

Curriculum Action Items for 2026-2027

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the curriculum action items presented for academic year 2026-2027.


BACKGROUND

Six new master's degree and three new certificate program are proposed for the 2026-2027 graduate catalog; seven new bachelor's degree and six new certificate programs are proposed for the 2026-2027 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 2026-2027.

K. Fleming
Responsible Staff

2/10/2026
Date


President

2/11/26
Date

Board Action

Date



Board of Trustees – Curriculum Action Items

Summary of Change: For the 2026-2027 academic catalog, UNC proposes adding:

6	Undergraduate Certificates
3	Graduate Certificates
7	Undergraduate Degrees
6	Graduate Degrees

Background: The “new” degrees and the certificate programs are summarized in 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. These credentials 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, these programs require approval by the Board of Trustees. We recommend these changes be approved for implementation in academic year 2026-2027.

Rationale and Budget Impacts: All proposed new programs leverage existing resources while streamlining admissions, connecting degree pathways to professional careers, and offering new opportunities for student flexibility. No additional budget allocation is required for these programs.

Education and Behavioral Sciences (EBS): The two proposals from EBS address distinctly different audiences:

MA in Health Service Psychology: This program will serve current PhD students in Counseling Psychology by offering a Master's in Passing credential. The Master's in Passing will serve as a formative assessment checkpoint for students within the PhD in Counseling Psychology while also matching industry competitor offerings. Additionally, this master's degree may serve as an off-ramp for graduate students unable to complete their PhD program.

Teacher Degree Apprenticeship Program: This innovative repackaging of our current teaching degree is built in partnership with Aurora Public Schools and the Department of Labor. Aurora Public Schools will recommend current employees for this degree program in cohorts, allowing them to pursue their education while continuing to work. This is a model we hope to expand to additional school districts.

Natural and Health Sciences (NHS): NHS proposed multiple new offerings that fall into two categories:

Replacing and renaming existing programs: Driven by their Academic Program Review, the Kinesiology, Nutrition and Dietetics department streamlined multiple degree pathways into singular offerings, allowing for larger enrolled core classes and deeper connections into specific career pathways. Mathematical Sciences also streamlined two standalone education degrees into a single pathway with multiple concentrations, providing more flexibility for both students and the department.

Medical school preparation certificates: NHS also proposed two new undergraduate certificates aligned with the new College of Medicine to provide more robust opportunities for medical school preparation. The certificates feature an innovative model built on faculty mentorship and focused on student preparation for the MCAT. Although these certificates will use new courses, those courses fall within current workload assignments and formalize pathways for students intending to apply to either osteopathic or allopathic medical schools.

Performing and Visual Arts (PVA): All degree offerings from PVA use existing courses. The majority of these new proposals replace concentrations with standalone degrees. Per HLC policy, all concentrations must share 50% core curriculum; our previous structure was out of compliance. These standalone degrees will provide clarity to students and bring us into alignment with accreditor regulations.

PVA has also proposed three new certificates, two at the graduate level that will be offered through Extended Campus. These certificates map existing coursework but allow for flexibility by serving as stackable credentials into degree programs. The Music MM (Master of Music), for example, allows for low-residency completion and will appeal to working professionals.

