

AGENDA ITEM

A-5. UNC System Academic Degree Program Actions David English

Situation: Section 400.1.1[R] of the UNC Policy Manual, *Regulation for Academic Program Planning and Evaluation*, defines the academic program actions that require approval from the University of North Carolina Board of Governors and those actions that are delegated to staff at the University of North Carolina System Office. This report presents those program actions that require Board approval.

Program Establishments

Elizabeth City State University
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Data Science CIP 37.7001

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Bioengineering CIP 14.0501

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Geospatial Data Science CIP 30.4401

University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Health, Medicine, and Society CIP 51.2212

University of North Carolina Wilmington
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Data Science CIP 30.7001

Winston-Salem State University
Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) CIP 51.2201
Master of Public Health (MPH) CIP 51.2201

Program Discontinuations and Consolidations

Appalachian State University
Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics (BA) CIP 27.0101
Master of Arts in Student Affairs Administration (MA) CIP 13.1102

East Carolina University
Bachelor of Arts in African and African American Studies (BA) CIP 05.0201
Bachelor of Arts in Economics (BA) CIP 45.0601
Bachelor of Arts in Multidisciplinary Studies (BA) CIP 30.0000

Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts (BA) CIP 50.0501
Bachelor of Science in Applied Atmospheric Science (BS) CIP 40.0401
Bachelor of Science in English, Secondary Education (BS) CIP 13.1305
Bachelor of Science in Geographic Information Science and Technology (BS) CIP
11.0401
Bachelor of Science in History, Secondary Education (BS) CIP 13.1318
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, Secondary Education (BS) CIP 13.1311
Master of Arts in Hispanic Studies (MA) CIP 16.0908
Master of Science in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (MS) CIP 26.0204

Fayetteville State University
Bachelor of Arts in Spanish (BA) CIP 16.0905
Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Teaching (BA) CIP 13.1330

- Background:** Per Section 400.1 of the UNC Policy Manual, the constituent institutions and the UNC System Office review academic degree program offerings and bring periodic requests for program establishment, discontinuation, and consolidation recommendations to the Board. Items such as change of delivery mode, change of program title or Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) codes, change of off-site locations, and change of specialty codes are delegated to UNC System Office staff.
- Assessment:** Approval of the requested program actions are recommended.
- Action:** This item requires a vote by the committee, with a vote by the full Board of Governors through the consent agenda.

**Request for Authorization to Establish
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Data Science
CIP 37.7001
Elizabeth City State University**

I. Program Highlights

- Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) proposes the establishment of a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Data Science.
- The proposed program provides opportunities for students to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to prepare them for careers that meet the state's needs in data analytics, machine learning, and artificial intelligence. Projected enrollment in year five is 70 students.
- The proposed program in data science expands access to high-quality education for students in ECSU's traditional service area and equips them with skills and knowledge directly relevant to North Carolina's workforce. The program combines a strong artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) foundation with intentional curricular integration rather than isolated electives, therefore, offering a unique, access-oriented model that prepares graduates to address complex data-driven challenges in underserved and rural communities. This program will be delivered on campus.
- The data science program contributes to regional economic growth and community development, which is central to ECSU's mission of promoting the progress of northeastern North Carolina. The new program equips graduates with skills and knowledge directly relevant to North Carolina's workforce and economic needs.
- Students graduating from the program will be well-prepared for careers in technology, healthcare, finance, government, and research as data analysts, data scientists, machine learning engineers, or AI specialists. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects that employment of data scientists will increase by about 34 percent from 2024 to 2034, which is much faster than average. BLS predicts approximately 23,400 annual openings nationwide due to job growth and replacement needs, along with strong median wages. In North Carolina, state projections estimate that data scientist employment will rise from about 5,430 in 2022 to around 7,720 by 2032 (+42 percent), with about 620 projected annual openings, reflecting expanding opportunities in analytics and related fields across the state.

II. Academic Program Planning Criteria (UNC Policy 400.1)

1. **Relation to Campus Distinctiveness and Mission.** The new program will equip graduates with skills and knowledge directly relevant to North Carolina's workforce and economic needs, aligning with the UNC System's mission to apply knowledge to address the needs of individuals and society. Also, by offering a cost-effective program, ECSU contributes to the UNC System's goal of increasing educational access and attainment for all North Carolinians. The program responds to the demands of high sectors, supporting the UNC System's role in advancing the state's economic competitiveness.

2. **Student Demand.** Student demand for the BS in Data Science is demonstrated by a survey of undergraduate students across the campus. Respondents indicated high job demand as the primary reason for desiring data science as a major. Additionally, the survey results indicated strong local demand for the program in the Elizabeth City area. Systemwide data shows that application and acceptance rates are stable.

Table 1. Other UNC System Enrolled for CIP 30.7001 — [Data Science], [Bachelor's]

Institution	AY2019-20	AY2020-21	AY2021-22	AY2022-23	AY2023-24	AY2024-25
UNC Charlotte	N/A	N/A	33	89	197	254
UNC-Chapel Hill	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	64

Table 2. Other UNC System Completions for CIP 30.7001 [Data Science], [Bachelor's]

Institution	AY2019-20	AY2020-21	AY2021-22	AY2022-23	AY2023-24	AY2024-25
UNC Charlotte	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	44	78
UNC-Chapel Hill	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2

Table 3. IPEDS Peer Institutions Completions for CIP 30.7001 [Data Science], [Bachelor's]

Institution	AY2019-20	AY2020-21	AY2021-22	AY2022-23
Coppin State Univ	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

3. **Employment Opportunities for Graduates.** Data science is a fast-growing field in North Carolina. In North Carolina, state projections estimate that data scientist employment will rise from 5,433 in 2022 to 7,716 by 2032 (+42%), with about 620 projected annual openings, reflecting expanding opportunities in analytics and related fields across the state, and potential employment opportunities for program graduates.

Table 4. Estimated Employment in North Carolina for Standard Occupational Classification Codes (SOC) Cross-walked to CIP Code: 30.7001 with a Matching Education Level Requirement

Education Level Requirement	Count of SOC Codes	2022	2032 Estimate	Net Change	Percent Change
Bachelor's	8	5,433	7,716	2,283	42.02%

Table 5. Median Wage for SOC Codes Cross-walked to CIP Code: 30.7001 [Data Science]

Educational Level Requirement	SOC Count	Median Wage
Some College or Associate Degree	N/A	N/A
Bachelor's	8	\$133,080
Doctoral or Professional Degree	N/A	N/A

4. **Impact on Access and Affordability.** As a UNC Promise institution, ECSU offers one of the most affordable tuitions in North Carolina, providing greater access to a quality education for

low-income, first-generation, rural, and underrepresented students. Data from Lightcast for the bachelor's degree in data science indicates that graduates will have a median income of approximately \$131,000 per year. The graduate's debt level is affordable relative to earnings. An estimate of the debt-to-earnings ratio based on an average debt of \$19,207 at graduation yields a ratio below two percent.

5. **Program Specific Fees or Tuition.** Elizabeth City State University is not requesting any program-specific fees or tuition differential for this program.

Table 6. Full-Time 2026-2027 Undergraduate Tuition and Fees per Year (In Dollars)

Category	Resident	Nonresident
Tuition	\$1,000.00	\$7,000.00
Tuition Differential	--	--
Mandatory Fees (Athletics, Student Activities, Health Services, Educational & Technology, Campus Security, Debt Service, ASG)	\$2,812.00	\$2,812.00
Special Fees	--	--

6. **Expected Quality.** The B.S. in Data Science program will be housed in the Department of Mathematics, Computer Science, and Engineering Technology. The proposed program will prepare students to pass the Data Science Council of America (DASCA) test to become certified data scientists. The Engineering Technology program within the department is accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). ECSU's data science program was designed to meet the ABET accreditation standards, and program leadership will seek accreditation once the program graduates its initial cohort of students.
7. **Faculty Quality and Number.** A core of eight faculty members will be responsible for directing and implementing the data science program. Three of the nine faculty members hold a rank of full professor; three are associate professors, and two are assistant professors. All faculty are actively engaged in research and will be able to provide experiential learning experiences for students enrolled in the program. The interdisciplinary nature of the program will allow it to leverage existing course offerings and faculty to minimize program costs.
8. **Relevant Lower-level and Cognate Programs.** The proposed program builds on existing expertise and specializations in the computer science and engineering technology degree programs, housed in the Department of Mathematics, Computer Science, and Engineering Technology. There are five new courses in the proposed data science program.
9. **Availability of Campus Resources (Library, Facilities, etc.).** ECSU's library is equipped to support the new data science degree program. No new space is required for this program.
10. **Existing Programs (Number, Location, Mode of Delivery).** Two bachelor-level programs were identified at UNC Charlotte and UNC-Chapel Hill. The overall applicant-to-enrolled-student ratio was 46.3 percent.

Table 7. Other UNC System Applied/Admitted /Enrolled for CIP 30.7001 — [Data Science]

Institution	Degree Level	Counts	AY (e.g., 22-23)	AY (e.g., 23-24)
UNC Charlotte	BS (Residential)	Applied	137	230
	BS	Admitted	123	213
	BS	Enrolled	57	108
UNC-Chapel Hill (campus)	BS (Residential)	Applied	N/A	N/A
	BS	Admitted	N/A	N/A
	BS	Enrolled	N/A	N/A

11. **Potential for Unnecessary Duplication.** The proposed program is designed to be distinct from peer programs at UNC-Chapel Hill and UNC Charlotte by emphasizing an integrated, applied approach to artificial intelligence and machine learning within a multidisciplinary curriculum. Rather than positioning AI and ML as stand-alone specializations, the program intentionally integrates these methods throughout the curriculum, embedding them within required coursework and structured concentration areas to ensure that students develop both technical depth and domain-specific expertise. A defining feature of the program is its integration of data science, mathematics, and applied computational methods with disciplinary study. Required coursework in statistics, data modeling, and machine learning is intentionally sequenced and complemented by upper-division applications in fields such as biology, social sciences, public policy, and other approved disciplines. This structure allows students to apply AI and ML techniques to real-world problems while maintaining a coherent, technically rigorous core. In consultation with peer institutions, key findings include consistent demand regarding student and employment outcomes. Programs in data science and related disciplines reported sustained or increased student interest, driven by industry growth and evolving workforce needs. Many institutions noted that enrollment has remained strong due to the clear career pathways and practical skill sets associated with the program area.
12. **Feasibility of Collaborative Program.** There are possible opportunities to collaborate with UNC-Chapel Hill and UNC Charlotte on joint research partnerships.
13. **Other Considerations.** None.

