WHERE PURPOSE TAKES FLIGHT

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

- Leadership Updates
- Strategic Priorities
- 2024-2025 Highlights
- Academic Programs over 120 Credit Hours
- Sponsored Research Update
- Fall 2025 Enrollment Update

Academic Affairs Leadership Update

Dr. Jon Gant
Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Development/Resources and Interim Dean, School of Library and Information Sciences

Attorney Don Corbett
Interim Dean, School of Law

Dr. Jim Harper
Interim Associate Provost and Interim Dean, School of Graduate Studies

Dr. Wykeshia Glass
Interim Chair, Curriculum and Instruction

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Academic Affairs Leadership Update

Dr. Gail Hollowell
Interim Chair, Biology and Biological Sciences

Dr. Yolanda Keller-Bell
Interim Chair, Communication Sciences and Disorders

Dr. Sharon White
Associate Dean and Interim Department Chair, Business Administration

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GOAL 1

Academic Excellence

Enhance teaching, research, and community engagement. Position North Carolina Central University as a nationally recognized leader in academic innovation, excellence, and student success by expanding high-quality programs aligned with emerging industries, modernizing academic infrastructure and technology, elevating faculty and student achievement, and advancing research and scholarship to achieve Carnegie Research 2 (R2) status.

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Strategic Priorities 2025 -2026

1.1.	Create new degree pathways aligned with emerging market and societal needs, including AI, cybersecurity, and public health.

Action Item	Champion	Start	End	Evaluation	Investment Cost by FY	Type of Resource (one-time, ongoing, sources)
1.1.1 Develop and implement a comprehensive minor program in Artificial Intelligence	Dr. Karen Keaton-Jackson	Aug 2025	Jan 2025	Approval of minor and student enrollment	Faculty Financial- resources will be needed when we move forward to develop the major	Ongoing
1.1.2 Establish a rigorous Ph.D. program in Communication Sciences and Disorders	Dr. Muhammed Ahmed	Aug 2024	Mar 2026	Approval and student enrollment	Faculty, Department Chairs, Deans Faculty position FY27 ($90-120K)	State, Ongoing
1.1.3 Develop and implement certificate programs in related fields	Dr. Karen Keaton-Jackson	Sep 2025	June 2026	Approval of certificate programs and student enrollment	Faculty, Department Chairs, Deans	ongoing

Strategic Priorities 2025 -2026

1.2.	Invest in research centers, competitive grant funding, and doctoral programs while strengthening faculty development and research administration to achieve Carnegie Research 2 (R2) classification.					
Action Item	**Champion**	**Start**	**End**	**Evaluation**	**Investment Cost by FY**	**Type of Resource (one-time, ongoing, sources)**
1.2.1 Establish the position of Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs	Provost Wooden	Aug 2025		Write position, approval from UNC System Office, posting on NCCU website	ARMO, Human Resources Will need additional $40K FY26	ongoing
1.2.2 Conduct a comprehensive assessment and catalog of existing relationships between the research infrastructure program and both new and established doctoral programs to identify opportunities for alignment	Dr. Kumar & Academic Deans	Sep 2025	June 2026	Clear definitions and relationship mapping campus-wide	Associate Provost for Research, Dean of Graduate Studies	Personnel, existing
1.2.3 Formally establish and name a Council on Doctoral Programs	Provost Wooden	Sep 2025	Dec 2025	Naming of committee members to lead the council	Council Members	Personnel, existing
1.2.4 Complete a comprehensive external review of the BRITE and BBRI programs	Dr. Kumar	Oct 2025	June 2026	Final report on completion external evaluation	Faculty, Director, External Reviewers anticipate some cost (need followup)	One-time