BOT Curriculum Action Items Summary

College	Unit	New Program Pathway/Option	Target Audience	Curriculum Modification	Implementation Costs	Notes
Education & Behavioral Sciences	Applied Psychology & Counselor Education	M.A. Health Service Psychology	Designed for students who are admitted and pursuing the Ph.D. Counseling Psychology program.	Uses all existing courses.	No additional costs.	New Master's in Passing for the Ph.D. Counseling Psychology, not a standalone program. This degree will serve students with only a BA to be able to obtain a masters in Health Service Psychology in route to their Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology. We expect that this might also offer an off-ramp for students needing to exit graduate school for personal reasons.
	Teacher Education	Teacher Degree Apprenticeship Program	For partnering education district employees without a bachelor's degree.	All existing courses.	No additional costs.	In partnership with the US Dept. of Labor and Colorado's work force development program, this degree was built on the infrastructure of our current licensure program/s to offer a degree pathway (and name, "Teacher Apprentice") for working professionals. Districts will designate their employees as "apprentices" who will pursue their bachelors while continuing to work in their schools. This program will start as a completion program but expands to offer the full degree in multiple modalities in 2027.
Natural & Health Sciences	Communication Sciences & Disorders	Audiology Assistant Undergraduate Certificate	Current UNC students in related degree programs.	Integrates coursework in basic and advanced audiology, amplification and aural rehabilitation, and hands-on clinical experience through an audiology assistant internship in a clinical setting.	Internship estimated 2.5-3.5 WLU of workload increase to one faculty member in CSD. With 5-10 students per year, 10+ students per year would need an additional adjunct.	Provides comprehensive coursework for individuals seeking foundational and applied knowledge in audiology to allow for work as an Audiology Assistant.
		Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA) Undergraduate Certificate	Current UNC students in related degree programs. Once this program undergoes federal gainful employment review (means testing), we believe this might be a useful additional credential in relationship with community college partners.	Uses all existing courses.	The sequence and frequency of the courses being offered will not initially require overload or adjunct support. Estimating 10-12 students to begin; at 24 students an additional section would be needed.	Formalizes the certificate program for recruitment and CPOS alignments.
	Kinesiology, Nutrition, and Dietetics	Sports Nutrition Undergraduate Certificate	Current UNC students across diverse degree programs.	Two new courses (one lecture and one internship) will be created as part of this certificate and the adjacent sports nutrition minor.	The sequence and frequency of the courses being offered will not initially require overload or adjunct support. Enrollment is projected to grow from 5-10 students, increasing by five annually; adjunct support may be needed by year five.	Establishes a dedicated Sports Nutrition certificate program for major and non-majors.

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College	Unit	New Program Pathway/Option	Target Audience	Curriculum Modification	Implementation Costs	Notes
Natural & Health Sciences	Kinesiology, Nutrition, & Dietetics	Kinesiology B.S.	Prospective students.	All existing courses.	None: primarily name changes.	Replaces an existing major and concentration. Name change to better reflect the department name & prefix name changed from SES to KIN and bring unit offerings into alignment with industry standards. The changes in KiND were driven from recommendations made during the unit's last Academic Program Review and streamline degree pathways, concentrate enrollment from different concentrations into singular standalone degrees while allowing for future development in wellness and wellbeing industries.
		Kinesiology M.S.	Current and potential MS students interested in a broader scope of graduate study in kinesiology rather than a narrow concentration.	No new course offerings.	None: primarily name changes.	Replaces MS SES: Biomechanics Concentration and MS SES: Exercise Physiology Concentration. The changes in KiND were driven from recommendations made during the unit's last Academic Program Review and streamline degree pathways, concentrate enrollment from different concentrations into singular standalone degrees while allowing for future development in wellness and wellbeing industries.
		Physical Education & Physical Activity Leadership B.S.	Students who want to promote and lead physical activity experiences but do not seek teacher licensure. This audience includes: traditional undergraduates pursuing careers in community recreation, coaching, or youth development; transfer students from community colleges with backgrounds in sport management, outdoor education, or public health; adult learners and student-athletes seeking flexible and applied degree options that align with leadership roles in physical activity and wellness.	No new course offerings.	None: primarily name changes.	Provides an alternative pathway for students interested in physical education and leadership careers outside of the K-12 education system. This will allow the unit to grow their offerings for diverse constituencies including recreation, club sports, and elders.
	Mathematical Sciences	Mathematics Education B.S.	Current and prospective undergraduate students.	Align standalone degrees into concentrations while allowing for students to complete their degree if they decide that licensure teaching is no longer their goal.	None: moves standalone degrees into a concentration format and aligning shared courses for curricular efficiency.	Creates a Mathematics Education BS with concentrations in Middle School Licensure and Secondary School Licensure. This will allow for students who change their mind with regard to teaching licensure to graduate with the parent degree rather than having to lose hours in a degree transfer process.
	NHS Interdisciplinary	Bear Path to Medicine—Undergraduate Advanced Certificate	Intended for juniors and seniors with a minimum 3.2 GPA.	Add one-credit pre-med courses.	The courses are low-credit, and fit within current workload capacity under the NHS Workload Policy. Currently NHS is advising medical exploring student population of >450.	Creates a pre-med pathway that enhances competitiveness for health care pathways and supports targeted development for UNC's College of Osteopathic Medicine.
		Bear Path to Medicine—Undergraduate Foundations Certificate	Designed for sophomores with a minimum 3.0 GPA.	Add one-credit pre-med courses.	The courses are low-credit, and fit within current workload capacity under the NHS Workload Policy. Currently pre-med advising serves over 100 students, after 175+, new sections will need to be added.	Creates a pre-med exploratory certificate that supports undergraduate students preparing for medical schools including those intending to apply to UNC's College of Osteopathic Medicine.