III. Summary of Review Processes

1. **Institution Review Process and Feedback.** The data science proposal followed ECSU's curriculum review process, which begins with faculty approval, then moves to the departmental curriculum review committee, the school curriculum review committee, and the university curriculum review committee. After approval from the university curriculum review committee, the proposal is approved by the Provost's Academic Administrative and Planning Committee, the Chancellor's Administrative Council, the chief financial officer, and the chancellor. Approval and support were provided at all levels.
2. **UNC System Office Review Process and Feedback.** Throughout the review process, Elizabeth City State University provided relevant information pertaining to program requirements and resources. The institution submitted appropriate documentation and research to support the statements made.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommends that the UNC Board of Governors approve the Elizabeth City State University request to establish the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Data Science (CIP 30.7001) effective Fall 2026.



**Request for Authorization to Establish
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Bioengineering
CIP 14.0501
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University**

I. Program Highlights

- North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (N.C. A&T) proposes the establishment of a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Bioengineering.
- The purpose of the proposed program is to prepare advanced-level scientists and engineers to conduct independent, interdisciplinary research addressing critical challenges in healthcare, biotechnology, and engineering innovation. As the first stand-alone doctoral bioengineering program at a historically Black college or university, it will expand access to doctoral-level training and strengthen the biomedical workforce in North Carolina. The projected enrollment after five years is 25 students.
- The proposed Ph.D. in Bioengineering is important because it addresses the growing demand for interdisciplinary expertise at the interface of engineering, biology, and medicine. The program offers two concentrations in (1) neurotechnology and neural engineering and (2) molecular, cellular, and systems engineering, with emphasis on emerging areas such as organoid technologies, regenerative engineering, medical devices, and AI-integrated biomedical systems.
- The proposed program aligns with the university's land-grant mission to advance the human condition through transformative education, research, and innovation, while supporting the UNC System's commitment to addressing societal and economic needs.
- Graduates of the proposed doctoral program will be prepared for careers in academia, industry, government, and healthcare as postdoctoral fellows, faculty members, research scientists, and R&D leaders. Labor market data indicate continued demand for doctoral-level bioengineers, with projected employment growth exceeding national averages across engineering occupations. Approximately 90 percent of graduates are expected to secure research or degree-related positions within 12 months of graduation.

II. Academic Program Planning Criteria (UNC Policy 400.1)

1. **Relation to Campus Distinctiveness and Mission.** The proposed Ph.D. in Bioengineering is important to North Carolina A&T State University as it strengthens the institution's research capacity, expands doctoral education, and supports its strategic goal of achieving R1 status. The program will enhance interdisciplinary research, graduate training, and innovation in emerging areas such as neuroscience/neurotechnology, artificial intelligence (AI) in medicine, and molecular, cellular, and systems engineering, contributing to workforce development and economic growth across North Carolina. The proposed program aligns with the UNC System's stated mission "to promote student success, expand access to high-quality graduate education, and generate knowledge that addresses societal, technological, and public health challenges through research and innovation."

2. **Student Demand.** Student demand for doctoral training in bioengineering within the UNC System remains strong, as evidenced by application and admission data from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and NC State University. In AY 2020–26, these programs received a combined total of 620 applications but admitted only 143 students. Enrollment and completion trends at both institutions further reflect sustained interest in doctoral education in this field. Collectively, these data demonstrate unmet demand for additional in-state doctoral training opportunities in bioengineering and support the need for expanding the capacity of the doctoral program within North Carolina through the proposed program. N.C. A&T is surrounded by numerous high-achieving HBCUs, creating strong demand for a bioengineering doctoral program from both in-state and national institutions. As the first stand-alone bioengineering Ph.D. program at an HBCU, it will provide a critical pathway for students across North Carolina and nationwide seeking access to doctoral-level training in bioengineering.

Table 1. Other UNC System Enrolled for CIP 14.0501— [Biomedical Engineering], [Ph.D.]

Institution	AY2020-21	AY2021-22	AY2022-23	AY2023-24	AY2024-25
UNC-Chapel Hill	65	72	73	75	65
NC State University	60	62	65	66	63

Table 2. Other UNC System Completions for CIP 14.0501— [Biomedical Engineering], [Ph.D.]

Institution	AY2020-21	AY2021-22	AY2022-23	AY2023-24	AY2024-25
UNC-Chapel Hill	14	17	10	12	11
NC State University	7	12	7	12	5

Table 3. IPEDS Peer Institutions Completions for CIP 14.0501— [Biomedical Engineering], [Ph.D.]

Institution	AY2020-21	AY2021-22	AY2022-23	AY2023-24
The University of Texas at EL Paso	6	6	9	3
The University of Texas at San Antonio	40	5	40	5

3. **Employment Opportunities for Graduates.** Graduates of the Ph.D. in Bioengineering will be prepared for advanced research, academic, and leadership roles across North Carolina’s biotechnology, medical device, pharmaceutical, and research sectors, including biomedical engineers, medical scientists, and engineering faculty. Student demand for bioengineering doctoral programs is growing at a 4.8 percent compound annual growth rate — more than double the 1.9 percent rate across all doctoral programs. Labor market projections from Hanover Research, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, and NCWorks indicate 10-20 percent growth in biomedical engineering-related occupations over the next decade, including a 14.3 percent increase in doctoral-level positions in North Carolina (approximately 1,200 new jobs by 2036). Median wages exceeding \$109,000 further demonstrate strong workforce demand and economic value, supporting the need for expanded doctoral training capacity within the

UNC System. The Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes Explorer highlights that Ph.D. graduates in engineering from N.C. A&T earned on average \$20,000 more in their first year post-grad than BS graduates in engineering (\$90,262 versus \$70,989).

It bears noting that based on the standard occupation codes associated with the bioengineering undergraduate degree, graduates are likely to pursue careers in industries like architecture and engineering. As a result, in some instances they earn higher salaries compared to doctoral graduates who are pursuing careers in postsecondary teaching. Data indicate graduates at both degree levels earn annual salaries well above the median.

Table 4. Estimated Employment in North Carolina for Standard Occupational Classification Codes (SOC) Cross-walked to CIP Code: 14.0501 with a Matching Education Level Requirement

Education Level Requirement	Count of SOC Codes	2026	2036 Estimate	Net Change	Percent Change
Ph.D.	3	8,382	9,580	1,198	14.3%

Source: Hanover Academic Assessment

Table 5. Median Wage for SOC Codes Cross-walked to CIP Code: 14.0501 [Biomedical Engineering]

Educational Level Requirement	SOC Count	Median Wage
Some College or Associate Degree	-	-
Bachelor's Degree	2	\$109,000
Doctoral or Professional Degree	3	\$109,000

Source: Hanover Academic Assessment

4. **Impact on Access and Affordability.** The proposed program anticipates strong assistantship and grant-supported training opportunities, enabling most students to graduate with low or minimal debt. This approach enhances access, reduces financial barriers, and supports timely degree completion. Estimates suggest that more than 80 percent of the total program cost over four years will be covered by financial support. Sources of support include federal agencies, industry collaboration, scholarships to students, internship opportunities, and joint research projects. National workforce data indicate that Ph.D.-trained biomedical engineering professionals in the United States earn an average annual salary of approximately \$165,000-\$287,000, depending on sector and experience level (\$215,000/year average). These earnings significantly exceed the national median wage for all engineering occupations and reflect strong workforce demand for advanced-level expertise in biotechnology, neurotechnology, and biomedical innovation.
5. **Program Specific Fees or Tuition.** North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University is not requesting any program-specific fees or tuition differential for this program.

Table 6. Full-Time 2025-2026 Graduate Tuition and Fees per Year (In Dollars)

Category	Resident	Nonresident
Tuition	\$5,454	\$18,638
Tuition Differential	--	--
Mandatory Fees (Athletics, Student Activities, Health Services, Educational & Technology, Campus Security, Debt Service, ASG)	\$3,152	\$3,152
Special Fees	--	--

6. **Expected Quality.** The proposed Ph.D. in Bioengineering is expected to deliver high-quality doctoral training through a rigorous, research-intensive curriculum requiring 45 credit hours (post-M.S.) or 66 credit hours (post-B.S.), including core coursework, concentration requirements, and dissertation research. The program offers two specialized concentrations of (1) neurotechnology and neural engineering, and (2) molecular, cellular, and systems engineering that emphasize emerging areas such as AI-integrated biomedical systems, regenerative medicine, and biotechnologies. The program adheres to best practices outlined by professional organizations such as the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) and the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE).
7. **Faculty Quality and Number.** The proposed program will be supported by a strong core of six full-time tenure and tenure-track faculty within the Department of Chemical, Biological, and Bioengineering (CBBE), complemented by approximately 30 affiliated faculty from interdisciplinary departments. In addition, four new tenure-track faculty positions are planned over the first five years to further strengthen expertise, supporting anticipated enrollment growth and maintaining high-quality doctoral training in bioengineering.
8. **Relevant Lower-level and Cognate Programs.** The proposed Ph.D. program builds upon N.C. A&T's established ABET-accredited BS and MS programs in Bioengineering, which provide a strong academic and research foundation in biomedical systems, AI, neural engineering, and biotechnology. These programs serve as a natural pipeline for doctoral-level training and have supported interdisciplinary research experiences aligned with the proposed Ph.D. concentrations. In addition, cognate graduate programs in biology, psychology, nanoengineering, mechanical engineering, AI, and data science provide complementary coursework and research expertise that will enhance doctoral training through cross-listed courses and collaborative advising.
9. **Availability of Campus Resources (Library, Facilities, etc.).** Existing campus facilities and infrastructure at North Carolina A&T State University are sufficient to support the proposed Ph.D. in Bioengineering program. The CBBE has access to modern research laboratories within the Martin Engineering Research and Innovation Complex, as well as interdisciplinary resources through the Interdisciplinary Bioengineering Center, the NIH-funded NERVE Center (~ 7 million), and the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering (JSNN).
10. **Existing Programs (Number, Location, Mode of Delivery).** Similar UNC System programs for CIP 14.0501 (Biomedical Engineering) doctorates are offered through the Joint Biomedical Engineering Program at UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State (delivered on-campus). Table 7 provides

evidence of unmet student demand for doctoral training in biomedical/bioengineering within the UNC System.