Strategic Priorities 2025 -2026

1.5.	Develop an infrastructure to achieve the objectives set forth in the UNC System Performance Metrics including Four-Year Graduation Rate, Undergraduate Degree Efficiency, First-Year Debt, Transfer Debt, Average Earned Credits Per Year, Education Expenses Per Degree and Military Affiliated Enrollment.						
Action Item	**Champion**	**Start**	**End**	**Evaluation**	**Investment Cost by FY**	**Type of Resource (one-time, ongoing, sources)**
1.5.1 Conduct a comprehensive reevaluation of the University College model (see also 2.2)	AA	Jan 2026	June 2026	Finalized external review report	Dean, Associate Deans, Consultants will need resources for external review	One Time
1.5.2 Conduct a thorough assessment of the effectiveness of upper-division advisor (see also 2.2)	AA	Jan 2026	June 2026	Final report submission	Dr. Phifer-McGhee, Consultants	One Time
1.5.3 Develop and implement strategies to promote direct admission to majors (see also 1.1)	AA	Sept 2025	June 2026	Finalized external review report	Deans, Associate Deans	Personnel, existing
1.5.4 Develop and implement targeted strategies to address time-to-degree Challenges by reducing DFW (Drop, Fail, Withdraw) rates	AA	Aug 2025	June 2026	Report from subcomitte on NISS Recomendations	NISS Team	Personnel, existing

Strategic Priorities 2025 -2026

1.8.	Position NCCU School of Law as a leader in legal education, scholarship, and public service by enhancing academic programs, faculty excellence, and student outcomes. (New Objective)					
Action Item	**Champion**	**Start**	**End**	**Evaluation**	**Investment Cost by FY**	**Type of Resource (one-time, ongoing, sources)**
1.8.1 Submit Law School Task Force Report	Provost Woodden/EVC Goodson	Sept 2025	Dec 2025	Chancellor feedback from report submission	Law School Task Force	Personnel, existing
1.8.2 Initiate the dean search process in partnership with the executive search firm	Provost Wooden	Sept 2025	June 2026	Naming of permanent law school dean	Provost, Storbeck Search (followup on first payment for search firm ~$100K)	One-time
1.8.3 Develop and implement a comprehensive plan to address facilities concerns (move to 4.5.1)	EVC Goodson	Sept 2025	June 2026	Completion of 2 of 5 projects	EVC Goodson, Repair cost	Financial
1.8.4 Design and implement an organizational structure that optimizes fundraising efforts	VC Hester	Sept 2025	Dec 2025	Position descriptions completed and budget identified	VC Hester, development positions (realign budget ~$260K for FY26)	State
1.8.5 Reestablish the Writing Center	Interim Dean Corbett	Sept 2025	June 2026	Position descriptions completed and budget identified	Interim Dean Corbett, staff positions (new) follow-up on specific $	State Ongoing

GOAL 3

Institutional Sustainability

Ensure financial strength and resource optimization. Advance strategic, sustainable institutional growth and financial strength by expanding enrollment, modernizing infrastructure, optimizing resources, and enhancing philanthropic partnerships and community engagement.

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Strategic Priorities 2025 -2026

3.2.	Grow targeted enrollment areas (adult learners, military-affiliated and graduate students) by expanding online access and support, aligning recruitment and academic programs with market demand.					
Action Item	**Champion**	**Start**	**End**	**Evaluation**	**Investment Cost by FY**	**Type of Resource (one-time, ongoing, sources)**
3.2.1 Complete the development and approval of a comprehensive campus Strategic Enrollment Plan	Dr. Sharon Oliver	Sept 2025	June 2025	Submission of completed plan from vendor	Identified in Enrollment Management Have spent $15K on this already	One-time
3.2.2 Prioritize and expedite the recruitment and hiring process to fill vacant enrollment and recruitment position	Ms. Malissa Evans-Hall	Sept 20025	January 2025	Positions posted and candidates identified	Need to identify funds for all positions new- for follow-up	Personnel,
3.2.3 Digitize critical operational functions of the Registrar's Office	Dr. Sharon Oliver	Sept 2025	June 2026	Automated curriculum updates and degree audits with Acalog, Curriculog, and Degree Works	Ongoing Training for Academic Catalog Publisher	Financial- followup