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College	Unit	New Program Pathway/Option	Target Audience	Curriculum Modification	Implementation Costs	Notes
Performing & Visual Arts	Art & Design	Art Education B.A. – Licensure: Visual Art (Grades K-12)	Recent high school graduates in Colorado and beyond who have a goal of being an arts educator in schools and/or in arts organizations.	Moves a concentration into a standalone degree.	None: primarily name changes.	Based on recommendations from the unit's recent Academic Program Review and to bring their degree pathways into alignment with HLC policies, SOAD is spinning three concentrations into their own degree programs and refined pathways/requirements. We expect this to clarify programs for recruitment and degree acceleration as well as bringing UNC into alignment with industry standards in art and design.
		Graphic Design B.A.	Recent high school graduates in Colorado and beyond who have a goal of being a professional designer in firms, for specific businesses, or as independent entrepreneurs.	Moves a concentration into a standalone degree.	None: this simply re-packages existing coursework from a concentration pathway.	Based on recommendations from the unit's recent Academic Program Review and to bring their degree pathways into alignment with HLC policies, SOAD is spinning three concentrations into their own degree programs and refined pathways/requirements. We expect this to clarify programs for recruitment and degree acceleration as well as bringing UNC into alignment with industry standards in art and design.
		Curatorial Studies & Public History Undergraduate Certificate	Current and prospective undergraduate students who are interested in building careers skills related to curatorial studies, public history, and arts administration.	Takes advantage of an endowment to support gallery spaces and build curriculum around new opportunities for engaged art practices.	Most associated costs will be covered by the Ruyle Collection Endowment, 3 credit course will be paid from School of Art and Design adjunct budget with eventual support by the Ruyle Collection Staffing Endowment as the fund grows.	Establishes a certificate that prepares students with career skills used in curatorial studies, public history, arts, and cultural administration.
		Studio Art B.A.	Prospective students wanting to pursue graduate study, a professional studio practice, or a career in the arts.	Moves a concentration into a standalone degree.	None: this simply re-packages existing coursework from a concentration pathway.	Based on recommendations from the unit's recent Academic Program Review and to bring their degree pathways into alignment with HLC policies, SOAD is spinning three concentrations into their own degree programs and refined pathways/requirements. We expect this to clarify programs for recruitment and degree acceleration as well as bringing UNC into alignment with industry standards in art and design.
	Music	Choral Conducting Graduate Certificate	Music educators, ensemble directors, and other practicing musicians.	Uses extant courses and offers them in a low residency/EC model.	Tuition revenue from the program will offset the cost of additional interim term faculty salaries for courses during the summer session.	Establishes a certificate that provides music educators, ensemble directors, and other practicing musicians with advanced, targeted education to refine their conducting technique, deepen their interpretive skills, and expand their pedagogical and leadership capacities. This certificate stacks into the low residency MM in conducting and is a unique offering that can expand student populations wanting to grow their skills during summer months.
		Instrumental Conducting Graduate Certificate	Music educators, ensemble directors, and other practicing musicians.	Uses extant courses and offers them in a low residency/EC model.	Tuition revenue from the program will offset the cost of additional interim term faculty salaries for courses during the summer session.	Establishes a certificate that provides music educators, ensemble directors, and other practicing musicians with advanced, targeted education to refine their conducting technique, deepen their interpretive skills, and expand their pedagogical and leadership capacities. This certificate stacks into the low residency MM in conducting and is a unique offering that can expand student populations wanting to grow their skills during summer months.