Table 7. Other UNC System Applied/Admitted /Enrolled for CIP 14.0501— [Biomedical Engineering]

Institution	Degree Level	Counts	2024-25	2025-26
UNC-Chapel Hill	Ph.D.	Applied	204	244
UNC-Chapel Hill	Ph.D.	Admitted	37	42
UNC-Chapel Hill	Ph.D.	Enrolled	14	28
NC State	Ph.D.	Applied	122	155
NC State	Ph.D.	Admitted	33	44
NC State	Ph.D.	Enrolled	14	31

11. **Potential for Unnecessary Duplication.** The proposed Ph.D. in Bioengineering at N.C. A&T is distinct from existing biomedical engineering doctoral programs within the UNC System in both focus and mission. The program offers two specialized concentrations with emphasis on emerging areas. This program expands access to doctoral-level training for a distinct student population.
12. **Feasibility of Collaborative Program.** The proposed doctoral program in bioengineering has potential for collaborative partnerships with medical and clinical institutions to enhance translational training. Because N.C. A&T does not have a medical school, the program will prioritize collaborations with regional health systems and medical schools to provide clinical exposure, access to clinical expertise and datasets, and opportunities for co-advising and dissertation committee participation.

III. Summary of Review Processes

1. **Institution Review Process and Feedback.** The proposal was reviewed by N.C. A&T faculty senate, the graduate council, the graduate school, and administrators, including the chairs within the College of Engineering, the dean of the College of Engineering, and the Office of Strategic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, UNC System Graduate Council of Deans, external program reviewers, provost, and chancellor.
2. **UNC System Office Review Process and Feedback.** Throughout the review process, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University provided relevant information pertaining to program requirements and resources. The institution submitted appropriate documentation and research to support the statements made.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommends that the UNC Board of Governors approve the North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University request to establish the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Bioengineering (CIP 14.0501) effective fall 2026.



**Request for Authorization to Establish
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Geospatial Data Science
CIP 30.4401
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

I. Program Highlights

- UNC-Chapel Hill proposes the establishment of a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Geospatial Data Science.
- The program will support the burgeoning demand for training in data science and provide graduates with training in the more technical and modern aspects of geographic inquiry. The projected enrollment in year five is 40 students.
- The BS in Geospatial Data Science will be the first of its kind in the UNC System and may serve as an example of how other programs could modernize their curriculum to meet the needs of a changing society and workforce.
- This degree supports the university's strategic plan, Carolina Next, *Objective 2.2: Strengthen Student Success - Facilitate learning that is experiential and collaborative, develops individual strengths, and encourages the understanding, ethical use and application of data.*
- With knowledge and skills in both geography and data science, graduates with a BS in geospatial data science will be well-positioned to secure employment after graduation. Using the position "geospatial data scientist," the UNC-Chapel Hill Office of Digital and Lifelong Learning provided a report with an optimistic labor market analysis including 42 open positions in North Carolina (in late 2024), an average salary of ~\$103,000 (in North Carolina), and continued growth in demand in the next five years for graduates with data analysis skills and technical training.

II. Academic Program Planning Criteria (UNC Policy 400.1)

1. **Relation to Campus Distinctiveness and Mission.** The degree aligns with key aspects of the UNC System Strategic Plan, *Higher Expectations*. Specifically, the BS in Geospatial Data Science would contribute to the goal to *increase health sciences and STEM degrees and certificates* (in the category *Student Success*), as the Department of Geography and Environment at UNC-Chapel Hill was recently reclassified to an interdisciplinary STEM CIP code (30.4401). Recently, UNC-Chapel Hill has expanded its degree offerings in data science, demonstrating the campuswide student interest in this topic. The BS in Geospatial Data Science would support the burgeoning demand for training in data science at UNC-Chapel Hill, providing a specialized curriculum fusing foundational geographic knowledge with an advanced set of technical skills focused on analyzing spatial data.
2. **Student Demand.** The most appropriate proxy for the student demand for the proposed BS in Geospatial Data Science is the Minor in Geographic Information Science (GIS) in the Department of Geography and Environment. The Minor in GIS was initially offered in the 2019-20 academic year and had a first-year enrollment of 34 students. As of the 2023-24 academic year, the GIS minor has more than 90 students enrolled (with sustained growth of approximately 15-20 students per year over the prior three years).

Table 1. Other UNC System Enrolled for CIP 30.4401 — Geography and Environmental Studies, Bachelor's (note: Both programs changed from CIP 45.0701 to CIP 30.4401 in AY2024-25)

Institution	AY2019-20	AY2020-21	AY2021-22	AY2022-23	AY2023-24	AY2024-25
Appalachian State University	75	70	65	68	79	84
University of North Carolina at Greensboro	55	49	32	38	36	38

Table 2. Other UNC System Completions for CIP 30.4401 — Geography and Environmental Studies, Bachelor's (note: Both programs changed from CIP 45.0701 to CIP 30.4401 in AY2024-25)

Institution	AY2019-20	AY2020-21	AY2021-22	AY2022-23	AY2023-24	AY2024-25
App State	21	17	31	17	22	20
UNCG	22	15	11	9	10	9

Table 3. IPEDS Peer Institutions Completions for CIP 30.4401 — Geography and Environmental Studies, Bachelor's (note: These programs changed from CIP 45.0701 to CIP 30.4401 [only data on 30.4401 are reported])

Institution	AY2019-20	AY2020-21	AY2021-22	AY2022-23
University of Florida	--	--	--	24
University of California-Los Angeles	--	--	33	46
University of Washington-Seattle Campus	--	--	--	36

3. **Employment Opportunities for Graduates.** The market analysis report notes that careers available for geography graduates have grown both nationally and regionally over the past 20 years and are projected to continue moderate growth in the next 10 years. Technical roles and technology-focused companies appear at the top of jobs and employers lists, suggesting the technical focus of the BS in Geospatial Data Science aligns with labor market demand.

Table 4. Estimated Employment in North Carolina (plus Virginia and South Carolina) for Standard Occupational Classification Codes (SOC) Cross-walked to CIP Codes: 30.4401 and 45.0701 with a Matching Education Level Requirement

Education Level Requirement	Count of SOC Codes	2022	2032 Estimate	Net Change	Percent Change
Bachelor's	1	134	142	8	5.97%

Table 5. Median Wage in North Carolina (plus Virginia and South Carolina) for SOC Codes Cross-walked to CIP Codes: 30.4401 and 45.0701

Educational Level Requirement	SOC Count	Median Wage
Some College or Associate Degree	--	--
Bachelor's Degree	126	\$98,465
Doctoral or Professional Degree	--	--

4. **Impact on Access and Affordability.** A robust job market and potential for growth in jobs with a more technical focus (e.g., GeoAI, machine learning, cloud computing, and geographic big data) suggest that graduates of the BS in Geospatial Data Science will have a strong return on investment and will earn an income sufficient to pay back any debt incurred. A keyword search of “geospatial data scientist” in North Carolina on Ziprecruiter.com (on November 1, 2024) produced 42 results for open positions; the site reports that the average salary for a geospatial data scientist in North Carolina is ~\$103,000. From the market report, the national median salary was \$88,899 and regional median salary was \$98,465 for geographers.
5. **Program Specific Fees or Tuition.** UNC-Chapel Hill is not requesting any program-specific fees or tuition differential for this program.

Table 6. Full-Time 2026-27 Undergraduate Students Tuition and Fees per Year (In Dollars)

Category	Resident	Nonresident
Tuition	\$7,230.00	\$47,472.00
Tuition Differential	--	--
Mandatory Fees (Athletics, Student Activities, Health Services, Educational & Technology, Campus Security, Debt Service, ASG)	\$1,851.00	\$1,851.00
Special Fees	--	--

6. **Expected Quality.** The BS in Geospatial Data Science consists of a total of 54-57 credit hours. Students must also fulfill the requirements of the IDEAS in Action General Education Curriculum. The degree coursework is organized into Geographic Foundations, Mathematical Foundations, Geographic Information Science Methods, Electives, and Capstone or Thesis. All students in the program will be encouraged to participate both in independent research, as well as honors research with faculty in any related department.
7. **Faculty Quality and Number.** Over the past few years, the Department of Geography and Environment began preparing for the increase in student demand for instruction and programming in geospatial data science. Two new teaching assistant professors were hired to fulfill this need (in fall 2024 and spring 2025). The department now has 12 faculty members who teach courses in this area. Since the degree largely relies on existing courses that are regularly offered, the provision of this new degree will not weaken existing programs (additional instructional demand will be met by increasing course sizes or offering additional sections). The current teaching responsibilities of the faculty involved will remain unchanged.

8. **Relevant Lower-level and Cognate Programs.** At UNC-Chapel Hill, two new data science majors (BA and BS) were established in the fall semester of 2024. The BS in Geospatial Data Science does include some of the base-level data science courses in the curriculum. However, the degree is designed to provide students with a more focused, specialized curriculum than these two degrees. Specifically, the BS in Geospatial Data Science emphasizes fundamental geographic theories and theories related to spatial data collection and analysis. As such, it will function as a complementary program to the current BA and BS in data science degrees.
9. **Availability of Campus Resources (Library, Facilities, etc.).** The current campus resources are sufficient to support the BS in Geospatial Data Science.
10. **Existing Programs (Number, Location, Mode of Delivery).** Currently, no universities in the UNC System offer a BS in geospatial data science. However, there are a number of on-campus programs with similar names, including the BA in Geography and Geospatial Sciences at University of North Carolina Wilmington, BS in Geographic Information Science and Technology at East Carolina University, BA in Geospatial Sciences at Fayetteville State University, and BS in Environmental, Earth, and Geospatial Science at North Carolina Central University. These programs are all on-campus. Below, recent enrollment numbers across these programs' degrees are provided (enrollments specific to the degrees listed above were not available).

Table 7. Other UNC System Applied/Admitted /Enrolled for CIP 45.0701

Institution	Degree Level	Counts	AY (e.g., 22-23)	AY (e.g., 23-24)
University of North Carolina Wilmington	Bachelor's	Enrolled	21	17
East Carolina University	Bachelor's	Enrolled	15	13
Fayetteville State University	Bachelor's	Enrolled	16	23
North Carolina Central University	Bachelor's	Enrolled	--	--

11. **Potential for Unnecessary Duplication.** During the development of the proposed degree, the Department of Geography and Environment took steps to foster collaboration by reaching out to other universities (both within and outside the UNC System). The BS in Geospatial Data Science has more structure than the programs above with regard to the required courses. Further, the proposed degree requires coursework in (non-geography) statistics, quantitative methods, and research methods. While some of the technical and skills courses are similar among degrees, the BS in Geospatial Data Science is the only one to also require foundational geography courses and quantitative and research methods courses. This degree may serve as an example of how other Geography departments in the UNC System could modernize their curriculum to meet the needs of a changing society and workforce.
12. **Feasibility of Collaborative Program.** Conversations with other programs have been fruitful, especially with regard to future collaboration that will benefit graduates of both programs. Some opportunities that have been discussed include, but are not limited to, shared speaker series, practicum collaboration, shared datasets, co-development of open-source tools, research collaboration, and shared career events.

