HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

In North Carolina, all the public educational institutions that grant baccalaureate degrees are part of The University of North Carolina. The University of North Carolina at Pembroke is one of 17 constituent institutions of the multi-campus state university.

The University of North Carolina, chartered by the N.C. General Assembly in 1789, was the first public university in the United States to open its doors and the only one to graduate students in the eighteenth century. The first class was admitted in Chapel Hill in 1795. For the next 136 years, the only campus of The University of North Carolina was at Chapel Hill.

In 1877, the N.C. General Assembly began sponsoring additional institutions of higher education, diverse in origin and purpose. Five were historically Black institutions, and another was founded to educate American Indians. Several were created to prepare teachers for the public schools. Others had a technological emphasis. One is a training school for performing artists.

In 1931, the N.C. General Assembly redefined The University of North Carolina to include three state-supported institutions, the campus at Chapel Hill (now the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), North Carolina State College (now North Carolina State University at Raleigh), and Woman's College (now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro). The new multi-campus University operated with one board of trustees and one president. By 1969, three additional campuses had joined the University through legislative action: the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the University of North Carolina at Asheville, and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

In 1971, the General Assembly passed legislation bringing into The University of North Carolina the state’s ten remaining public senior institutions, each of which had until then been legally separate: Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, North Carolina Central University, The University of North Carolina School of the Arts, The University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Western Carolina University, and Winston-Salem State University. This action created a 16-campus University. (In 1985, the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, a residential high school for gifted students, was declared an affiliated school of the University, creating the current 17-campus University system.)

The UNC Board of Governors is the policy-making body legally charged with “the general determination, control, supervision, management, and governance of all affairs of the constituent institutions.” It elects the president, who administers the University. The 32 voting members of the Board of Governors are elected by the General Assembly for four-year terms. Former board chairmen and board members who are former governors of North Carolina may continue to serve for limited periods as non-voting members emeriti. The president of the UNC Association of Student Governments, or that student’s designee, is also a non-voting member.

Each of the 17 constituent institutions is headed by a chancellor, who is chosen by the Board of Governors on the president’s nomination and is responsible to the president. Each institution has a board of trustees, consisting of eight members elected by the Board of Governors, four appointed by the governor, and the president of the student body, who serves ex-officio. (UNC School of the Arts has two additional ex-officio members.) Each board of trustees holds extensive powers over academic and other operations of its institution on delegation from the Board of Governors.
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Roger Aiken ............................................................................................................................ Asheville
W. Louis Bissette, Jr. .................................................................................................................. Wilmington
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John C. Fennebresque ............................................................................................................. Charlotte
Hannah D. Gage ....................................................................................................................... Wilmington
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William Marty Kotis III .......................................................................................................... Summerfield
G. Leroy Lail ............................................................................................................................ Hickory
Scott Lampe ................................................................................................................................ Davidson
Steven B. Long ........................................................................................................................ Raleigh
Joan G. MacNeill .................................................................................................................... Webster
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W. Edwin McMahan .............................................................................................................. Charlotte
W. G. Champion Mitchell ....................................................................................................... New Bern
Hari H. Nath ................................................................................................................................ Cary
Robert J. Nannya (Ex Officio) ................................................................................................. Fayetteville
R. Doyle Parrish ....................................................................................................................... Raleigh
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Therence O. Pickett ................................................................................................................ Greensboro
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Phillip D. Walker ..................................................................................................................... Hickory
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A.B., Mercer University; M.A., University of Georgia

O.H. BROWNE, Acting Superintendent (1940‑1941); Acting President (1941‑1942)
B.S., North Carolina State College; Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University

RALPH D. WELLONS, President (1942‑1956)
A.B., M.A., Indiana University; Ph.D., Teachers College, Columbia University

WALTER J. GALE, President (1956‑1962)
B.S., New Jersey State Teachers College; M. Ed., Ed.D., Duke University

ENGLISH E. JONES, President (1962‑1972); Chancellor (1972‑1979)
B.S., University of Kentucky; M.S., North Carolina State University; LL.D., Wake Forest University; D.H., Pembroke State University

B.A., M.A., George Peabody College; Ph.D., Vanderbilt University

JOSEPH B. OXENDINE, Chancellor (1989‑1999); Chancellor Emeritus (1999‑)
B.A., Catawba College; M.Ed., Ed.D., Boston University

ALLEN C. MEADORS, Professor and Chancellor (1999‑2009); Chancellor Emeritus (2009‑)
B.B.A, University of Central Arkansas; M.B.A., University of Northern Colorado; M.P.A., University of Kansas; M.A., M.A., Webster University; Ph.D., Southern Illinois University; FACHE

CHARLES R. JENKINS, Interim Chancellor (2009‑2010)
B.S., M.A.Ed., East Carolina University; Ed.D., Duke University

KYLE R. CARTER, Chancellor (2010‑2015)
B.S., Mercer University; M.S., Ph.D., University of Georgia

ROBIN G. CUMMINGS, Chancellor (2015‑)
B.S., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; M.D., Duke University

*This list includes chief executives since the institution became a four‑year institution. Prior to 1941, chief executives held the title of principal or superintendent. The title of President was changed to Chancellor beginning July 1, 1972, when the institution, as Pembroke State University, became a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina.

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TBA .................................................................................. Director, Regional Center
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TBA .................................................. Director of Career Center
MIHAELA HENDERSON, M.A.Ed. ............ Assistant Director of Career Center
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