students without adding sections. There is also a small foundation fund that can support instructional costs as the program ramps up.	Replaces Leadership Minor. Three LEAD prefix courses that previously served that minor have been revised to serve the certificate. Other courses are drawn from undergraduate departments across all five colleges. Since all PLP-scholarship recipients must also enroll in undergraduate degree programs, they will bring additional tuition dollars to an array of individual colleges/academic units at UNC.

Color Key

Stackable: certificate-holders qualify for new career pathway/increased salary and all courses can be applied directly to graduate or undergraduate degree.

Embedded: all required coursework can be applied to existing undergraduate degrees either as major requirements or university-wide electives to enhance career readiness.