III. Summary of Review Processes

1. **Institution Review Process and Feedback.** The proposal was reviewed by two campus committees: the administrative boards of the College of Arts and Sciences and the provost's office working group on new degrees. The administrative boards comprise 18 faculty members representing all divisions in the College, as well as several professional schools. The provost's working group includes the assistant provost for academic programs, the university registrar, the executive director of academic finance, the associate provost for scholarships and student aid, the associate provost for institutional research and assessment, the finance director, and other key administrators. Feedback from both groups was overwhelmingly positive.
2. **UNC System Office Review Process and Feedback.** Throughout the review process, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill provided relevant information pertaining to program requirements and resources. The institution submitted appropriate documentation and research to support the statements made.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommends that the UNC Board of Governors approve the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill request to establish the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Geospatial Data Science (CIP 30.4401) effective fall 2026.



**Request for Authorization to Establish
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Health, Medicine, and Society
CIP 51.2212
University of North Carolina at Greensboro**

I. Program Highlights

- The University of North Carolina at Greensboro proposes the establishment of a Bachelor of Arts in Health, Medicine, and Society (BA in HMS).
- The proposed program addresses critical workforce needs in North Carolina by preparing graduates for careers in healthcare consulting, administration, health policy, communication, and health-related public and nonprofit sectors. By strengthening the state's capacity to address complex health challenges, including access and system coordination, the program supports North Carolina's social and economic well-being. By year five, UNC Greensboro expects to have 200 students enrolled in this program.
- The BA in HMS is a liberal arts degree that brings a much-needed humanities and social scientific approach to healthcare. UNCG has emerged as a health-focused campus with the Schools of Nursing and Human and Health Sciences and the College of Arts and Sciences Biology and Chemistry and Biochemistry departments to prepare students for scientific health-related careers. The BA in HMS allows UNCG to recruit new students who are interested in health from an interdisciplinary humanities and social science perspective. The proposed degree creates another pillar of health to further cement UNCG's identity as a health careers campus.
- This major supports UNCG's mission and strategic plan by being a program that focuses on the relations between social factors, health, and well-being; rooting workforce skills in liberal arts education; and being an interdisciplinary program that brings faculty across the college into closer working relationships.
- Graduates will pursue careers in health policy analysis, healthcare administration, health communication, and research roles across public, nonprofit, and private sector health organizations. Labor market analysis from Hanover Academic Program Exploration indicates strong workforce demand, including projected growth of approximately 33 percent in healthcare administration and health-related sectors.

II. Academic Program Planning Criteria (UNC Policy 400.1)

1. **Relation to Campus Distinctiveness and Mission.** Health, medicine, and society (HMS) is an interdisciplinary undergraduate major that draws on UNCG's strengths in the humanities and social sciences to train students to think critically about the social construction and experiences of medicine, health, and illness. By training students to examine healthcare from multiple perspectives, UNCG will create leaders needed to address North Carolina's health challenges through policy initiatives, social science research, and media/communication. The degree's introductory class (HMS 101), capstone seminar (HMS 410), and required research or internship class ensure that students will experience an integrated interdisciplinary

curriculum that ties the liberal arts degree directly to work experience. The BA in HMS addresses key pillars in the UNC System Strategic Plan. It aims to increase student success by increasing the four-year graduation rate and undergraduate degree efficiency by providing a completion option for students who cannot complete other disciplinary degrees such as the BA or BS in psychology. The degree's flexibility also increases undergraduate degree efficiency. Second, the degree will contribute to economic impact and community development by preparing students for health careers, an important, growing job sector.¹

2. **Student Demand.** There are no other majors in the UNC System nor at our peer institutions that have the same CIP code. However, UNC Charlotte does have an interdisciplinary concentration in Health and Medical Humanities. In spring 2025, UNCC had 63 majors, 155 minors, and 19 graduates.

Due to this lack of a good comparison among our peer institutions, UNCG cast a wider net to include institutions that are not our direct peers, but who have programs that are comparable.

Table 1. Other UNC System Enrolled for CIP 51.2212 — [Behavioral Aspects of Health], [Bachelor's]

Institution	AY2019-20	AY2020-21	AY2021-22	AY2022-23	AY2023-24	AY2024-25
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 2. Other UNC System Completions for CIP 51.2212 — [Behavioral Aspects of Health], [Bachelor's]

Institution	AY2019-20	AY2020-21	AY2021-22	AY2022-23	AY2023-24	AY2024-25
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 3. IPEDS Peer Institutions Completions for CIP 51.2212 — [Behavioral Aspects of Health], [Bachelor's]

Institution	AY2019-20	AY2020-21	AY2021-22	AY2022-23	AY2023-24	AY2024-25
University of Utah (Health, Society, and Policy)	378	347	365	342	317	300
University of Texas at Austin (Health and Society)	489	449	414	415	437	523
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth	7	N/A	114	N/A	N/A	93

3. **Employment Opportunities for Graduates.** This program seeks to prepare students for

¹To research workforce alignment, we used three tools: 3E Forward IQ's Program Assessment Tool, the Hanover Academic Program Exploration, and the 2023-2033 Forward IQ Report. Analysis conducted via the Program Assessment tool in 3E Forward IQ suggests that there is strong growth potential for careers in North Carolina in health policy analysis, healthcare administration, public health (general), and medical/health humanities. Hanover Academic Program Exploration has also identified Healthcare Administration and Public Health as High Growth (+33%) for both student demand and labor demand.

careers in healthcare consulting, healthcare administration management, health-oriented social science research, health-related communication and media, health policy, and health-related domestic or international public sector agencies or nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and health-services or health-advocacy organizations. All of these are areas of need for employers in North Carolina.

Table 4. Estimated Employment in North Carolina for Standard Occupational Classification Codes (SOC) Cross-walked to CIP Code: 51.2212 with a Matching Education Level Requirement

Education Level Requirement	Count of SOC Codes	2022	2032 Estimate	Net Change	Percent Change
Bachelor's	4	1259	1465	206	1.5

Table 5. Median Wage for SOC Codes Cross-walked to CIP Code: CIP 51.2212 — [Behavioral Aspects of Health], [Bachelor's]

Educational Level Requirement	SOC Count	Median Wage
Some College or Associate Degree	1 (21.1094)	\$50,160
Bachelor's Degree	1 (21.1091)	\$66,320
Doctoral or Professional Degree	1 (25.1071)	\$157,910

4. **Impact on Access and Affordability.** This program is innovative, so it is difficult to find projected earnings that align with this program using the traditional categories. However, based on the cost of tuition for the program, which will total \$34,481 over four years, the average debt at the time of graduation for a UNCG student at little more than \$13,000, and that the expected median wage with a bachelor's degree is \$66,320 for SOC codes that UNCG anticipates aligning with this degree, the percentage of earnings to service debt will be minimal.
5. **Program Specific Fees or Tuition.** UNC Greensboro is not requesting any program-specific fees or tuition differential for this program.

Table 6. Full-Time 2026-2027 Bachelor's Tuition and Fees per Year (In Dollars)

Category	Resident	Nonresident
Tuition	\$4,555.00	\$22,038.00
Tuition Differential	--	--
Mandatory Fees (Athletics, Student Activities, Health Services, Educational & Technology, Campus Security, Debt Service, ASG)	\$3,184.00	\$3,184.00
Special Fees	--	--

6. **Expected Quality.** The most distinctive feature of this program is the intersection of humanities and social and behavioral sciences with the fields of health and medicine. The HMS curriculum is simultaneously interdisciplinary, integrated, and flexible. The program complements the variety of courses and perspectives offered in an interdisciplinary degree with integration of diverse disciplines and perspectives in two ways. First, the HMS program faculty have designed new, required core courses that will bookend the students' coursework

in the program to ensure coherence and attainment of our student learning outcomes. In their first year of study, students will take HMS 101: Introduction to Health, Medicine, and Society. This course will integrate humanities and behavioral and social scientific approaches to health, medicine, and healthcare to show students what this approach looks like and what types of questions it generates. Second, the curriculum is organized around specific areas of expertise. These areas are research methodologies, ethics, the social organization of health and medicine, the human experience of health and medicine, and health policy and law. Each area of expertise has specific student learning outcomes that students are expected to achieve. Although students can choose from a list of courses for each area of expertise, they will all be learning the fundamental findings in that area regardless of the courses they choose.

7. **Faculty Quality and Number.** As an interdisciplinary program, the BA in Health, Medicine, and Society will draw on existing faculty from across several departments. There are 14 contributing departments and programs and 25 faculty who will be teaching in the program. Many of these faculty are full professors with tenure. They have a long history of teaching, research, and service success. Since the majority of the curriculum draws from pre-existing courses that are offered on a regular basis by the contributing departments, UNCG does not anticipate that the course load of faculty will be increased. UNCG anticipates that this new program, by drawing attention to scholars researching health-related topics across the college's departments, will result in fruitful collaborations and new avenues of scholarly research.
8. **Relevant Lower-level and Cognate Programs.** As described previously, the curriculum is organized around six areas of expertise, each with its own SLOs that students will be expected to meet. Although students may take different classes to achieve these areas of expertise, the director and affiliated faculty will share a list of core competencies for each area with the faculty who teach these courses so that students have a shared foundation of knowledge about health and medicine.
9. **Availability of Campus Resources (Library, Facilities, etc.).** Existing campus physical spaces and infrastructure are sufficient to support the proposed program. Courses in the curriculum are currently being offered and appropriate space is available. UNCG's present library holdings are more than adequate to support the instructional and research needs of this program. Since this program draws on existing research and curricular strength in the areas of health, medicine, and society, this program does not require new library resources.
10. **Existing Programs (Number, Location, Mode of Delivery).** There are no similar degrees in the UNC System, other than the UNC Charlotte concentration that has been noted.

