



UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN
COLORADO

Office of the Provost

Board of Trustees - Information Items
Restructuring and Eliminating Existing Degree Programs

Summary of Changes: Four graduate degree programs and two undergraduate degree programs have been restructured for the 2025-2026 academic year; three graduate degree programs have been deactivated. Two new accelerated (4+1) bachelor's to master's degree pathways and one additional minor were created.

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

- A concentration is a dedicated pathway within a specific degree program. 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 Administration). However, when a student completes a concentration within their chosen degree program, 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.
- Accelerated (4+1) pathways allow students to apply nine graduate level credits in the associated master's degree toward the requirements for their bachelor's degree and complete both a bachelor's and a master's degree in five years of full-time study.
- Minors allow students to highlight a secondary area of academic study on their transcript and rely on courses that are already offered for major degree programs.
- When a degree program is restructured or eliminated, undergraduate students have up to six years and graduate students have up to eight years to complete their program as structured under the catalog year in which the student enrolled. Students 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.

- Renaming the B.S. in Earth Sciences to B.S. in Environmental Earth Sciences is the second part of a Department of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences revitalization plan developed by the College of Natural & Health Sciences Dean Haddad (also discussed on the *BOT Curriculum Action Items Summary*). The Environmental Earth Sciences concentration within the current degree has always had the strongest enrollments; repositioning it as the name of the degree itself will continue to highlight this option for students, while allowing us to continue to monitor enrollments in the other two concentrations as pathways to the renamed degree.
- The rationale for the other cases is documented on the attached *BOT Curriculum Information Items*

Summary.

Enrollment & Budget Impacts: In all but one case, there are no costs to implement the restructured programs, but students will be better served.

- The replacement of our Recreation, Tourism, & Hospitality degree with a concentration pathway in Hospitality & Event Management within the B.S. in Business Administration reduces the number of courses required to serve students with this interest by five and enables us to reduce the FTE devoted to this subject area by one.
- The accelerated bachelor's to master's degree programs are expected to increase enrollments in the associated master's degrees (M.B.A. and Public Health), but there is capacity to support an initial cohort of students without adding faculty lines.

Of the three deactivated graduate degrees:

- The M.A. in Earth Sciences and P.S.M. in Environmental Geosciences were part of the Department of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences revitalization plan. The department will now focus exclusively on undergraduate education.
- The M.A. in Higher Education & Student Affairs Leadership has struggled with low enrollments for several years due to increased competition from fully online programs. Other programs housed in the same department are strongly enrolled so closing this program will enable the faculty to devote full attention to their growing programs.

Other notes: During every catalog cycle, academic units make minor updates to keep the curriculum up to date. Here is a summary of such changes for the AY 2025-26 catalog:

Updates to program descriptions or course requirements:

- Five Undergraduate Certificates
- Fifty-eight bachelor programs (including 51 concentration pathways); of those, 29 include teacher licensure endorsement
- Ten master's programs (including 4 concentration pathways)
- Nine doctoral programs (including 3 concentration pathways)

Program admissions pauses:

- Five master's program concentrations
- One doctoral program concentration

Course Level Changes:

- Thirty-eight graduate and undergraduate courses were renumbered or retitled
- Twenty-eight courses were deactivated
- One hundred and ninety-eight undergraduate and graduate courses were revised to update the description, pre-requisites, etc.

BOT Curriculum Information Items Summary

| College | Unit | Curriculum Modification | New Program Pathway/Option | Implementation Costs | Notes |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Education & Behavioral Sciences | Leadership Policy & Development | Add 3 licensure and 1 non-licensure concentration(s) to existing graduate degree. concentration. | M.A. Educational Leadership, PK12 with Administrator Licensure | None: all of the new concentration pathways previously existed as possible tracks within their respective degree programs. No new courses were created. | Cataloging them as discrete concentrations facilitates financial aid and academic advising to minimize cost and time to completion. It also enables the admissions and marketing team to highlight the specialized preparation we offer to students seeking to enter or change careers in educational leadership. The student's selected concentration also highlights their specialized preparation. |
| | | | M.A. Educational Leadership, PK12 with Principal Licensure | | |
| | | | M.A. Educational Leadership, PK12 with Dual Principal/Administrator Licensure | | |
| | | | M.A. Educational Leadership, PK12 without Licensure | | |
| | | Add 2 licensure concentrations to existing | M.A. Educational Leadership & Special Ed Admin, Administrator Licensure | | As above. |
| | | | M.A. Educational Leadership & Special Ed Admin, Principal Licensure | | As above. |
| | | Add 3 licensure concentrations to existing graduate degree. | Ed.S. Educational Leadership & Special Ed Admin, Administrator Licensure | | |
| Ed.S. Educational Leadership & Special Ed Admin, Principal Licensure | | | | | |
| Ed.S. Educational Leadership & Special Ed Admin, Dual Principal/Admin Licensure | | | | | |
| Monfort College of Business | All Departments | Add concentration pathway to existing graduate degree. | M.B.A. Business Administration, Business Analytics concentration | None: this simply re-packages existing coursework into a concentration pathway. | Allows any student to stack the new Business Analytics Certificate directly to the M.B.A. degree. May also facilitate recruitment and retention of students seeking this specific knowledge/skill set. |
| | | Add 4+1 option to undergraduate degree. | Accelerated B.S/M.B.A. Business Administration | None: this simply repackages existing coursework. | Senior undergraduate students may apply three M.B.A. courses to both their Business Administration B.S. and the M.B.A., facilitating completion of both programs in five years. |
| | Management | Add concentration pathway to existing undergraduate degree. | B.S. Business Administration, Hospitality and Event Management concentration | Reduces total courses offered in this area from 10 to 5. Also reduces faculty salaries dedicated to this area by 1. | Replaces our previous Recreation, Tourism, & Hospitality B.S., which was eliminated in Fall 24 due to declining enrollments and faculty attrition. The sole full-time faculty member dedicated to the former degree separated from UNC in Fall 24. The concentration will enable us to continue to attract students interested in Hospitality careers at a much lower cost, and our students will graduate with a higher level of business knowledge and skill than students who graduate from more traditional Hospitality programs at competing institutions. |
| | Natural & Health Sciences | Earth & Atmospheric Sciences | Rename and reposition existing Earth & Atmospheric Sciences Degree. | B.S. Environmental Earth Sciences Note: specialized concentrations in Geology and Science Licensure will continue to be offered under the new name. | None: this re-positions an existing concentration pathway as a standalone degree, and allows two other existing concentrations to continue as pathways to the renamed degree. |
| Kinesiology, Nutrition & Dietetics | | Create undergraduate minor which can be added to any degree. | Kinesiology Minor | None: this simply re-packages a subset of coursework from the existing Kinesiology degree into a minor. The unit can accommodate up to 40 additional students before new instructors might be needed. | This was primarily created to allow students pursuing UNC degrees in Nutrition, Dietetics, or Biological Sciences to develop competencies related to human movement and health. Students in those programs frequently request this option, and similar minors are offered at other institutions in the region. The program could be added to any undergraduate degree that has 20 or more credit hours dedicated to general university electives. |
| Humanities & Social Sciences | Anthropology | Add 4+1 option to undergraduate degree. | Accelerated B.A./M.P.H. Anthropology | None: this simply repackages existing coursework. | Senior undergraduate students may apply three M.P.H. courses to both their Anthropology B.A. and the M.P.H., facilitating completion of both degrees in five years. |