



UNC System Academic Program Approval Calendar, Academic Year 2025-2026

Effective July 1, 2023 the UNC System moved to a timeline for academic program approval by the Board of Governors. The timeline streamlines processes and adds predictability by addressing pain points in PREP processes for academic program approval and change requests to the API. Previously, in some cases, timelines were longer than they needed to be. In other cases, more opportunities for proposal review were needed earlier in the timeline. Ultimately, our goal is to reduce the institutional pressure that faculty and administrators sometimes feel trying to meet monthly deadlines, and likewise reduce pressure on System Office staff and senior leadership when preparing materials for UNC System Board of Governors meetings.

The Academic Affairs Division addresses issues central to the mission of the University. As a result, at each UNC System Board of Governors Educational Planning, Policies and Programs (BOG EPPP) committee meeting there are numerous items to address and a finite amount of time in which to consider them. To address this reality, the Academic Programs team created a timeline and annual calendar for each stage of the establishment and discontinuation process. Academic program approvals will be part of pre-determined BOG EPPP meetings in order to set clear expectations for submitting materials and ensure ample time for review and deliberation around academic programs up for Board approval. We have accounted for the time it takes to move through the process in a way that is collaborative and efficient and believe the timeline indicated in the chart below supports procedural efforts at your institution.

Prior to submission of the program summary, program proposal timelines may increase if institution deadlines are not met or decrease if institution materials are submitted in significantly less time than allotted. Proposal holds and extension requests may also impact the timeline. This calendar offers a general program planning guide for future years. Actual dates are dependent on confirmed [Board of Governors](#) meetings and not projected beyond the current schedule included in this document for Academic Year 2025-2026.

**AY 25-26 Bachelor's/Master's Program Establishment Calendar**

Week	Stage	Sept 18, 2025 BOG	Nov 20, 2025 BOG	Feb 26, 2026 BOG	May 14, 2026 BOG
24	RPA submitted by institution	April 03, 2025	June 05, 2025	Sept 11, 2025	Nov 24, 2025
22	System Office completes internal review of RPA	April 17, 2025	June 19, 2025	Sept 25, 2025	Dec 10, 2025
20	RTE submitted	May 01, 2025	July 1, 2025	Oct 09, 2025	Dec 18, 2026
19	RTE sent for system-wide institutional comments	May 08, 2025	July 10, 2025	Oct 16, 2025	Jan 05, 2026
15	RTE comments close/ System Office finance review complete	June 05, 2025	Aug 07, 2025	Nov 13, 2025	Jan 28, 2026
13	System Office summarizes and returns comments to institution	June 19, 2025	Aug 21, 2025	Nov 24, 2025	Feb 11, 2026
11	Institutional response to RTE comments due and System Office Finance Review complete	July 01, 2025	Sept 04, 2025	Dec 11, 2025	Feb 25, 2026
10	Program summary due	July 10, 2025	Sept 11, 2025	Dec 18, 2025	Mar 04, 2026
8	Academic Programs team reviews program summary draft	July 24, 2025	Sept 25, 2025	Jan 05, 2026	Mar 19, 2026
6	Academic Programs materials approved by VP	Aug 7, 2025	Oct 09, 2025	Jan 15, 2026	April 02, 2026
5	System Office senior leadership reviews	Aug 14, 2025	Oct 16, 2025	Jan 22, 2026	April 09, 2026
3	Board materials finalized	Aug 28, 2025	Oct 30, 2025	Feb 05, 2026	April 23, 2026



*Gray indicates that the opportunity to meet this deadline has already passed. Future calendar years will largely follow the dates listed here; Board of Governor meetings for Academic Year 2026-2027 or beyond are not yet scheduled.

AY 25-26 Doctoral Program Establishment Calendar

Week	Stage	Sept 18, 2025 BOG	Nov 20, 2025 BOG	Feb 26, 2026 BOG	May 14, 2026 BOG
52	RPA submitted by institution	Sept 19, 2024	Nov 21, 2024	Feb 27, 2025	May 15, 2025
51	Graduate Council review begins	Sept 26, 2024	Nov 28, 2024	March 06, 2025	May 22, 2025
47	System Office internal review & system-wide review of RPA complete	Oct 24, 2024	Dec 23, 2024	April 03, 2025	Jun 19, 2025
46	System Office summarizes and returns comments to institution	Oct 31, 2024	Jan 06, 2025	April 10, 2025	June 26, 2025
43	Institution submits response to comments	Nov 20, 2024	Jan 23, 2025	May 01, 2025	July 17, 2025
36	Graduate Council votes on RPA	Jan 08, 2025	Mar 13, 2025	June 19, 2025	Sept 04, 2025
24	RTE submitted	April 03, 2025	June 05, 2025	Sept 11, 2025	Nov 26, 2025
20	External review process takes place. System Office reviews, summarizes, and sends report to institution	May 01, 2025	July 03, 2025	Oct 09, 2025	Dec 24, 2025
10	Response to external review due from institution	July 10, 2025	Sept 11, 2025	Dec 18, 2025	Mar 04, 2026
9	Graduate Council votes on RTE	July 17, 2025	Sept 18, 2025	Jan 05, 2026	Mar 12, 2026
8	Program summary due	July 24, 2025	Sept 25, 2025	Jan 07, 2026	Mar 19, 2026



7	Academic Programs team reviews program summary draft	July 31, 2025	Oct 02, 2025	Jan 09, 2026	Mar 26, 2026
6	Academic Program materials approved by VP	Aug 07, 2025	Oct 09, 2025	Jan 15, 2026	April 02, 2026
5	System Office senior leadership reviews	Aug 14, 2025	Oct 16, 2025	Jan 22, 2026	April 09, 2026
3	Board materials finalized	Aug 28, 2025	Oct 30, 2025	Feb 05, 2026	April 23, 2026

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