

TO: The University Community
FROM: Lee H. Roberts, Interim Chancellor
DATE: March 1, 2024
RE: 2024 Equal Employment Opportunity Plan

In compliance with state and federal laws¹, the University has prepared this 2024 Equal Employment Opportunity Plan (the "Plan") setting forth our commitment to providing equal employment opportunities. The Plan shows us the composition of our workforce at Carolina and sets forth the procedures we will use to help further our commitment to a diverse and inclusive work environment.

While legal requirements inform components of the Plan, our commitment to equal employment opportunities reflects our deeply-held belief that we can only provide quality service and education by being a campus that is diverse and representative of the larger community. We strongly value the extraordinary benefits diversity brings to our students, employees, and the people of North Carolina.

We take seriously our responsibility as a University community to be guided by equal opportunity principles in every decision impacting our employees. Accordingly, I hereby adopt this Plan as Interim Chancellor and declare it effective March 1, 2024.

¹The relevant federal regulations, which implement Executive Order 11246 and 13672, can be found at 41 CFR Parts 60-1 and 60-2. The relevant state regulations are set forth in North Carolina Administrative Code, 25 NCAC 01L Section .0101.



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

2024 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PLAN
State Plan for SHRA Employees

March 1, 2023 – February 29, 2024

UNC-CHAPEL HILL
Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office
214 W. Cameron Ave, Chapel Hill, NC 27599
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
919-966-3576
<http://eoc.unc.edu>

I. Contents

II.	Chancellor’s Certification Statement	5
III.	State of North Carolina Equal Employment Opportunity Policy	6
IV.	University Overview, Purpose, and Mission	8
V.	University Policy Statement on Non-Discrimination	9
VI.	University EEO Achievements and Best Practices	11
A.	Chancellor’s Responsibilities	14
B.	Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Officer	14
C.	Equal Employment Opportunity Committee	15
D.	Senior Administrative Officers, Managers, and Supervisors	16
VII.	Dissemination of the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy	17
VIII.	Reasonable Accommodations for Disability, Pregnancy, and Religion	19
A.	Policy on Accommodations	19
B.	Family & Medical Leave (FMLA) for Pregnancy Related Illness	19
IX.	Equal Employment Opportunity & Diversity Fundamentals	20
X.	Responsibility for Establishing Procedures for SHRA Employment	20
A.	Reporting and Monitoring	20
XI.	Equal Employment Opportunity Programs	22
A.	EEO Program Area Goals	22
B.	Recruitment	23
C.	Selection	34
D.	Onboarding	35
E.	Job Structuring/Compensation	36
F.	Training	37
G.	Promotion Procedure	39
H.	Performance Management	40
I.	SHRA Hiring & Recruitment Policy	41
J.	Transfer Opportunities	44
K.	Disciplinary Processes	46

L.	Pre-disciplinary Action Options.....	48
M.	Other Types of Employment Separations	48
N.	Grievance Policies.....	49
O.	Internal Monitoring, Evaluation and Auditing System	50
XII.	Harassment Prevention Strategies.....	51
XIII.	Layoff (Reduction-In-Force) Guidelines (SHRA)	52
XIV.	Equal Employment Opportunity Planning	54
A.	Workforce/Labor Force Analysis	54
B.	Job Opening Estimates.....	55
C.	Identification and Correction of Issues	55
D.	Attainment of Previous Year Placement Goals	56
XV.	Specific Provisions Regarding Equal Employment Opportunity for Individuals with Disabilities and Protected Veterans.....	57

SHRA EEO PLAN WORKFORCE REPORTS – Data as of October 31, 2023

Report # 1 – SHRA Job Group Analysis

Report # 2 – SHRA Incumbency v. Availability Analysis

Report # 3 – SHRA Placement Goals

Report # 4 – SHRA Workforce Analysis

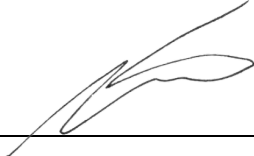
SHRA EEO PLAN ATTACHMENTS

- #1. Occupational Classifications – UNC System Office Job Group Classifications and Crosswalk
- #2. Race and Ethnicity Descriptions
- #3. Statistical Evaluation (Employment Activity)
- #4. HRDM - Staffing Activity Report (SHRA Only)/EEO Quantitative Analysis
- #5. B0170 UNC CH FY 2023 EEO Plan Report/Job Openings Estimate Report
- #6. OSHR Reduction in Force Policy

II. Chancellor’s Certification Statement

**Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Plan
Certification Statement**

This certifies that the attached Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Plan represents the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s commitment to provide equal employment opportunities to all applicants and employees. I attest that the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill follows the North Carolina Equal Employment Opportunity Policy along with all applicable federal and state laws, including current executive orders governing equal employment opportunities.