Table 7. Other UNC System Applied/Admitted /Enrolled for CIP CIP 51.2212 — [Behavioral Aspects of Health], [Bachelor's]

Institution	Degree Level	Counts	AY (e.g., 22-23)	AY (e.g., 23-24)
N/A	N/A	Applied/ Admitted/ Enrolled	N/A	N/A

11. **Potential for Unnecessary Duplication.** There are no comparable stand-alone HMS degree

programs within the UNC System, minimizing concerns of unnecessary duplication. As noted previously, UNC Charlotte has a concentration. The proposed program is distinct in its integrated social science focus and required methodological training. Unlike medical humanities programs, which emphasize humanities perspectives, this degree centers on social scientific analysis of health and medicine. The curriculum also includes a required research or internship experience, reinforcing UNCG's emphasis on workforce preparation. UNCG has initiated consultation with UNC Charlotte and will continue exploring opportunities for collaboration, including joint academic programming such as student research conferences.

12. **Feasibility of Collaborative Program.** Collaboration in programming is possible with the interdisciplinary Health and Medicine Humanities (HHUM) program at UNC Charlotte, and this topic has already been broached to the department chair of the interdisciplinary department in which the concentration is housed.

13. **Other Considerations.** N/A

III. Summary of Review Processes

1. **Institution Review Process and Feedback.** The program has been reviewed and approved at the following internal levels: Office of Assessment, Accreditation, and Academic Program Planning; Dean's Office, College of Arts and Sciences (Dean Kelly Joyce); College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee; Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (chair, Sara MacSween).
2. **UNC System Office Review Process and Feedback.** Throughout the review process, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro provided relevant information pertaining to program requirements and resources. The institution submitted appropriate documentation and research to support the statements made.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommends that the UNC Board of Governors approve the UNC Greensboro request to establish the BA in Health, Medicine, and Society (CIP 51.2212) effective fall 2026.



**Request for Authorization to Establish
Bachelor of Science (BS) in Data Science
CIP 30.7001
University of North Carolina Wilmington**

I. Program Highlights

- The University of North Carolina Wilmington proposes the establishment of a Bachelor of Science in Data Science.
- The proposed program aims to offer students a rigorous mathematical, statistical, and computer science foundation for understanding, interpreting, and developing models, and prepares them with practical and emerging technologies in the data science field. By year five, the projected cumulative enrollment is 70.
- The proposed program delivers in-depth training in mathematics and statistics, preparing students to be more versatile and adaptive to navigate in the ever-changing landscape of data science and artificial intelligence. Through a practicum course, students have opportunities in interdisciplinary applications such as working on UNCW's innovative coastal and marine science research and working with industry partners.
- The proposed program strongly supports UNCW's strategic plan. It is one of the high-demand academic programs (Priority 7), it prepares career-ready students with sought-after skills (Priority 3), and it promotes interdisciplinary teaching and research (Priority 6).
- The proposed program prepares students for various data science, data analytics, and data engineering roles in industry and organizations. The graduates are also equipped with foundational knowledge to further pursue graduate studies in related fields. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of data scientists is projected to grow 34% from 2024 to 2034 (August 2025). About 23,400 openings for data scientists are projected each year, on average, over the decade.

II. Academic Program Planning Criteria (UNC Policy 400.1)

1. **Relation to Campus Distinctiveness and Mission.** The proposed program is distinct as it provides easier access to data science-related careers to residents of southeastern North Carolina and surrounding coastal regions. The proposed program is also distinct in its unique collaboration opportunity with UNC Wilmington's marine science and coastal research entities. UNC Wilmington is an internationally recognized leader in coastal and marine science research and education. Data science methods are gaining popularity among coastal and marine science researchers. Through UNCW's Centers of Marine Science and Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the proposed program will provide opportunities for students to work in cutting-edge coastal and marine science projects and develop new solutions to complex issues.

The proposed program will increase student access to the rapidly developing data science and

artificial intelligence field, preparing them to apply knowledge to make informed decisions and “contributes to the solution of societal problems and enriches the quality of life in the State.” Given these impacts and contribution to society, in addition to making high salaries, the graduates of the proposed program will be able to have engaging and fulfilling careers, and thus “to lead responsible, productive, and personally satisfying lives.” The proposed program aligns with many goals in the UNC System 2022-27 strategic plan. It increases access to underserved populations (Goal 1). It increases university productivity as the program largely draws upon existing curriculum and faculty expertise (Goal 7). It contributes to the growth of STEM degrees as called for in the System’s strategic plan and increases the System’s contribution to the state’s critical workforce as the proposed degree addresses the shortage in the data science labor market (Goal 8). The design of the curriculum actively seeks partnership with local and regional industry partners and therefore strengthens local communities and the state’s economy.

2. **Student Demand.** As indicated by the enrollment data below, student demand for data science is strong.

Table 1. Other UNC System Enrolled for CIP 30.7001 — [Data Science, General], [Bachelor’s]

Institution	AY2019-20	AY2020-21	AY2021-22	AY2022-23	AY2023-24	AY2024-25
UNC Charlotte	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	413
UNC-Chapel Hill	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	274

Table 2. Other UNC System Completions for CIP 30.7001 — [Data Science, General], [BS]

Institution	AY2019-20	AY2020-21	AY2021-22	AY2022-23	AY2023-24	AY2024-25
UNC Charlotte	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	44	78
UNC-Chapel Hill	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2

Table 3. IPEDS Peer Institutions Completions for CIP 30.7001 — [Data Science, General], [Bachelor’s]

Institution	AY2019-20	AY2020-21	AY2021-22	AY2022-23
High Point University	0	0	0	0

3. **Employment Opportunities for Graduates.** The BLS estimates a national median annual wage of \$112,590 for data scientists, with North Carolina ranking fifth in the nation for data science employment. North Carolina ranks 10th in data science employment per 1,000 jobs (May 2024). Industries with the highest employment for data scientists include computer systems design and related services; management of companies and enterprises; management, scientific, and technical consulting services; insurance carriers; and scientific research and development services. The Wilmington metro area has seen rapid tech growth. According to CommercialCafe, Wilmington ranked first for tech establishment growth with a 27.9% increase between 2018 and 2022, and the metro area placed second for tech employment growth after a 106.5 percent increase from 2019 to 2023.

Table 4. Estimated Employment in North Carolina for Standard Occupational Classification Codes (SOC) Cross-walked to CIP Code: 30.7001 with a Matching Education Level Requirement

Education Level Requirement	Count of SOC Codes	2022	2032 Estimate	Net Change	Percent Change
Bachelor's	11-3021	19,191	23,461	4,270	22.3
Bachelor's	15-1243	2,732	3,104	372	13.6
Bachelor's	15-2031	2,349	3,007	658	28.0
Bachelor's	15-2051	5,433	7,716	2,283	42.0

Source: NC Commerce Data

Table 5. Median Wage for SOC Codes Cross-walked to CIP Code: 30.7001 [Data Science, General]

Educational Level Requirement	SOC Count	Median Wage
Bachelor's Degree	11-3021	\$171,200
Bachelor's Degree	15-1243	\$123,100
Bachelor's Degree	15-2031	\$91,290
Bachelor's Degree	15-2051	\$112,590

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Median wage is for 2024.

4. **Impact on Access and Affordability.** The proposed program will provide much-needed access to data science education for the southeastern population of North Carolina, increasing access to rural and underserved counties (Pender, Brunswick, Onslow).

According to College Scorecard, the average annual cost for undergraduate students at UNC Wilmington is \$19,472. The UNC system interactive dashboard shows that for AY 2024-25, the average federal debt at graduation per borrower for UNC Wilmington is \$18,045, about \$1,000 less than the UNC system average (\$19,001). On the other hand, BLS data shows that the annual median wage for data scientists is \$115,380 for North Carolina, \$96,670 for Wilmington, and \$93,790 for Central North Carolina nonmetropolitan area (May 2024). A \$30,000 loan with a 5% interest rate for 10 years results in monthly payments of roughly \$318. This is four percent of the monthly earning (\$7,815) if the annual wage is \$93,790.

5. **Program Specific Fees or Tuition.** UNC Wilmington is not requesting any program-specific fees or tuition differential for this program.

Table 6. Full-Time 2026-2027 Undergraduate Tuition and Fees per Year (In Dollars)

Category	Resident	Nonresident
Tuition	\$4,576.00	\$23,275.00
Tuition Differential	--	--
Mandatory Fees (Athletics, Student Activities, Health Services, Educational & Technology, Campus Security, Debt Service, ASG)	\$2,824.00	\$2,824.00
Special Fees	--	--

6. **Expected Quality.** The program is expected to prepare students to enter the data science and artificial intelligence workforce or pursue graduate studies such as a master's degree or

Ph.D. in data science, statistics, operations research, etc. The program emphasizes mathematical foundation, critical thinking, computational tools, and interdisciplinary applications. The proposed program requires 120 credit hours including general education requirements, major requirements, and elective courses.

7. **Faculty Quality and Number.** There are 12 affiliated faculty for the BS in Data Science who will be involved in teaching major required courses, mentoring students' projects, and approving curriculum changes. A bigger body of secondary affiliated faculty, including faculty from marine science, coastal engineering, psychology, and biology, is in the plan to support interdisciplinary curriculum and research.
8. **Relevant Lower-level and Cognate Programs.** Within UNC Wilmington, the proposed program has similarity to the BS in mathematics with a data science concentration, the BS in statistics, and the BS in computer science with an artificial intelligence concentration. The proposed program builds upon the curriculum of these existing programs, as well as a data science minor.
9. **Availability of Campus Resources (Library, Facilities, etc.).** No new square footage is needed for the program. Existing physical spaces, information technology, and services will be adequate. Current library resources are sufficient to support the instructional and research needs of the proposed program.
10. **Existing Programs (Number, Location, Mode of Delivery).** Within the UNC system, UNC-Charlotte and UNC-Chapel Hill are the only other two institutions currently offering a bachelor's level Data Science degree, with the latter launched in Fall 2024.

