



## **UNC System Academic Program Approval Calendar, Academic Year 2026-2027**

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 2026-2027.**



### AY 26-27 Bachelor's/Master's Program Establishment Calendar

Week	Stage	Sept 17, 2026 BOG	Nov 19, 2026 BOG	Feb 25, 2027 BOG	May 20, 2027 BOG
39-60	Unit submits Modern Campus Curriculum proposal	December 4, 2025	January 20, 2026	January 25, 2026	August 19, 2026
24	RPA submitted by institution	Apr 2, 2026	Jun 4, 2026	Sept 10, 2026	Dec 3, 2026
22	System Office completes internal review of RPA	Apr 16, 2026	Jun 18, 2026	Sept 24, 2026	Dec 17, 2026
20	RTE submitted	Apr 30, 2026	Jul 2, 2026	Oct 8, 2026	Dec 30, 2026
19	RTE sent for system-wide institutional comments	May 7, 2026	Jul 9, 2026	Oct 15, 2026	Jan 7, 2027
15	RTE comments close / System Office finance review complete	Jun 4, 2026	Aug 6, 2026	Nov 10, 2026	Feb 4, 2027
13	System Office summarizes & returns comments to institution	Jun 18, 2026	Aug 20, 2026	Nov 24, 2026	Feb 18, 2027
11	Institutional response to RTE comments due and System Office Finance Review complete	Jul 2, 2026	Sept 3, 2026	Dec 10, 2026	Mar 4, 2027
10	Program summary due	Jul 10, 2026	Sept 11, 2026	Dec 18, 2026	Mar 12, 2027
10	School Based Tuition Increment (SBTI) due to Academic Affairs	July 10, 2026	Sept 11, 2026 (for Fall 2028 BOG consideration)	Dec 18, 2026 (for Fall 2028 BOG consideration)	Mar 12, 2027 (for Fall 2028 BOG consideration)
8	Academic Programs team reviews program summary draft	Jul 24, 2026	Sept 25, 2026	Jan 4, 2027	Mar 25, 2027
6	Academic Programs materials approved by VP	Aug 7, 2026	Oct 9, 2026	Jan 15, 2027	Apr 2, 2027
5	System Office senior leadership reviews	Aug 14, 2026	Oct 16, 2026	Jan 22, 2027	Apr 9, 2027
3	Board materials finalized	Aug 28, 2026	Oct 30, 2026	Feb 5, 2027	Apr 23, 2027



### AY 26-27 Doctoral Program Establishment Calendar

Week	Stage	Sept 17, 2026 BOG	Nov 19, 2026 BOG	Feb 25, 2027 BOG	May 20, 2027 BOG
63-80	Unit submits Modern Campus Curriculum proposal	March 3, 2025	Sept 4, 2025	Nov 3, 2025	Jan 12, 2026
52	RPA submitted by institution	Sept 18, 2025	Nov 20, 2025	Feb 26, 2026	May 21, 2026
51	Graduate Council review begins	Sept 25, 2025	Nov 24, 2025	Mar 5, 2026	May 28, 2026
47	System Office internal & system-wide review of RPA complete	Oct 23, 2025	Dec 22, 2025	Apr 2, 2026	Jun 18, 2026
46	System Office summarizes & returns comments to institution	Oct 30, 2025	Jan 6, 2026	Apr 9, 2026	Jun 25, 2026
43	Institution submits response to comments	Nov 20, 2025	Jan 22, 2026	Apr 30, 2026	Jul 16, 2026
36	Graduate Council votes on RPA	Jan 8, 2026	Mar 12, 2026	Jun 18, 2026	Sept 3, 2026
24	RTE submitted	Apr 2, 2026	Jun 4, 2026	Sept 10, 2026	Dec 3, 2026
20	External review process takes place. System Office reviews, summarizes, and sends report to institution.	Apr 30, 2026	Jul 2, 2026	Oct 8, 2026	Dec 30, 2026
10	Response to external review due from institution	Jul 10, 2026	Sept 11, 2026	Dec 18, 2026	Mar 12, 2027
9	Graduate Council votes on RTE	Jul 17, 2026	Sept 18, 2026	Jan 8, 2027	Mar 19, 2027
8	Program summary due	Jul 24, 2026	Sept 25, 2026	Jan 15, 2027	Mar 29, 2027
8	School Based Tuition Increment (SBTI) due to Academic Affairs	Jul 24, 2026	Sept 25, 2026 (for Fall 2028 BOG consideration)	Jan 15, 2027 (for Fall 2028 BOG consideration)	Mar 29, 2027 (for Fall 2028 BOG consideration)

7	Academic Programs team reviews program summary draft	Jul 31, 2026	Oct 2, 2026	Jan 22, 2027	Apr 2, 2027
6	Academic Programs materials approved by VP	Aug 7, 2026	Oct 9, 2026	Jan 29, 2027	Apr 9, 2027
5	System Office senior leadership reviews	Aug 14, 2026	Oct 16, 2026	Feb 5, 2027	Apr 16, 2027
3	Board materials finalized	Aug 28, 2026	Oct 30, 2026	Feb 12, 2027	Apr 23, 2027