



UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN
COLORADO

Office of the Provost

Board of Trustees - Information Item
Restructuring, Reactivating, and Deactivating Existing Degree & Certificate Programs

Summary of Change: Three graduate degrees, five undergraduate degrees, and one undergraduate certificate have been restructured for the 2024-2025 academic year catalog; one graduate degree has been reactivated; and two graduate degrees and two graduate certificates have been deactivated.

Background: The complete list of changes is summarized on the included BOT Curriculum Info Items Summary spreadsheet. For clarification:

- A concentration is a dedicated pathway within a specific degree. Adding or deleting a concentration does not change the number of degree programs offered by UNC or how we report degree completions to external stakeholders. Regardless of any concentrations taken by a student within a degree program, the student receives the same degree and student diplomas only list that degree name (e.g., B.S. in Business). However, when a student completes a concentration within their chosen degree, that concentration is described on their official transcript. Because concentrations within a degree program are listed on our admissions portal and college websites, they facilitate recruitment of students with those specific interests. They also signify to potential employers and graduate schools that the student has an education in a specific subfield of their major discipline.
- When we restructure or eliminate degree programs, current undergraduate students have up to six years and current graduate students have up to eight years to complete their program as structured under the catalog year in which the student enrolled; they also have the option to update their catalog year and transition to a new degree structure if available.

Rationale: In all cases, the changes streamline delivery and better serve students by ensuring the relevant academic units can more efficiently deliver the coursework students need and showcase the specific content of available pathways to existing programs.

Enrollment & Budget Impacts: In two cases the restructured programs will immediately reduce instructional costs by streamlining delivery and have been intentionally designed to make the programs more attractive and accessible:

1. To revise and rename the concentration within the English B.A., nineteen specialized courses were deleted and replaced by four new thematic courses. The *Literature, Culture, and Creativity* concentration is designed to attract and serve students interested in either creative writing or literature, complementing the *Writing, Editing, and Publishing* concentration created in 2022.
2. The revision and move of the *Music Business/Music Business and Recording Arts* concentration from the gated Music B.M. degree to the ungated Music B.A. degree reduces private lessons (the most expensive instructional offering in the School of Music) by 25%. This move will also make the concentration accessible to a wider group of students and hence may increase enrollments in PVA by students who are unable to earn coveted spots in the gated B.M. based on an audition.

In five cases there are no immediate impacts on instructional costs, but students will be better served. These include:

- The elimination of distinct concentration pathways in the
 1. *Sociology M.A.*, and
 2. *Music Education B.M.E.*

In both cases, there is no explicit benefit for students to be tracked based on their specific pathway to the degree (or to have that pathway highlighted on their official transcript), and eliminating the concentrations affords students and their advisors more flexibility in selecting courses as they progress through the program.

- The renaming of the Music Technology Certificate as a
 3. *Recording Arts Certificate*.

This more clearly reflects the content of the certificate and is embedded in the Music Business and Recording Arts pathway to the ungated B.A. described above.

- The creation of four new concentration pathways within the
 4. undergraduate *Business Administration B.S.*

Each concentration bundles existing courses in new ways that highlight student preparation in the subfields of *Wealth & Asset Management*, *Institutions & Risk Management*, *Human Relations*, and *Entrepreneurship*. Although one new course was created in the Finance Department, it can serve as an elective in other pathways to a business degree and is not expected to impact faculty workloads or department course rotations.

- The elimination of one concentration from the Physics and Astronomy B.S.:
 5. *Mathematical Physics* concentration.

The pathway was rarely chosen by physics majors, and students can receive the same preparation by completing a math minor or taking additional math classes to fulfill their university-wide electives.

There are four cases in which low-enrolled, highly specialized graduate level programs were eliminated after all students completed their degree or certificate:

1. Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership Ph.D.
2. Applied Causal Evaluation of Policy & Innovation Grad Certificate
3. Applied Behavior Analysis Graduate Certificate
4. Educational Studies Ed.D.

All cases were housed in the College of Education & Behavioral Sciences. No faculty positions have been eliminated. A few faculty members retired or moved to other institutions and were not replaced as it became clear these programs were winding down. Workloads for continuing faculty members have been adjusted to serve other programs offered by the college.

The reopening of the *Art & Design M.A.* and the addition of two new concentrations within the M.B.A. program (*Finance Concentration* and *Project Management* concentrations) are linked to requests for new graduate level certificates that will stack directly to these programs. Enrollment and budget impacts of those items are described on the Action Items memo.

Other notes: During every catalog cycle, academic units make minor updates to the catalog that do not change the total number of degrees or concentration pathways presented in the catalog. Here is a summary of such changes for the AY 2024-25 catalog:

Updates to program descriptions or course requirements:

- 13 academic minors
- 3 certificates (two graduate level and one undergraduate level)
- 45 bachelor programs (including concentrations); of those, 11 include teacher licensure endorsement
- 16 master's programs (including concentration pathways)
- 2 education specialist programs
- 8 doctoral programs

Program admissions pauses:

- 2 graduate certificates
- 2 graduate concentration pathways
- 1 master's program
- 2 doctoral programs

Previously paused programs reopened for admission

- 1 doctoral concentration
- 1 doctoral degree

Course Level Changes:

- 12 undergraduate and 5 graduate courses were renumbered.
- 67 undergraduate and 10 graduate courses were deactivated (including 25 courses from the previous French and German programs).
- 38 undergraduate and 35 graduate courses were added (including 14 courses to serve the reactivated Art& Design M.A. and new Art Studio graduate certificate).
- 301 undergraduate and 60 graduate courses were revised to update the title, description, pre-requisites, etc.

