

Fostering Student Success

The University of North Carolina's policies on student success adopted by the Board of Governors direct constituent institutions to:

- set academic progress and degree attainment as primary outcomes;
- promote academic quality, rigor, and integrity;
- make possible “seamless” educational opportunities across the UNC campuses, with the North Carolina Community College system, 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 campus can best meet the needs of its diverse student populations.

University-Wide Policies:

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.¹

1. Campuses will follow the credit hour limits determined by the Board of Governors for four-year and five-year baccalaureate degree programs in UNC Policy 400.1.5.1[R].
2. Campuses will develop academic policies within the regulations established by the UNC General Administration on:
 - 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

*[Supersedes and Replaces Policy 400.1.5 originally entitled “Improving Retention and Graduation Rates” and this version was approved by the Board of Governors on January 11, 2013.]

¹The 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.

3. Campuses 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
 - d. the academic advisement system to ensure students receive appropriate assistance in proceeding toward graduation in a timely manner.
4. Campuses will be compliant with Title IV regulations that define student eligibility for and receipt of federal financial aid.
5. Campuses 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.

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

The President shall establish regulations to implement the requirements of this policy.