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Performing & Visual Arts	Music	Jazz Studies D.A.	Students who have a master's degree in Jazz will be interested in this program. These students tend to be students who are progressing from 4-year undergraduate degrees through a 2-year master's degree and into a doctoral degree with some gap years to gain professional experience.	Moves a concentration into a standalone degree.	Reduces the required number of credits for UNC doctoral programs from 64 to 56, and reduces required dissertation credits from 16 to 10.	New title-replace Music D.A. (previously an area under Music D.A. that offered Jazz Studies); this redesigned program also reduces the cost burden for students which will shorten time to degree and makes our program more attractive to wider audiences.
		Latinx Music Graduate Certificate	This program is ideal for K–12 music educators, performers, and graduate students seeking to engage more deeply with Latinx music in both educational and artistic settings.	New course: MUS 545 Latinx Music: Styles, History, and Cultural Contexts.	Full-time faculty workload reassignment (changing course rotations) and interim-term faculty salaries offset by the new tuition revenue.	Establishes new certificate to meet growing demand among music educators and professionals for advanced education in Latin American musical traditions, pedagogy, and ensemble leadership. Preliminary work in this area has focused on building partnerships in the local school district and the unit recently received a substantial grant to purchase instruments for students participating in the ensemble from Greeley Central HS.
		Music Education D.A.	Students who have a master's degree in music education will be interested in this program. These students tend to be students who are progressing from 4-year undergraduate degrees through a 2-year master's degree and into a doctoral degree with some gap years to gain professional experience.	Moves a concentration into a standalone degree.	Reduces the required number of credits for UNC doctoral programs from 64 to 56, and reduces required dissertation credits from 16 to 10.	New title & no longer a concentration-replace Music D.A. - Music Education Concentration. This redesigned program also reduces the cost burden for students which will shorten time to degree and makes our program more attractive to wider audiences.
		Music History & Literature D.A.	Students who have a master's degree in music history will be interested in this program. These students tend to be students who are progressing from 4-year undergraduate degrees through a 2-year master's degree and into a doctoral degree with some gap years to gain professional experience.	Moves a concentration into a standalone degree.	Reduces the required number of credits for UNC doctoral programs from 64 to 56, and reduces required dissertation credits from 16 to 10.	New title & no longer a concentration - replace Music D.A. - Music History and Literature Concentration. This redesigned program also reduces the cost burden for students which will shorten time to degree and makes our program more attractive to wider audiences.
		Music M.M. – Conducting Concentration (Low-Residency)	K–12 band, choir, and orchestra directors seeking advanced education for salary advancement and professional enrichment in addition to community and semi-professional ensemble conductors.	Incorporates existing courses and stackable graduate certificates and adds a low residency/EC model for working professionals.	The curriculum is comprised of existing courses. No new faculty will be needed to support its delivery.	Builds a new pathway in a new modality incorporating stackable certificates in a low residency/EC model. This innovative offering takes advantage of the School of Music's exceptional national reputation and packages courses in new modalities for working professionals.