2/29/2024

University Chancellor Signature

Date



2/28/2024

EEO/AA Officer Signature

Date

III. State of North Carolina Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

Office of State Human Resources

Effective Date: April 2019

Available at: <https://oshr.nc.gov/policies/eeo/equal-employment-opportunity-policy>

Policy

Coverage

Veterans

Office of State Human Resources Responsibilities

Agency, Department and University Responsibilities

Complaint Process

Definitions

Policy

The State of North Carolina recognizes that an effective and efficient government requires the talents, skills and abilities of all qualified and available individuals, and seeks opportunities to promote diversity and inclusion at all occupational levels of State government's workforce through equal employment opportunity (EEO) workforce planning initiatives. The State is committed to ensuring the administration and implementation of all human resources policies, practices and programs are fair and equitable without unlawful discrimination, harassment or retaliation on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age (40 or older), political affiliation, National Guard or veteran status, genetic information, or disability. State agencies, departments and universities shall be accountable for administering all aspects of employment, including hiring, dismissal, compensation, job assignment, classification, promotion, reduction-in-force, training, benefits and any other terms and conditions of employment in accordance with federal and State EEO laws.

Coverage

Individuals protected by provisions of this policy are:

1. current employees;
2. former employees; and
3. job applicants

Veterans

Job discrimination of veterans shall be prohibited, and affirmative action shall be undertaken to employ and advance in employment eligible veterans in accordance with Article 13 of G.S. 126 and G.S. 128-15.

See the Veteran's Preference policy in the State Human Resources Manual for provisions related to veteran's preference including the employment and advancement of protected veterans.

Office of State Human Resources Responsibilities

The Office of State Human Resources (OSHR) shall:

1. establish the EEO Plan Requirements and Program Guidelines in accordance with federal and state laws to be followed by all agencies, departments and universities, to ensure commitment to and accountability for equal employment opportunity throughout State government;
2. review, approve and monitor all EEO plans and updates;
3. provide services of EEO technical assistance, training, oversight, monitoring, evaluation, support programs, and reporting to ensure that State government's work force is diverse at all occupational levels;
4. develop and promote EEO programs and best practices to encourage consistent and fair treatment of all State employees; and
5. meet with agency heads, department heads, and university chancellors, Human Resources Directors and EEO Directors/Officers annually to discuss the progress made toward reaching program goals.

Agency, Department and University Responsibilities:

Each Agency Head, Department Head and University Chancellor shall:

1. adhere to the policies and programs that have been adopted by the State Human Resources Commission and approved by the Governor;
2. ensure the agency, department or university's commitment to EEO is clearly communicated to all employees;
3. ensure that Human Resources policies and employment practices are implemented consistently and fairly;
4. designate an EEO Officer/Director who has access to the agency head, department head or university chancellor to be responsible for the operation and implementation of the EEO Plan;
5. provide the necessary resources to ensure the successful implementation of the EEO Program;
6. ensure each manager and supervisor has, as a part of his or her performance plan, the responsibility to comply with EEO laws and policies;
7. ensure the EEO Plan is designed in accordance with the EEO Plan Requirements and Program Guidelines as specified by the Office of State Human Resources;
8. ensure the EEO Plan is submitted by March 1st of each year to the Office of State Human Resources for review and approval as required by G.S. 126-19;

9. ensure all employees are made aware of the EEO policy including the Unlawful Workplace Harassment Policy found in the State Human Resources Manual;
10. develop strategies to prevent unlawful workplace harassment and retaliation in the workplace;
11. ensure required employee notices describing Federal laws prohibiting job discrimination are posted in work locations where notices to applicants and employees are customarily posted and easily accessible to applicants and employees with disabilities;
12. maintain records of all complaints and grievances alleging discriminatory practices; and
13. ensure all newly hired, promoted, or appointed supervisors and managers complete required EEO training in accordance with G.S. 126-16.1. See the Equal Employment Opportunity Diversity Fundamentals policy located in the State Human.