Table 7. Other UNC System Applied/Admitted /Enrolled for CIP 30.7001 — [Data Science, General]

Institution	Degree Level	Counts	AY 23-24	AY 24-25
UNC Charlotte	BS in Data Science	Applied	N/A	281
UNC Charlotte	BS in Data Science	Admitted	N/A	250
UNC Charlotte	BS in Data Science	Enrolled	N/A	123
UNC-Chapel Hill	BS in Data Science	Applied	N/A	148
UNC-Chapel Hill	BS in Data Science	Admitted	N/A	103
UNC-Chapel Hill	BS in Data Science	Enrolled	N/A	87
UNC-Chapel Hill	BA in Data Science	Applied	N/A	NA
UNC-Chapel Hill	BA in Data Science	Admitted	N/A	NA
UNC-Chapel Hill	BA in Data Science	Enrolled	N/A	290

11. **Potential for Unnecessary Duplication.** The proposed program is distinct from those in Table 7 by delivering in-depth training in mathematical, statistical, and computer science foundations, allowing students to be more versatile and adaptive in their future career. Moreover, there is no application process for the proposed program, allowing easier access to students. When consulting with UNC-Chapel Hill School of Data Science and Society (SDSS), they indicated that the actual enrollment of BS in Data Science is at least 33% more than projected, indicating unmet student demand.
12. **Feasibility of Collaborative Program.** SDSS of UNC-Chapel Hill indicated the future possibility

of an initiative of a UNC data science coalition that involves UNC Charlotte and UNC Wilmington where resources can be shared, and institutions can have interactions and exchange on curriculum development and other student and research events. UNC Wilmington also plans to actively pursue opportunities with nearby out-of-state institutions such as the School of Data Science at Old Dominion University (240 miles away) and the University of South Carolina (200 miles away) in terms of seminar series and events hosting.

13. **Other Considerations.** None.

III. Summary of Review Processes

1. **Institution Review Process and Feedback.** This proposal has undergone curriculum review and approval from the following UNC Wilmington bodies and committees: Department of Mathematics and Statistics, College of Science and Engineering, University Curriculum Committee, Faculty Senate, SACSCOC liaison, chief financial officer, provost, and chancellor.
2. **UNC System Office Review Process and Feedback.** Throughout the review process, the University of North Carolina at Wilmington provided relevant information pertaining to program requirements and resources. The institution submitted appropriate documentation and research to support the statements made.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommends that the UNC Board of Governors approve the University of North Carolina Wilmington request to establish the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Data Science (CIP 30.7001) effective Fall 2026.



**Request for Authorization to Establish
Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH)
CIP 51.2201
Winston-Salem State University**

I. Program Highlights

- Winston-Salem State University proposes the establishment of a Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH).
- Winston-Salem State University seeks to develop a Bachelor of Science in Public Health. The proposed degree accomplishes the UNC System's mission to discover, create, transmit, and apply knowledge to address the needs of individuals in society by looking to serve Winston-Salem and North Carolina by fostering the development of entry-level professionals equipped with the skills and knowledge used to enrich the quality of life of their communities. The program is projected to enroll 75 students in year five.
- The proposed BSPH program prepares graduates for entry level and leadership roles across public health disciplines. Students develop competencies in epidemiology, biostatistics, research methods, and applied practice through service learning and internship experiences. These experiences strengthen preparation for graduate study and professional advancement. The program also promotes university and community collaboration through community-engaged learning that supports local health initiatives. Graduates contribute to a diverse public health workforce prepared to address emerging health challenges and improve population health outcomes.
- The proposed BSPH program aligns with the mission of Winston-Salem State University by preparing students to serve communities through education, engagement, and professional practice. The program supports the university's commitment to academic excellence and impactful engagement through community-based learning and applied public health experiences. Graduates are prepared to improve population health outcomes in North Carolina and beyond while contributing to the well-being of their communities.
- Graduates of the BSPH program will be prepared for entry level roles across public health occupations. Labor market projections indicate continued demand for public health professionals. Occupations associated with BSPH programs are projected to add more than 11,000 jobs by 2032. Within five years of graduation, many graduates are expected to advance into supervisory roles or pursue graduate education in public health or related fields.

II. Academic Program Planning Criteria (UNC Policy 400.1)

1. **Relation to Campus Distinctiveness and Mission.** The proposed BSPH program advances Winston-Salem State University's mission by preparing graduates to address public health challenges affecting communities across North Carolina. The program expands academic offerings in the health sciences and strengthens pathways for students interested in population health careers. It also supports the UNC System mission by preparing professionals who apply knowledge to address societal needs. The program aligns with UNC System

strategic priorities related to student success, workforce development, and community engagement. Graduates will contribute to improving health outcomes while strengthening the public health workforce across the state.

2. **Student Demand.** Institutions with CIP code 51.2201 are experiencing steady growth and/or relatively maintaining their enrollment and completions. In addition to the data below, WSSU consulted with leadership from Salem College and Fayetteville State University to discuss student demand and job placement.

Table 1. Other UNC System Enrolled for CIP 51.2201 — [Public Health, General], [Bachelor's]

Institution	AY2019-20	AY2020-21	AY2021-22	AY2022-23	AY2023-24	AY2024-25
Appalachian State University	195	223	214	182	166	165
UNC Charlotte	92	117	110	105	121	121
UNC Wilmington	157	280	323	297	225	224

Table 2. Other UNC System Completions for CIP 51.2201 — [Public Health, General], [Bachelor's]

Institution	AY2019-20	AY2020-21	AY2021-22	AY2022-23	AY2023-24	AY2024-25
Appalachian State University	40	65	79	76	52	66
UNC Charlotte	38	47	58	43	54	53
UNC Wilmington	7	74	115	123	91	99

Table 3. IPEDS Peer Institutions Completions for CIP 51.2201 — [Public Health, General], [Bachelor's]

Institution	AY2019-20	AY2020-21	AY2021-22	AY2022-23
Langston University	5	5	2	4
Texas A&M International University	0	0	9	10

3. **Employment Opportunities for Graduates.** Potential employment opportunities for BSPH graduates are supported by projected workforce demand in occupations requiring a bachelor's degree. Workforce data indicate that five relevant SOC occupations are projected to grow from 66,811 positions in 2022 to 78,324 by 2032. This represents a net increase of 11,513 positions, or 17.23 percent growth. Median wages for occupations requiring a bachelor's degree are approximately \$101,270, compared to \$46,930 for occupations requiring some college or an associate degree. These projections indicate strong employment prospects and earnings potential for BSPH graduates.

Table 4. Estimated Employment in North Carolina for Standard Occupational Classification Codes (SOC) Cross-walked to CIP Code: 51.2201 with a Matching Education Level Requirement

Education Level Requirement	Count of SOC Codes	2022	2032 Estimate	Net Change	Percent Change
Bachelor's	5	66,811	78,324	11,513	17.23%

Table 5. Median Wage for SOC Codes Cross-walked to CIP Code: 51.2201 [Public Health, General]

Educational Level Requirement	SOC Count	Median Wage
Some College or Associate Degree	1	\$46,930
Bachelor's Degree	5	\$101,270

4. **Impact on Access and Affordability.** Total tuition and mandatory fees for a full-time resident student completing the program over eight terms equal approximately \$48,064, supporting affordability through a comparatively moderate total program cost. Using a standard 10-year repayment at approximately 7.94 percent interest, estimated annual loan payments are about \$7,740. Based on median earnings of \$101,270 for related occupations, the debt-to-earnings ratio is approximately 7.6 percent.
5. **Program Specific Fees or Tuition.** Winston-Salem State University is not requesting any program-specific fees or tuition differential for this program.

Table 6. Full-Time 2026-27 Undergraduate Tuition and Fees per Year (In Dollars)

Category	Resident	Nonresident
Tuition	\$3,401.00	\$14,338.00
Tuition Differential	--	--
Mandatory Fees (Athletics, Student Activities, Health Services, Educational & Technology, Campus Security, Debt Service, ASG)	\$2,607.00	\$2,607.00
Special Fees	--	--

6. **Expected Quality.** The proposed BSPH is a 120-credit hour program completed over four years. The curriculum aligns with foundational competencies established by the Council on Education for Public Health. The program includes coursework, community-based learning, and an internship that provides applied public health experience. Faculty expertise coordinated course design, and community partnerships will support program delivery and continuous improvement. These elements will ensure the program maintains quality consistent with established public health education standards.
7. **Faculty Quality and Number.** The BSPH program will be supported by qualified faculty with expertise in public health and related health sciences fields. At program launch, instruction will be supported by a current tenure-track faculty member, a visiting assistant professor, and an additional tenure-track hire. In year three, the program will hire an internship coordinator to supervise field placements, teach courses, and support research and service activities. This staffing plan provides sufficient faculty expertise and capacity to support instruction, advising, and experiential learning.
8. **Relevant Lower-level and Cognate Programs.** The proposed BSPH program builds upon existing coursework and faculty expertise in the health sciences. The university currently offers programs in health sciences, exercise science, and nursing that provide foundational

knowledge and opportunities for collaboration relevant to public health. The institution also offers a minor in public health that demonstrates student interest and provides introductory coursework aligned with the proposed major. These programs provide academic preparation in biological sciences, health behavior, and community health concepts that support progression into the BSPH curriculum.

9. **Availability of Campus Resources (Library, Facilities, etc.).** Existing campus facilities and infrastructure are sufficient to support the proposed BSPH program. The university has adequate classroom space, faculty offices, and instructional resources to support program delivery. Library resources include access to approximately 260 databases, along with journals and research tools that support teaching and student research. Student support services, including advising and career development, are available to support student success. No new physical space or facility renovations are required to implement the program.
10. **Existing Programs (Number, Location, Mode of Delivery).** Table 7 shows the counts of applied, admitted, and enrolled students for each of the undergraduate programs with the 51.2201 CIP code. The ratio of applicants to admitted students in existing programs in 2025-26 is approximately 1.11:1.

Table 7. Other UNC System Applied/Admitted /Enrolled for CIP 51.2201— [Public Health, General]

Institution	Degree Level	Counts	2024-25	2025-26
Appalachian State University	Bachelor's	Applied	126	147
Appalachian State University	Bachelor's	Admitted	115	140
Appalachian State University	Bachelor's	Enrolled	22	15
UNC Charlotte	Bachelor's	Applied	191	297
UNC Charlotte	Bachelor's	Admitted	173	263
UNC Charlotte	Bachelor's	Enrolled	47	90
UNC Wilmington	Bachelor's	Applied	43	31
UNC Wilmington	Bachelor's	Admitted	40	24
UNC Wilmington	Bachelor's	Enrolled	21	14

11. **Potential for Unnecessary Duplication.** The proposed BSPH program is consistent with other public health programs in the UNC System while maintaining distinct features aligned with institutional strengths and regional needs. Differences among programs primarily reflect variations in elective coursework and program emphasis tailored to the communities served. The program emphasizes interdisciplinary collaboration within the School of Health Sciences and provides a pathway to the proposed master of public health program. Consultation occurred with Fayetteville State University, which submitted a letter of support. Admissions data indicate a substantial gap between admitted students and those who enroll in public health programs, suggesting unmet student demand.
12. **Feasibility of Collaborative Program.** WSSU received letters of support from Fayetteville State University and Salem College for the BSPH program. Additionally, there is an established collaborative relationship with North Carolina Central University. The program has the full support of WSSU's executive leadership, and the provost will build partnerships and enrollment pipelines with the identified institutions.

