

Experimental (*98) Courses

Occasionally, courses that do not appear in the Catalog may appear in the Schedule of Classes (www.unco.edu/sched/). These course numbers end in "98" and are considered experimental. For example, an experimental course in Geology might be GEOL 398.

See "Course Designations" in the [Undergraduate Catalog](#) and the [Graduate Catalog](#).

1) When Experimental Courses are used

- a. Experimental courses are only created as needed for special circumstances. Most new course offerings should follow the standard curriculum approval process. Circumstances that lead to creation of temporary, or experimental, courses may include:
 - i. A New Course is approved after a catalog/curriculum review deadline but the department needs to offer the course prior to the next catalog publish date.
 - ii. A program wants to offer a new course on a temporary basis before determining whether to offer it permanently. *Note: other options to offer a course temporarily would be to teach the course under an existing Variable Title, such as a Special Topics or Workshop course.*

2) Approval of Experimental Courses

- a. Like the approval needed for a Variable Title course, the program curriculum committee (or faculty), the program unit leader (chair, director, etc.) and the College dean should approve the new course.
- b. **Option One: Full Approval**
 - i. Submit course on a New Course form through the [Curriculum Workflow](#) and gather full approval for new course.
 - ii. The experimental course will be active for one year and will appear only in the schedule and not the catalog.
 - iii. Following this, the permanent course will be created and added to the upcoming catalog based on the approval through the workflow.
 - iv. Best used for -- when a New Course is approved after catalog deadlines but needs to be offered prior to the next catalog.
- c. **Option Two: Expedited Approval**
 - i. Gather email approval from chair/director and dean for the new course and send course details to the Office of the Registrar curriculum staff.
 - ii. The experimental course will be active for one year and will appear only in the schedule and not the catalog.

- iii. If planning to offer the course after one year, submit the course during the next curriculum review cycle on a New Course form through the Curriculum Workflow for full approval.
- iv. Best used for -- when the New Course is needed quickly and not fully approved yet, or for truly experimental courses that may or may not be added to the catalog under its own number.

3) Notes and Considerations

- a. Experimental course numbers should only be used for one year. If the course is to be offered for more than two semesters, please submit a New Course Form to add to the catalog for the upcoming term.
- b. Experimental courses should be used sparingly and in circumstances where the program needs to offer the course but was not able to add it to the catalog.
- c. The temporary (*98) number is not marked as equivalent to its permanent number because the number (*98) may be reused in future terms. For this reason, they are repeatable under different titles and are not eligible for grade replacement.
- d. If the course is intended to fulfill program requirements or prerequisites to another course, a course adjustment and/or overrides may be needed for students that took the *98 course.