Complaint Process

An individual covered by this policy who is alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment or retaliation may file a complaint following the process outlined in the Employee Grievance Policy located in the State Human Resources Manual. For the purpose of this policy, political affiliation is not a protected classification under federal EEO law but may be grieved pursuant to G.S. 126-34.02 as a contested case after completion of the agency grievance procedure.

IV. University Overview, Purpose, and Mission

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), the nation's first public university, serves North Carolina, the United States, and the world through teaching, research, and public service. The University embraces an unwavering commitment to excellence as one of the world's great research universities.

The mission is to serve as a center for research, scholarship, and creativity and to teach a diverse community of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students to become the next generation of leaders. Through the efforts of exceptional faculty and staff, and with generous support from North Carolina's citizens, the University invests its knowledge and resources to enhance access to learning and to foster the success and prosperity of each rising generation. The University also extends knowledge-based services and other resources of the University to the citizens of North Carolina and their institutions to enhance the quality of life for all people in the State.

Now in its third century, the University offers 78 bachelor's, 113 master's, 66 doctorate and seven professional degree programs through 14 schools and the College of Arts and Sciences. More than 31,530 undergraduate, graduate and professional students learn from a faculty of 4,2664. Every day, faculty, staff and students shape their teaching, research and public service to meet North Carolina's most pressing needs in all 100 counties. Carolina's 356,387 alumni live in all 50 states and D.C. and more than 147 countries.

V. University Policy Statement on Non-Discrimination

The University is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment and to ensuring that educational and employment decisions are based on individuals' abilities and qualifications. Consistent with these principles and applicable laws, it is therefore the University's policy not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status as consistent with the University's [Policy on Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment and Related Misconduct](#). No person, on the basis of protected status, shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to unlawful discrimination, harassment, or retaliation under any University program or activity, including with respect to employment terms and conditions. Such a policy ensures that only relevant factors are considered, and that equitable and consistent standards of conduct and performance are applied.

Procedures

Any University unit that publishes materials that contain the University's [Policy Statement on Non-Discrimination](#) should include all bases of non-discrimination (age, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status) in that material, as follows:

For educational materials:

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is committed to equality of educational opportunity. The University does not discriminate in offering access to its educational programs and activities on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. The Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office (214 W. Cameron Ave. Chapel Hill, NC 27599 or (919) 966-3576) has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the University's non-discrimination policies.

For employment materials:

The University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer and welcomes all to apply without regard to age, color, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation. We also encourage protected veterans and individuals with disabilities to apply.

Related Statutes and Policies

- Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008
- Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972

- Age Discrimination Act of 1975
- Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967
- Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Act of 1974
- Equal Pay Act of 1963
- Executive Order 11246
- Executive Order 13672

University Policies, Standards, and Procedures¹

- [Policy on Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment and Related Misconduct](#)
- [Policy on Prohibited Sexual Harassment under Title IX](#)
- [Policy on Non-Discrimination for Student Organizations](#)
- [Policy on Non-Discrimination for Program Participants](#)
- [Policy on Accommodations](#)
- [SHRA Grievance Policy](#)
- [EHRA Non-Faculty Employees Dispute Resolution & Grievances](#)
- [Faculty Grievance Procedures](#)
- [Post-Doctoral Scholar Policy](#)

Contacts

Any inquiries regarding the University's non-discrimination policies as they relate to employment or educational programs and activities should be brought to the attention of the following administrator:

Elizabeth Hall
 Associate Vice Chancellor of Equal Opportunity and Compliance/Title IX Coordinator
 214 W. Cameron Ave.
 Chapel Hill, NC 27599
 919-445-1297

The University's Counseling and Psychological Services (919-966-3658) and the Ombuds Office (919-843-8204) are available to provide confidential assistance to students. The University's Ombuds Office (919-843-8204) is also available to provide confidential assistance to faculty and staff. Employees may also seek help through the Employee Assistance Program (877-314-5841).

