



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs  
Committee on Strategic Initiatives

November 18, 2020 at 10:45 a.m.  
Via Videoconference and UNC-TV Live Stream  
University of North Carolina System Office  
Center for School Leadership Development, Board Room  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

**AGENDA**

- A-1. Consideration of Revisions to UNC Policy Manual  
Section 400.1.5; Common Course Numbering ..... Carolyn Coward and Temple Sloan
  
- A-2. Adjourn



## AGENDA ITEM

- A-1. Consideration of Revisions to UNC Policy Manual Section 400.1.5;  
Common Course Numbering..... Carolyn Coward and O. Temple Sloan

**Situation:** The committee will discuss a potential amendment to UNC Policy Manual Section 400.1.5, *Fostering Undergraduate Student Success*, which calls for the establishment of a common course numbering system across the UNC System.

**Background:** Transfer students make up an increasingly large portion of the undergraduate students in the UNC System. In 2019, transfer students made up 31 percent of all undergraduate students across the System, which represents a 33 percent increase over the last 10 years. As such, the success of transfer students is central to the System's overall rates of student success. Transfer students often face challenges in transferring credits, suffering from a loss of credits when they transfer or excess credits and extended time to degree when receiving institutions accept the credits, but don't count them toward the students' major. Institutional, System, and state policies and practices, such as having a transferable core of lower-division courses, guaranteed transfer of associate's degrees, reverse transfer, and common course numbering can promote credit transfer and transfer student success. Many states have adopted common course numbering or common course coding policies that cover all public colleges and universities within the state.

**Assessment:** In this session, the committee will consider and vote on a proposed amendment to Section 400.1.5, which calls on the System to establish a system of common course numbering.

**Action:** This item requires a vote by the committee, with a vote by the full Board of Governors through the consent agenda at the next meeting.

400.1.5

Adopted 01/08/93

Amended 09/08/06

Amended 07/01/07

Amended 01/11/13

Amended 01/26/18

Amended / /20

### **Policy on Fostering Undergraduate Student Success**

#### I. Purpose

\_\_\_\_\_ The University of North ~~Carolina's~~Carolina (UNC) System's policies on student success adopted by the Board of Governors direct constituent institutions to:

- A. Set academic progress and degree attainment as primary outcomes;
- B. Promote academic quality, rigor, and integrity; and
- C. Make possible “seamless” educational opportunities across the UNC System constituent institutions, with the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS), and early college high schools.

Improving retention, graduation rates, and time to degree are important aspects of such policies. However, the Board of Governors also recognizes that students come into the system from a number of different life circumstances and their paths to success vary accordingly. Policies, therefore, set parameters within which a constituent institution can best meet the needs of these diverse student populations.

#### II. University-Wide Policies

A. The Board of Governors has adopted the following policies for all institutions comprising the University of North Carolina ~~except the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics.~~<sup>4</sup>System except the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics.<sup>1</sup>

- 1. Constituent institutions will require no more than 120 semester credit hours for a four-year baccalaureate degree program unless an exception is granted by a board of trustees as described in Section 400.1.5[R] of the UNC Policy Manual.
- 2. Constituent institutions will follow the credit hour limits for five-year baccalaureate degree programs as described in Section 400.1.5[R] of the UNC Policy Manual.
- 3. Constituent institutions will develop academic policies within the regulations established by the UNC ~~General Administration~~System on:

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<sup>4</sup>~~The North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics shall track data on student attrition, completion rates of its high school curriculum, and high school graduation. See G.S. 116-235.~~

- a. Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
- b. Course Adjustment Periods (“Drop/Add”)
- c. Course Withdrawal
- d. Grade Exclusion or Replacement
- e. Minimum, Maximum, and Average Course Load

4. Constituent institutions will establish a student success and support structure to review and to issue regular reports on:

- a. Retention, academic progression, graduation, and time to degree;
- b. Course scheduling as it relates to whether courses required for graduation are offered on a timely basis and with an adequate number of sections and seats;
- c. Course offerings and grade requirements to assess if any undue additions to general education requirements exist or if such requirements unintentionally lengthen time to graduation; and
- d. The academic advisement system to ensure students receive appropriate assistance in proceeding toward graduation in a timely manner.

5. Constituent institutions will be compliant with Title IV regulations that define student eligibility for and receipt of federal financial aid.

6. Constituent institutions will be compliant with the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement with the NCCCS and are encouraged to develop policies that promote seamless transfer among schools in the University of North Carolina System.

7. The UNC System Office shall, in consultation with faculty and staff from the constituent institutions, establish and maintain a common course numbering system for undergraduate lower division courses, which shall be mapped to the unique course numbers used at each respective institution of higher education. The president shall approve regulations to describe and implement this common undergraduate course numbering system, which shall be established and operational by the 2022-23 academic year.

B. These policies are designed to ensure that campus and system-wide policies and practices facilitate behaviors that support retention and timely graduation.

III. Other Matters

A. **Effective Date.** The requirements of this policy shall be effective on the date of adoption of this policy by the Board of Governors.

B. **Relation to State Laws.** The foregoing policy as adopted by the Board of Governors is meant to supplement, and does not purport to supplant or modify, those statutory enactments which may govern or relate to the subject matter of this policy.

C. **Regulations and Guidelines.** This policy shall be implemented and applied in accordance with such regulations and guidelines as may be adopted from time to time by the president.

~~C.~~

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<sup>1</sup>The North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics shall track data on student attrition, completion rates of its high school curriculum, and high school graduation. See G.S. 116-235.