



### **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**

| <b>Week</b> | <b>Stage</b>   | <b>Sept 18, 2025<br/>BOG</b> | <b>Nov 20, 2025<br/>BOG</b> | <b>Feb 26, 2026<br/>BOG</b> | <b>May 14, 2026<br/>BOG</b> |
|-------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 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/<br>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<br>BOG | Nov 20, 2025<br>BOG | Feb 26, 2026<br>BOG | May 14, 2026<br>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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