Inquiries concerning the application of non-discrimination laws may be referred to the University officials listed above or to the Office for Civil Rights, United States Department of Education. For further information about OCR and its jurisdiction, visit their [website](#) or call 1-800-421-3481. If you

¹ The Policy on Accommodations addresses the provision of disability accommodations to employees, applicants for employment, and visitors to campus; religious accommodations to employees, students, and applicants; and accommodations for pregnancy and related medical conditions to employees, students, and applicants.

need assistance in reviewing materials or have additional questions about this Policy, please contact the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office (919-966-3576).

Document History

Effective Date: October 2005

Last Revised Date: February 2018

VI. University EEO Achievements and Best Practices

The Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office (EOC) and Office of Human Resources (OHR) are committed to ensuring that employment decisions are based on skill and ability and that qualified applicants and employees have equal opportunities for recruitment, selection, and advancement at Carolina. The EOC oversees these responsibilities through its development and management of the EEO Plan; implementation of EEO Data Forms process for the collection of required disability, ethnicity/race, gender, and veteran status information; management of the recruitment waivers process; implementation and management of the search committee training; and working with Office of State Human Resources (OSHR) to facilitate employee completion of the Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity Fundamentals (EEODF) training.

Campus units engaged in various strategies to advance and achieve the University's EEO goals and to ensure that all in our campus community feel welcomed, included, and supported. Several ideas and recommendations served as a "best practices" template for schools, divisions, and departments.

This section summarizes the University's EEO achievements and best practices.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL

Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office (EOC):

During the Plan year, the EOC made significant efforts to enhance the accommodations process for employees. The EOC combined its three existing accommodations policy into one omnibus accommodations policy, covering pregnancy, religion, and disability. The new [Policy on Accommodations](#) and accompanying procedures were drafted with the goal of making the policy and procedure easier to read and understand for all employees, applicants, and visitors and to eliminate confusion about which accommodations policy applied. Along with this policy revision, the EOC updated its accommodations website to be more user-friendly and to create a "Report an Access" form, allowing individuals on campus to identify access barriers to be addressed quickly and efficiently. The EOC also created a comprehensive web guide for lactating employees.

The University has and continues to prioritize educating its employees and supervisors on the University's [Policy Prohibiting Discrimination, Harassment and Related Misconduct](#) ("PPDHRM Policy"), [Policy on Prohibited Sexual Harassment Under Title IX](#) ("Title IX Policy") and the Policy on Accommodations. The University has made efforts to increase online training modules to meet the needs of the workforce, including a newly implemented training launched in September 2023

through the University's learning management system, titled Working with Students with Disabilities. This training is geared toward instructors but is available to all employees. Additionally, the EOC has completed transitioning its annual Preventing Discrimination and Harassment and Responsible Employee training modules into its learning management software to allow for automated rollout and tracking.

During the Plan year, the EOC conducted over 70 live training sessions and offered several online training modules, which included over 23,329 participants. These training sessions included topics such as: Preventing Harassment and Discrimination, Responsible Employee Reporting, HAVEN Training, New Student Orientation, ARS Accommodations Training, Equal Opportunity and Compliance 101, Bystander Intervention, and other customized training for individual departments.

University Office for Diversity and Inclusion (UODI):

The University Office for Diversity and Inclusion has continued to lead several campus-wide trainings and initiatives focused on fostering inclusion and belonging through dialogic experiences. These include the second cohort of a year-long training program for staff and faculty titled *Carolina Dialogue Across Difference* and the *Dialogue for Change*, a two day retreat using the Intergroup Dialogue (IGD) model designed to facilitate difficult conversations about social issues, identity, and difference, with the hope of building positive relationships between people from diverse backgrounds.

The UODI also launched a suite of open enrollment trainings, covering topics such as: Understanding and Managing Implicit Bias, Identifying and Navigating Microaggressions in the Workplace, Psychological Safety and Inclusion, Engaging Critical Conversations in the Classroom, Supporting Diversity of Faith in the Workplace, and Working Effectively Across Generations. The UODI expanded their portfolio of training offerings and incorporated new tools for campus community members to assess their intercultural development and conflict styles.

The UODI continued the University's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council, which works to help implement Carolina's diversity, equity, and inclusion action plan and to promote knowledge, skills, and best practices. The Council also represents a collective employee voice to advise the Provost and Chancellor on the adaptation of best practices for structural change. The Council is comprised of thirty-five senior level members across the University's Academic Schools, Divisions and Organizations. The Council produced its first equity policy review utilizing an equity lens to review current university administrative policies.