13. **Other Considerations.** N/A

III. Summary of Review Processes

1. **Institution Review Process and Feedback.** This proposal was reviewed following WSSU's internal processes which include the department faculty, department chair, academic dean, Academic Standards and Curriculum Committee, and office of the provost.
2. **UNC System Office Review Process and Feedback.** Throughout the review process, Winston-Salem State University provided relevant information pertaining to program requirements and resources. The institution submitted appropriate documentation and research to support the statements made.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommends that the UNC Board of Governors approve the Winston-Salem State University request to establish the Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) (CIP 51.2201) effective Fall 2026.

Request for Authorization to Establish
Master of Public Health (MPH)
CIP 51.2201
Winston-Salem State University

I. Program Highlights

- The Winston-Salem State University proposes the establishment of a Master of Public Health (MPH).
- The purpose of the proposed program is to prepare the next generation of public health leaders to protect communities from the health consequences of emergencies and disasters, with a particular focus on reducing risk and improving outcomes in the state of North Carolina. Projected enrollment by year five is 49 students.
- This two-year, 42-credit online MPH will partner with Project Kitty Hawk to fill a critical gap by offering specialized preparation in disaster management and preparedness while strengthening collaboration across institutions and bridging environmental and epidemiological disciplines. The MPH includes a concentration in emergency preparedness and disaster management (EPDM).
- The proposed MPH directly advances Winston-Salem State University's mission to prepare students for leadership and with the applied knowledge and practical skills necessary to respond to complex public health crises. The program reflects WSSU's historic commitment to improving the health and well-being of underserved communities by preparing public health professionals who can strengthen community resilience before, during, and after emergencies. It also supports the university's emphasis on experiential learning, community engagement, and workforce development aligned with regional and statewide needs.
- Graduates of the proposed MPH program at Winston-Salem State University will be prepared for leadership and analytical roles in public health agencies, healthcare systems, nonprofit organizations, and emergency management settings. NC Commerce projects an 18 percent increase in related occupations by 2032, representing 12,827 new jobs statewide. Based on this demand, 85 to 90 percent of graduates are expected to secure employment within six months. Within five years, most graduates are projected to advance into supervisory, managerial, or specialized public health roles.

II. Academic Program Planning Criteria (UNC Policy 400.1)

1. **Relation to Campus Distinctiveness and Mission.** The proposed MPH with a concentration in Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management aligns with WSSU's commitment to impactful engagement and societal contribution by equipping students to serve communities, strengthen resilience, and contribute meaningfully to state and regional well-being. Fully online delivery expands access and supports student success while advancing the UNC System's priorities of access, student success, economic impact, and community engagement.
2. **Student Demand.** The following tables provide evidence of increasing student demand for the

proposed program. Table 1 shows that student enrollment at all five existing UNC System MPH programs has grown over the last five academic years. Table 2 indicates overall increases in the number of degree completions and a fourfold expansion in graduations from the largest program.

Table 1. Other UNC System Enrolled for CIP 51.2201 — [Public Health, General], [Master’s]

Institution	AY2019-20	AY2020-21	AY2021-22	AY2022-23	AY2023-24	AY2024-25
Appalachian State University	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20
East Carolina University	100	82	104	118	133	120
UNC Asheville	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	18	24
UNC Charlotte	50	54	90	93	93	94
UNC Chapel Hill	465	715	1083	1221	1056	979

Table 2. Other UNC System Completions for CIP 51.2201 — [Public Health, General], [Master’s]

Institution	AY2019-20	AY2020-21	AY2021-22	AY2022-23	AY2023-24	AY2024-25
Appalachian State University	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
East Carolina University	42	34	33	36	47	40
UNC Asheville	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	13
UNC Charlotte	25	15	30	43	42	42
UNC Chapel Hill	102	299	320	509	472	431

Table 3. IPEDS Peer Institutions Completions for CIP 51.2201 — [Public Health, General], [Master’s]

Institution	AY2019-20	AY2020-21	AY2021-22	AY2022-23
Jackson State University	25	17	20	28

3. **Employment Opportunities for Graduates.** Graduates of the MPH will enter a growing labor market requiring advanced public health expertise. Employment in master’s-level occupations is projected to increase from 72,012 in 2022 to 84,839 by 2032, an 18 percent growth rate. This expansion represents 12,827 new positions and reflects sustained demand for professionals prepared to address complex emergency and environmental health challenges. With a median annual wage of \$91,200, graduates will be well positioned for stable, competitive careers in disaster preparedness, environmental health response, and public health leadership.

Table 4. Estimated Employment in North Carolina for Standard Occupational Classification Codes (SOC) Cross-walked to CIP Code: 51.2201 with a Matching Education Level Requirement

Education Level Requirement	Count of SOC Codes	2022	2032 Estimate	Net Change	Percent Change
Master's	8	72,012	84,839	12,827	17.8%

Table 5. Median Wage for SOC Codes Cross-walked to CIP Code: 51.2201 [Public Health, General]

Educational Level Requirement	SOC Count	Median Wage
Some College or Associate Degree	-	-
Bachelor's Degree	2	\$99,630
Doctoral or Professional Degree	1	\$105,250

- Impact on Access and Affordability.** Total tuition and fees for a full-time, resident student over six terms is \$19,878, supporting affordability. Access is strengthened through fully online delivery, expanding participation for working professionals and place-bound students. Based on Bureau of Labor Statistics median earnings, the debt-to-earnings ratio is approximately four percent.
- Program Specific Fees or Tuition.** Winston-Salem State University is not requesting any program-specific fees or tuition differential for this program.

Table 6. Full-Time 2026-2027 Graduate Tuition and Fees per Year (In Dollars)

Category	Resident	Nonresident
Tuition	\$450/credit hour	\$540/credit hour
Tuition Differential	--	--
Mandatory Fees (Athletics, Student Activities, Health Services, Educational & Technology, Campus Security, Debt Service, ASG)	\$489	\$489
Special Fees	--	--

- Expected Quality.** The proposed MPH is a 42-credit hour program that includes an emergency preparedness and disaster management concentration focused on disaster response, environmental risk mitigation, and population health resilience. The curriculum is designed to align with workforce needs and established public health competencies. Program quality will be supported through qualified faculty, intentional curriculum design, and systematic assessment of student learning outcomes. The institution will seek Council on Education for Public Health accreditation to ensure alignment with national standards and continuous improvement.
- Faculty Quality and Number.** The proposed MPH program will be supported by qualified faculty with expertise in public health and related health sciences fields. WSSU currently employs two tenure/tenure-track faculty members with terminal degrees in public health

who are qualified to teach in the master of public health program. To satisfy the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accrediting standards guidelines, WSSU will add a third qualified tenured or tenure-track faculty member. Faculty engaged in program delivery will receive training appropriate to the distance education technologies and techniques used through WSSU's Center for Innovative and Transformative Instruction.

8. **Relevant Lower-level and Cognate Programs.** WSSU's bachelors of science in nursing, healthcare management, and justice studies serve as natural pathways to the MPH. Additionally, a proposal for a bachelor of science in public health will create a direct pathway to this program. There are opportunities for coordination and collaboration with existing graduate programs including the master of science in occupational therapy, master of healthcare administration, doctor of physical therapy, and master of science in nursing.
9. **Availability of Campus Resources (Library, Facilities, etc.).** The campus resources are sufficient to support the delivery of the Master of Public Health.
10. **Existing Programs (Number, Location, Mode of Delivery).** Table 7 indicates applications to existing programs show unmet demand for similar programs.

Table 7. Other UNC System Applied/Admitted /Enrolled for CIP 51.2201 [Public Health, General]

Institution	Degree Level	Counts	AY 24-25	AY 25-26
Appalachian State University	Master's	Applied	40	39
Appalachian State University	Master's	Admitted	31	35
Appalachian State University	Master's	Enrolled	20	18
East Carolina University	Master's	Applied	105	120
East Carolina University	Master's	Admitted	90	78
East Carolina University	Master's	Enrolled	63	52
UNC Asheville	Master's	Applied	11	11
UNC Asheville	Master's	Admitted	11	11
UNC Asheville	Master's	Enrolled	11	11
UNC Charlotte	Master's	Applied	117	105
UNC Charlotte	Master's	Admitted	91	90
UNC Charlotte	Master's	Enrolled	41	25
UNC Chapel Hill	Master's	Applied	1,606	1,361
UNC Chapel Hill	Master's	Admitted	1,299	1,105
UNC Chapel Hill	Master's	Enrolled	479	370

11. **Potential for Unnecessary Duplication.** The gap between applied and enrolled students in Table 7 indicates unmet student demand. The proposed program is distinct through its

emergency preparedness and disaster management concentration. Consultation has occurred with Fayetteville State University, which submitted a letter of support, and relationships with NCCU and Salem College support collaboration rather than duplication.

12. **Feasibility of Collaborative Program.** WSSU has an established collaborative relationship with North Carolina Central University.

III. Summary of Review Processes

1. **Institution Review Process and Feedback.** This proposal was reviewed following WSSU's internal processes including the department faculty, department chair, academic dean, graduate dean, and Office of the Provost.
2. **UNC System Office Review Process and Feedback.** Throughout the review process, Winston-Salem State University provided relevant information pertaining to program requirements and resources. The institution submitted appropriate documentation and research to support the statements made.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommends that the UNC Board of Governors approve the Winston-Salem State University request to establish the Master of Public Health (MPH) in CIP 51.2201 effective fall 2026.

**Request for Authorization to
Discontinue and/or Consolidate
Academic Degree Programs**

Appalachian State University

Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics (BA) (CIP 27.0101)

Overview: The Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics (27.0101) at Appalachian State University will be discontinued effective fall 2026. This request to discontinue the degree program has been reviewed by the appropriate institutional committees and approved by the appropriate academic authorities.

The request to discontinue the Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics is due to sustained low enrollment and limited program demand. No faculty or staff reassignments or position eliminations are anticipated, and no cost reductions are expected. Students currently enrolled will be able to complete their degrees, as no courses will be discontinued as a result of this action.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve Appalachian State University's request to discontinue the Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics (27.0101) effective fall 2026.

