



Office of Academic Affairs

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Date: September 23, 2014
To: Faculty and Staff
From: Office of Academic Affairs
Re: Catalog and Curriculum Management Software

As part of the [Graduation Initiative](#), UNC Charlotte is adopting a new catalog content management system, *Acalog*, and a paperless course and curriculum approval process system, *Curriculog*. These two new software programs are part of the multi-step initiative designed to clarify degree requirements, reduce barriers to student progression, and aid in students' ability to successfully navigate their curriculum.

First developed by Digital Architecture in 2001, *Acalog* is database-driven and is currently being used by hundreds of colleges and universities. This product was selected after careful examination of all available software options, and will be implemented for use by faculty and staff beginning Spring 2015. The 2015-2016 academic catalogs will be the first produced and published by the new software.

Over a decade ago, the University began offering the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs on CD in lieu of printed versions. With technological advancements and the consideration of additional environmental and cost-savings measures, UNC Charlotte began to produce an online-only version of the catalogs. The new content management system will not only offer an upgraded version of the current online catalog website at <http://catalog.uncc.edu>, it will also offer an interactive experience for students. Students will be able to tag favorites, personalizing their experience and keeping a portfolio specific to their degree program and interests. Additionally, a built-in mobile feature will provide easy smartphone access to well-organized catalog content. "Given the size of our institution," noted Provost Joan Lorden at the University Convocation on August 19, "we need all the help we can get from technology to support our student success initiatives."

Recently, both the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs expanded to 700+ page documents. With *Acalog*, consistency and accuracy will be improved throughout, and looking for something in these massive tomes will become easier as it will allow users to narrow their searches by colleges, departments, programs, courses, or keywords. *Acalog* will also function with Banner Self-Service, our current online registration system, to automatically populate course descriptions for students to read and review while registering for classes.

Directly following execution of *Acalog* at UNC Charlotte, implementation will begin on *Curriculog*, the accompanying curriculum management software. This new software will not

only help automate the annual Undergraduate and Graduate Catalog review process, it will streamline and automate the curriculum approval process, replacing all of the current Faculty Governance paper processes, such as the Short Form and Long Form. “It will simplify the process of curricular change and create efficiencies for faculty committees,” stated Provost Lorden. Proposed changes will go through an online process where programs and courses may be created or modified, and then routed for review and approval by College and University committees, all without any paper. The program will maintain an electronic history of tracked edits, comments, and approvals. Following all of the necessary approval channels, changes to existing programs will be ready for seamless integration into the next academic catalog through *Acalog*. Additionally, when making changes to a particular course (e.g., course title, course number) in one part of the catalog, the software will automatically update that course anywhere it appears in the catalog, from the list of course descriptions to a course prerequisite to a degree program requirement.

Because of these changes, the annual catalog review process will be changing; reviewers will be notified of the new procedures following *Acalog*'s implementation. Training for the new user-friendly software will be offered by the Center for Teaching and Learning, with workshop information forthcoming over the academic year. Current course and curriculum procedures will remain the same for the 2014-2015 academic year, with *Curriculog* replacing these in Fall 2015.

For additional details and FAQs, please visit <http://facultygovernance.uncc.edu/acalog-curriculog>.