2024 - 2025 Academic Affairs Highlights

- Launched the first AI Institute at an HBCU

- Increased average earned credits per student; on track for a stronger 4-year graduation rate
  - Increased from 23.57% to 24.66% in 2024

- NCCU Named a Fulbright HBCU Institutional Leader

- Earned designation as a Carnegie Research Institution – placing us on the path toward R2 status

- Admitted the inaugural cohort of the Ed.D. Program in Counseling, Counselor Education, and Supervision (5 students)

- Achieved record-high board pass rates in:
  - Nursing: 94%
  - Nutrition: 96%
  - Speech Language Pathology: 96%

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Academic Programs Requiring Over 120 Credit Hours

- **Remaining Program Over 120 Hours**
  - B.S. Dual Degree with Physics and Engineering with North Carolina State University

- **Programs Reduced to 120 Hours**
  - B.A. History with a concentration in Comprehensive Social Studies (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and North Carolina Department of Public Instruction)
  - B.A. Elementary Education (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and North Carolina Department of Public Instruction)
  - B.A. Middle Grades (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and North Carolina Department of Public Instruction)
  - B.S.N. Nursing (Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing)
  - B.A. in Theatre with a concentration in Dance Education

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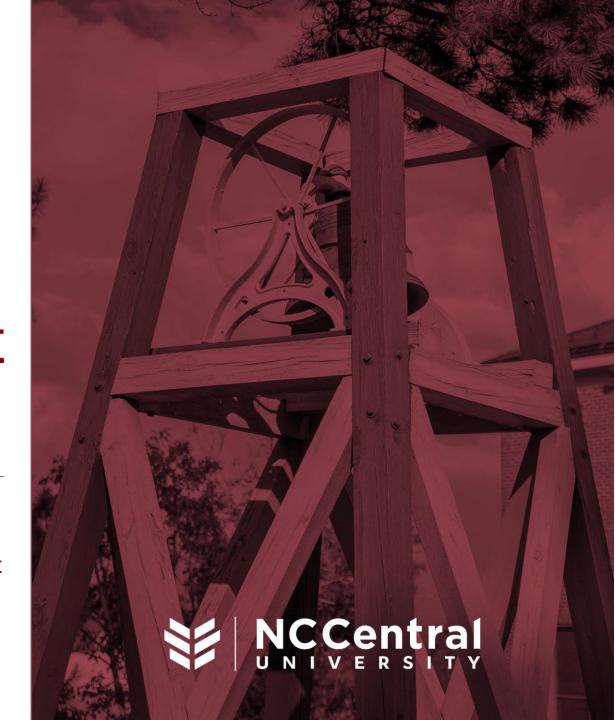UNIVERSITY