Master of Arts in Student Affairs Administration (MA) (CIP 13.1102)

Overview: The Master of Arts in Student Affairs Administration (13.1102) at Appalachian State University will be discontinued and consolidated with the Master of Higher Education effective spring 2026. This request to discontinue and consolidate a degree program has been reviewed by the appropriate institutional committees and approved by the appropriate academic authorities.

The request to discontinue the Master of Arts in Student Affairs Administration is due to program duplication. No faculty or staff members will be affected by the discontinuation and consolidation of the program. Faculty will continue teaching courses that support postsecondary education training programs, certificate programs, and other College of Education offerings. All currently enrolled students are scheduled to complete the program prior to closure and consolidation. Any student remaining after program closure will work with the program director to determine approved course substitutions.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve Appalachian State University's request to discontinue the delivery of the Master of Arts in Student Affairs Administration (13.1102) effective fall 2026.

East Carolina University

Bachelor of Arts in African and African American Studies (BA) (CIP 05.0201)

Overview: The Bachelor of Arts in African and African American Studies (05.0201) at East Carolina University will be discontinued effective spring 2026. This request to discontinue the degree program has been reviewed by the appropriate institutional committees and approved by the appropriate academic authorities.

The request to discontinue the Bachelor of Arts in African and African American Studies is due to low productivity. No faculty or staff positions will be eliminated; the program director's role will be discontinued, with the faculty member returning to full-time departmental duties. Given the interdisciplinary structure of the program, minimal disruption is anticipated, with required courses offered through a targeted teach-out plan over the next two academic years to support timely completion.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve East Carolina University's request to discontinue the Bachelor of Arts in African and African American Studies (05.0201) effective spring 2026.

Bachelor of Arts in Economics (BA) (CIP 45.0601)

Overview: The Bachelor of Arts in Economics (45.0601) at East Carolina University will be discontinued effective spring 2026. This request to discontinue the degree program has been reviewed by the appropriate institutional committees and approved by the appropriate academic authorities.

The request to discontinue the Bachelor of Arts in Economics is due to low productivity. The Bachelor of Science in Economics will remain active and continue to meet programmatic needs. No faculty or staff reassignments or position eliminations are anticipated. Students currently enrolled in the BA program will be able to complete their degrees, as all required economics course offerings will remain available and no program-specific courses are being eliminated.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve East Carolina University's request to discontinue the Bachelor of Arts in Economics (45.0601) effective spring 2026.

Bachelor of Arts in Multidisciplinary Studies (BA) (CIP 30.0000)

Overview: The Bachelor of Arts in Multidisciplinary Studies (30.0000) at East Carolina University will be discontinued effective fall 2026. This request to discontinue the degree program has been reviewed by the appropriate institutional committees and approved by the appropriate academic authorities.

The request to discontinue the Bachelor of Arts in Multidisciplinary Studies is due to low productivity. The program is administered outside of a traditional academic unit and has no dedicated faculty or staff; therefore, no personnel reassignments or position eliminations are required, and no cost reductions are anticipated. The program does not offer its own courses and instead relies on coursework from across the university; therefore, minimal disruption to students is anticipated. Students currently enrolled will be able to complete their degrees, as required courses will continue to be available through existing offerings.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve East Carolina University's request to discontinue the Bachelor of Arts in Multidisciplinary Studies (30.0000) effective fall 2026.

Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts (BA) (CIP 50.0501)

Overview: The Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts (50.0501) at East Carolina University will be discontinued effective fall 2026. This request to discontinue the degree program has been reviewed by the appropriate institutional committees and approved by the appropriate academic authorities.

The request to discontinue the Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts is due to low productivity. The BFA in Theatre Arts will continue to meet programmatic needs. No faculty or staff positions will be eliminated as a result of this action. Students maintaining satisfactory academic progress will be able to complete the program through a structured teach-out plan, with required courses continuing to be offered through the 2027–2028 academic year.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve East Carolina University's request to discontinue the Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts (50.0501) effective fall 2026.

Bachelor of Science in Applied Atmospheric Science (BS) (CIP 40.0401)

Overview: The Bachelor of Science in Applied Atmospheric Science (40.0401) at East Carolina University will be discontinued effective fall 2026. This request to discontinue the degree program has been reviewed by the appropriate institutional committees and approved by the appropriate academic authorities.

The request to discontinue the Bachelor of Science in Applied Atmospheric Science is due to program consolidation into a revised Bachelor of Science in Earth and Atmospheric Science, where it will continue as a concentration. No faculty or staff reassignments or position eliminations are anticipated, and no cost reductions are expected. Students currently enrolled will be able to complete their degrees through continued course offerings and appropriate course substitutions within the revised program.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve East Carolina University's request to discontinue the Bachelor of Science in Applied Atmospheric Science (40.0401) effective fall 2026.

Bachelor of Science in English, Secondary Education (BS) (CIP 13.1305)

Overview: The Bachelor of Science in English, Secondary Education (13.1305) at East Carolina University will be discontinued effective fall 2026. This request to discontinue the degree program has been reviewed by the appropriate institutional committees and approved by the appropriate academic authorities.

The request to discontinue the Bachelor of Science in English, Secondary Education is due to the development of a consolidated Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education degree that will combine multiple stand-alone programs into a single degree with disciplinary concentrations. No faculty or staff reassignments or position eliminations are anticipated. Students currently enrolled will be able to complete their degrees through existing coursework or approved course substitutions within the new degree structure.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve East Carolina University's request to discontinue the Bachelor of Science in English, Secondary Education (13.1305) effective fall 2026.

**Bachelor of Science in Geographic Information Science and Technology (BS)
(CIP 11.0401)**

Overview: The Bachelor of Science in Geographic Information Science and Technology (11.0401) at East Carolina University will be discontinued effective fall 2026. This request to discontinue the degree program has been reviewed by the appropriate institutional committees and approved by the appropriate academic authorities.

The request to discontinue the Bachelor of Science in Geographic Information Science and Technology is due to program consolidation into the Bachelor of Science in Geography, where it will continue as part of a spatial data science concentration. No faculty or staff reassignments or position eliminations are anticipated, and no cost reductions are expected. Students currently enrolled will be able to complete their degrees through continued course offerings.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve East Carolina University's request to discontinue the Bachelor of Science in Geographic Information Science and Technology (11.0401) effective fall 2026.

Bachelor of Science in History, Secondary Education (BS) (CIP 13.1318)

Overview: The Bachelor of Science in History, Secondary Education (13.1318) at East Carolina University will be discontinued effective fall 2026. This request to discontinue the degree program has been reviewed by the appropriate institutional committees and approved by the appropriate academic authorities.

The request to discontinue the Bachelor of Science in History, Secondary Education is due to the development of a consolidated Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education degree that will combine multiple stand-alone programs into a single degree with disciplinary concentrations. No faculty or staff reassignments or position eliminations are anticipated. Students currently enrolled will be able to complete their degrees through existing coursework or approved course substitutions within the new degree structure.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve East Carolina University's request to discontinue the Bachelor of Science in History, Secondary Education (13.1318) effective fall 2026.

Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, Secondary Education (BS) (CIP 13.1311)

Overview: The Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, Secondary Education (13.1311) at East Carolina University will be discontinued effective fall 2026. This request to discontinue the degree program has been reviewed by the appropriate institutional committees and approved by the appropriate academic authorities.

The request to discontinue the Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, Secondary Education is due to the development of a consolidated Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education degree that will combine multiple stand-alone programs into a single degree with disciplinary concentrations. No faculty or staff reassignments or position eliminations are anticipated. Students currently enrolled will be able to complete their degrees through existing coursework or approved course substitutions within the new degree structure.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve East Carolina University's request to discontinue the Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, Secondary Education (13.1311) effective fall 2026.

Master of Arts in Hispanic Studies (MA) (CIP 16.0908)

Overview: The Master of Arts in Hispanic Studies (16.0908) at East Carolina University will be discontinued effective fall 2026. This request to discontinue a degree program has been reviewed by the appropriate institutional committees and approved by the appropriate academic authorities.

The request to discontinue the Master of Arts in Hispanic Studies is due to insufficient degree completions. No faculty will be affected by the discontinuation of the program. The graduate program director's reassignment will end, and the director will resume a typical teaching load. A teach-out plan has been developed for all students in the program, and students maintaining satisfactory academic progress are expected to complete the program in 2026.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve East Carolina University's request to discontinue the delivery of the Master of Arts in Hispanic Studies (16.0908) effective fall 2026.

Master of Science in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (MS) (CIP 26.0204)

Overview: The Master of Science in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (26.0204) at East Carolina University will be discontinued effective spring 2026. This request to discontinue the degree program has been reviewed by the appropriate institutional committees and approved by the appropriate academic authorities.

The request to discontinue the Master of Science in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology is due to low enrollment. No faculty or staff members will be affected by the discontinuation of the program. Enrolled students will matriculate through their current plan of study to complete the program.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve East Carolina University's request to discontinue the Master of Science in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (26.0204) effective spring 2026.

Fayetteville State University

Bachelor of Arts in Spanish (BA) (CIP 16.0905)

Overview: The Bachelor of Arts in Spanish (16.0905) at Fayetteville State University will be discontinued effective fall 2026. This request to discontinue the degree program has been reviewed by the appropriate institutional committees and approved by the appropriate academic authorities.

The request to discontinue the Bachelor of Arts in Spanish is due to low student demand and declining program productivity. Part-time and adjunct faculty assignments will be eliminated, while full-time faculty will be reassigned to support language instruction in other programs. Students maintaining satisfactory academic progress will be able to complete the program through a teach-out plan.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve Fayetteville State University's request to discontinue the Bachelor of Arts in Spanish (16.0905) effective fall 2026.

Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Teaching (BA) (CIP 13.1330)

Overview: The Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Teaching (13.1330) at Fayetteville State University will be discontinued effective fall 2026. This request to discontinue the degree program has been reviewed by the appropriate institutional committees and approved by the appropriate academic authorities.

The request to discontinue the Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Teaching is due to very low student demand and limited program productivity. Adjunct faculty support will be reduced, and the one tenured faculty member will continue teaching service-level Spanish courses. Students maintaining satisfactory academic progress will be able to complete the program through a teach-out plan.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve Fayetteville State University's request to discontinue the Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Teaching (13.1330) effective fall 2026.