BOT Curriculum Information Items Summary

College	Unit	Type	Name	Notes
College of Education & Behavioral Sciences	Leadership Policy & Development	Deactivate low enrolled program	Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership Ph.D.	Remove program from catalog (all students were taught out prior to closure).
College of Education & Behavioral Sciences	Special Education	Deactivate low enrolled program	Applied Causal Evaluation of Policy & Innovation Grad Certificate	Remove programs as we are no longer able to meet accreditation standards due to faculty losses and the high costs of maintaining programs in these specialized areas. All students were taught out prior to closure.
College of Education & Behavioral Sciences	Special Education	Deactivate low enrolled program	Applied Behavior Analysis Graduate Certificate	
College of Education & Behavioral Sciences	Teacher Education	Deactivate low enrolled program	Educational Studies Ed.D.	Remove program from catalog after (all students were taught out prior to closure).
Education & Behavioral Sciences	Teacher Education	Program renaming and move from School of Teacher Ed to English Dept.	Education M.A.T. – English Education Concentration	Concentration within MAT program was always managed by English Department and does not include licensure. No impact on current students and improves visibility/marketing to prospective students looking for English degree.
Humanities & Social Sciences	English		English Education M.A.	
Humanities & Social Sciences	English	Delete old concentration name	English B.A. – Liberal Arts Concentration	Existing Liberal Arts concentration eliminated, revised, and renamed as Literature, Culture, and Creativity. Revised pathway improves efficiency of delivery and broadens appeal.
Humanities & Social Sciences	English	Revise content and rename concentration	English B.A. – Literature, Culture, and Creativity	
Humanities & Social Sciences	Sociology	Revise/streamline degree program	Sociology M.A.	Consolidated Sociology MA into a single degree pathway. No course changes or student impacts; elective options continue to allow students to pursue thesis or applied option, without having to declare a new program of study.
Humanities & Social Sciences	Sociology	Deactivate concentration pathway	Sociology M.A. – Thesis Concentration	
Humanities & Social Sciences	Sociology	Deactivate concentration pathway	Sociology M.A. – Applied Concentration	
Monfort College of Business	Finance	New graduate concentration pathway	Business Administration M.B.A. – Finance Concentration	Adds two concentration pathways to existing M.B.A. administered by Academic Partnerships (AP).
Monfort College of Business	Management	New graduate concentration pathway	Business Administration M.B.A. – Project Management Conc.	
Monfort College of Business	Finance	New undergrad concentration	Business Administration B.S. – Wealth and Asset Management	Adds four additional concentration pathways existing Business Administration B.S. in response to emerging subfields in the discipline/recognized areas of business practice. Despite creation of additional courses, no new instructional resources required unless enrollments exceed.
Monfort College of Business	Finance	New undergrad concentration pathway	Business Administration B.S. – Institutions and Risk Management	
Monfort College of Business	Management	New undergrad concentration	Business Administration B.S. – Entrepreneurship Concentration	
Monfort College of Business	Management	New undergrad concentration pathway	Business Administration B.S. – Human Resource Management	
Natural & Health Sciences	Physics & Astronomy	Deactivate concentration pathway	Physics B.S. – Mathematical Physics Concentration	Eliminates one concentration pathway to Physics B.S. (three concentrations remain).
Performing & Visual Arts	Art & Design	Reactivate MA program	Art & Design M.A.	Program reopened due to evidence of demand (student requests collected by unit).
Performing & Visual Arts	Music	Add concentration pathway	Music B.A. – Music Business and Recording Arts Concentration	Moves Music Business Concentration from the gated Music B.M. degree to ungated Music B.A. Degree, revising coursework and renaming. The revised concentration requires 25% less instructional time.
Performing & Visual Arts	Music	Deactivate concentration pathway	Music B.M. – Business Concentration	
Performing & Visual Arts	Music	Revise/streamline degree program	Music Education BME – Licensure: Music (Grades K-12)	Consolidates degree and reduces total credits to 124 (2 fewer than CU/CSU). No effect on licensure candidates who must be able to teach all instruments. Also removes Post-Bacc Licensure option which has not been active for several years but was overlooked in catalog.
Performing & Visual Arts	Music	Deactivate Post-Bacc pathways	Music (Grades K-12), Post Baccalaureate Licensure	
Performing & Visual Arts	Music	Deactivate concentration	Music Education BME – K-12 Instrumental Teaching Concentration - Licensure: Music (Grades K-12)	
Performing & Visual Arts	Music	Deactivate concentration Pathway	Music Education BME – K-12 Vocal, Piano & General Teaching Concentration - Licensure: Music (Grades K-12)	
Performing & Visual Arts	Music	Delete prior certificate name	Music Technology Certificate	This is a straightforward renaming of an existing certificate with no impact on resources. It simply updates the name to conform to current practices in the discipline and better compete with similar programs at other institutions.
Performing & Visual Arts	Music	Rename certificate	Recording Arts Certificate	