Sponsored Research Update – Grant Funding Loss

Project Title	Unit	Sponsor	Prime or Subaward	Awarded ($)	Potential Lost ($)	Potential Student Impact	Employee Impact
Train Research and Contemporary Knowledge Training	CHS	FRA	Prime	478,093.00	136,649.00	10 students affected	summer salary loss
Recruitment, Retention, and Promotion of Effective Educators (RRP) Project	SOE	TIP	Subaward	233,428.00	103,303.00	16 students affected	
Designing novel approaches to map implicit benefits of investments in underserved communities	CHS	NC A&T (USDA)	Subaward	198,017.00	198,018.00	3-9 students affected	summer salary loss
COVID 19 Emergency Response - HBCU Health Equity Data Consortium	CASH	NC A&T (NC DHHS)	Subaward	54,041.00	31,581.00		
Mapping the Tempo-spatio Structure of Criminal Networks Exploiting the Agricultural Supply Chain	BBRI	GMU (DHS)	Subaward	149,999.00	35,807.00		summer salary loss
Project CAOE: NCCU Participation in the CAOE National Hackathon Centered on Homeland Security 2025	CHS	ASU (DHS)	Subaward	16,500.00	15,476.00		summer salary loss
RCN UBE: Deepening and Expanding the Mission and Outcomes of the Re-Envisioning Culture Network	CHS	UIC (NSF)	Subaward	26,899.00	16,073.00	1 student affected	
Build and Broaden 2.0: Transformative American Politics: Examining the role of elites, organizations, and movements in reshaping politics and policymaking	CASH	NSF	Prime	243,709.00	62,823.00	1 student affected	summer salary loss
Broadening Participation Research Project: Investigating the Efficacy of Data Science Experiences using Project-Based Learning grounded in Environmental Justice for Improving Diversity in Environmental Science	CHS	NSF	Prime	349,112.00	107,320.00		summer salary loss
Digital Exploration of North Carolina Central University's History	CASH	NEH	Prime	89,110.00	5,977.00		summer salary loss
Binders Volumes Research Initiative	CASH	UNT (NEH)	Subaward	20,012.00	10,357.00		summer salary loss
Innovating a Community-Based Resilience Model on Climate and Health Equity in the Carolinas	CHS	NCSU (NOAA)	Subaward	40,495.00	22,694.00	1 student affected	summer salary loss
NCCU Duke-Substance Use Research Education (ND-SURE)	CHS	NIDA	Prime	266,070.00	15,428.00	10 students affected	summer salary loss
NCCU Partner in REACT4EJ	DRSP	RTI (EPA)	Subaward	402,290.00	262,234.00		staff salary
Collaborative Research: Implementation Grant: Leading Inclusive Transformation in Geoscience via an Intercultural Network of Learning Ecosystems	CHS	NSF	Prime	931,254.00	683,985.00	6 students affected	summer salary loss and post-doc
Louis Stokes STEM Pathways and Research Alliance: North Carolina Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation	CHS	NC A&T (NSF)	Subaward	199,997.00	88,878.00	12 students affected	
EPA Earlylife Center - PEDS	BBRI	RTI (EPA)	Subaward	199,329.00	29,735.00		
Homeland Security-Center for Research, Education, and Sensor Technology (HS-CREST)	CHS	DHS	Prime	981,000.00	657,693.00	9 students affected	research associate
Pipeline in Aging Research Career Training (PACT)	BRITE	GU (NIH)	Subaward	35,792.00	1,063.00		
TOTAL				**4,915,147.00**	**2,485,094.00**		

Fall 2025 Census:
August 29, 2025

Fall 2025 Enrollment Summary
Student Level and Program Type

Student Level	Campus-based Program	Distance Education Program	Total
Undergraduate	5,585	1,173	6,758
Masters	848	647	1,495
Law	361		361
PhD	27		27
Unclassified	454	64	518
Total	7,275	1,885	9,160

Fall 2025 Census Enrollment

Fall 2025 Enrollment Summary
First-time Full-time by Residency

First Time in College	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Fall 2025
In State	802	876	843	700	1100	1251	1174
Out-of-State	221	334	272	375	365	502	510
Out-of-State Threshold	211	218	279	390	378	512	614
Total	1,023	1,210	1,115	1,072	1,465	1,753	1,684

The original BOG Out-of-State threshold was 18% of the incoming FTFT class. BOG changed it to 25% of the incoming FTFT class as of Fall 2021 for certain UNC System schools including NCCU. The BOG changed it again to 35% of the prior class beginning with Fall 2022 for certain UNC System schools including NCCU.

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Fall 2025 Enrollment Summary
Military Enrollment

Military Enrollment	Fall 2023 Census	Fall 2024 Census	Fall 2025 Census	2024 vs 2025
Degree Seeking	490	658	750	92
Non-Degree Seeking	4	14	17	3
Total	**494**	**672**	**767**	**95**

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Fall 2025 Enrollment Summary
Adult Learner Enrollment

Adult Learner Enrollment	Fall 2023 Census	Fall 2024 Census	Fall 2025 Census	2024 vs 2025
Degree Seeking	786	919	2,504	371
Non-Degree Seeking	99	82	81	11
Total	**884**	**1,001**	**2,585**	**382**

Non-traditional undergraduate students (25 or older)

Fall 2025 Census:
August 29, 2025

WHERE

PURPOSE TAKES FLIGHT