



Date: September 14, 2022

To: Susan Harden, President, Faculty Council

Cc: Matt Wyse, Faculty Governance Assistant

From: Associate Deans Council  
Leslie Zenk, Assistant Provost

Re: UNC Charlotte Academic Policy: Graduation

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The current [UNC Charlotte Academic Policy: Graduation](#) incorrectly defines commencement as a ceremony where degrees are awarded; UNC Charlotte does not award degrees at commencement but rather following the receipt of all final grades and the completion of degree clearance. The Associate Deans Council is recommending the attached edits to clarify this practice. I ask that FAPSC please consider these changes and send them forward to FEC and Faculty Council as appropriate.

# UNC CHARLOTTE ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROCEDURE: GRADUATION

## I. Executive Summary

This policy and procedure outlines applying for degrees earned and participating in commencement ceremonies.

## II. Policy and Procedure Statement

### *Degree Audits (Graduate Only)*

[DegreeWorks](#) (available via [My UNC Charlotte](#)) contains the definitive degree audit for each graduate student, based on the approved curriculum for the program. Students are encouraged to review their individual audit each semester to ensure they are making satisfactory progress towards graduation. In the term of graduation, each candidate's DegreeWorks audit will be reviewed for accuracy by the graduate program and the Graduate School. All program requirements specified in DegreeWorks must be met before the degree or certificate will be awarded. If an audit does not appear accurate, a student should consult with the director of their graduate program to determine if an academic petition is necessary.

### *Application for the Degree (Undergraduate Only)*

Each student must make an application for their degree no later than the filing date specified in the [academic calendar](#). The application may be submitted through [My UNC Charlotte](#). The diploma and transcript will reflect the term in which all requirements were completed, and the diploma will be mailed to the student's address of record.

### *Application for the Degree and/or Graduate Certificate (Graduate Only)*

All graduate students, including certificate students, must submit the Online Graduation Application no later than the published deadline in the term of graduation. The Online Graduation Application can be found at [My UNC Charlotte](#) under "Student Records." Degrees and certificates are conferred at

commencement exercises held at the end of the Fall and Spring semesters; however, the diploma, graduate certificate, and/or transcript will reflect the term in which all requirements were completed. Master's diplomas and graduate certificates are mailed directly to the student after graduation clearance has been completed.

#### *Teacher Licensure (Undergraduate or Graduate)*

Students who have completed degree requirements and obtained passing scores on appropriate exit tests (e.g., Principles of Teaching and Learning, Praxis II Subject Assessments) must apply for licensure through the [Teacher Education Advising and Licensure \(TEAL\) Office](#) in the College of Education. TEAL will process and submit application packets including Praxis scores, final transcripts, and required fees to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI). Licenses are mailed directly to applicants by NCDPI.

#### *Commencement Ceremonies (Undergraduate and Graduate)*

Students must ~~have completed or be on track to complete~~ their degree requirements ~~for the term they plan in order~~ to participate in the commencement ceremony. Undergraduate students who wish to attend commencement must attend the ceremony within their college; graduate students (including certificates) who wish to attend commencement must attend the Graduate School ceremony. All students must have a valid UNC Charlotte ID or a government issued photo ID and their UNC Charlotte ID number to participate in commencement.

**Commented [MW1]:** FAPSC amended to "must have completed"

Students completing their degree and/or certificate requirements in May participate in the May commencement ceremony. Students completing degrees and/or certificates in a Summer term, as well as those completing in December, participate in the December commencement ceremony.

#### *Commencement Marshals (Undergraduate Only)*

At each commencement ceremony, the University honors the juniors with the highest grade point averages by inviting them to serve as the marshals who lead the processions of graduates, faculty members, and the platform party. To select students for this honor, the University considers juniors who have completed 75 credit hours of degree work, enrolled full-time (12 or more credit hours per semester) during the two most recent semesters, and are able to attend the ceremony.

### III. Definitions

- **Commencement** (also known as Graduation) – A formal ceremony in which the University ~~recognizes awards degrees to graduating students degree candidates~~ at the end of each Fall and Spring semester.
- **Degree** – Diploma or title awarded to a student who completed a prescribed course of study.
- **Registrar** – The official at the University who is responsible for maintaining student records. The Office of the Registrar plans and oversees registration, academic record maintenance, transcript preparation, graduation, a degree audit report system, and curricular records.
- **Semester or Term** – A period of study of approximately 16 weeks, usually a third of the academic year (i.e., Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters). The Fall semester begins in August, the Spring semester in January, and the Summer semester in May at UNC Charlotte. The Summer semester generally includes one eleven-week and two five-week half terms.

### IV. Policy Contact(s)

- **Authority:** [Faculty Council](#)
- **Responsible Office:** [Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, The Graduate School](#)
- **Additional Contact(s):** [Office of the Registrar](#)

### V. History

- **Revised:** June 6, 2012 [Removed phrase "Degrees are awarded at commencement exercises held at the end of the Fall and Spring semesters."]
- **Reviewed:** January 25, 2017 [Reviewed by FAPSC under five-year review]
- **Revised:** August 28, 2019 [Added information about Commencement Ceremonies attendance]

### VI. Related Policies, Procedures and Resources

- [Application for the Degree](#)
- [Commencement](#)

## VII. Frequently Asked Questions

- **Where is this policy and procedure referenced?**

The policy and procedure is published on the Academic Policies & Procedures webpage of the [Provost website](#) and in the Degree Requirements & Academic Policies sections of the [Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs](#).

- **Which students are covered under this policy and procedure?**

This policy and procedure applies to all undergraduate and graduate students at UNC Charlotte.