The UODI distributed a climate survey in fall 2022 to the university. Results were shared with the UNC community at the beginning of the fall semester 2023.

In the plan year, UODI staff continued to participate in the Hillel International Campus Climate Initiative to foster a positive campus climate for Jewish students, faculty, and staff. UODI staff also met with multiple students, faculty, and staff to assist respond or guide regarding equity and inclusivity on specific campus and global issues.

UNIT LEVEL

Some of the types of initiatives units have put in place in support of the University's EEO Plan include, but are not limited to:

The **College of Arts and Sciences** updated and expanded workshop and resources that promote equity and anti-bias best practices for faculty hiring.

The **School of Social Work** held a retreat for clinical faculty titled "Professional Development to Increase Community and a Sense of Belonging." The workshop focused on community building activities to increase connection and improve collaboration, including creating community commitments, learning to identify feelings, and sharpening active listening skills.

The **School of Information and Library Science** had the UNC Vice Provost of Equity and Inclusion/Chief Diversity Officer and UODI's Director of Education, Community Engagement, and Belonging provide a session for SILS faculty and staff on equity in the search process.

The **School of Nursing's** Associate Dean for Inclusive Excellence served on all search committees for tenure-track and fixed term faculty, as well as other staff and faculty administrative positions. In December 2023, the School invited a member of the Equal Opportunity and Compliance (EOC) staff to the fall undergraduate faculty meeting/retreat to explain EOC's role and related processes.

The **North Carolina Botanical Garden (NCBG)**'s hiring managers collaborated to standardize recruitment channels and expand outreach for hiring temporary positions.

The **Division of Student Affairs** held a professional development conference for staff on Invitational Theory, which includes elements of respect, trust, optimism, and intentionality. Invitational theory is described as one in which "everybody and everything adds to . . . human existence" and holds as an ideal the notion that "people, places, policies, programs, and processes should be so intentionally inviting as to create a world where each individual is cordially summoned to develop physically, intellectually, and emotionally."

Within the Division of Student Affairs, **Carolina Housing** provided on-going professional and student staff training focused on multicultural competence including allyship and inclusive language. In **Violence Prevention and Advocacy Services**, the Gender Violence Services Coordinators worked to design and format all digital resources and social media related to services in accordance with digital accessibility requirements to ensure visibility and access for all members of our community.

BEST PRACTICES

Based on a review of the University's EEO achievements, the University identified the following best practices to advance EEO goals:

- Review policies and materials related to EEO and accommodations to ensure readability and accessibility for all employees.
- Foster opportunities for faculty, staff, and students of different perspectives and statuses to interact, dialogue, share perspectives, and learn from each other to foster a culture of respect.
- Ensure that education for employees related to EEO policies and practices is regular, accessible, practical, and easy to use and understand.

A. Chancellor's Responsibilities

The UNC Chapel Hill Chancellor has the ultimate responsibility for ensuring the EEO Policy and programs specific to the organization are fully developed and successfully implemented. They are further charged with the responsibility for ensuring that all employment practices and all aspects of the employment function within the organization are implemented in a manner which is equal for all applicants and employees.

The University is responsible for the following:

1. Adhering to the policies and programs that have been adopted by the State Human Resources Commission and approved by the Governor.
2. Designating a management-level official responsible to oversee the EEO Program.
3. Ensuring each manager and supervisor has, as a part of their performance plan, the responsibility to comply with EEO laws and policies.
4. Communicating the University's commitment to EEO to all employees, applicants, and the public.
5. Providing necessary resources to ensure the successful implementation of the EEO Program.
6. Ensuring the development and implementation of HR policies, procedures, and programs necessary to achieve a diverse workforce in each occupational category; and
7. Taking measures to ensure the work environment is consistent with the intent of this policy and supports equal opportunity.

B. Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Officer

The University's EEO Officer the Associate Vice Chancellor for Equal Opportunity and Compliance/Title IX Coordinator.

The Equal Opportunity Officer responsibilities include the following:

1. Interpret and apply Federal laws, state statutes, and policies related to equal employment opportunity.
2. Ensure the EEO Plan is submitted by March 1 annually in accordance with the EEO Instruction and Format Guide as specified by the Office of State Human Resources.
3. Ensure hiring recommendations are reviewed for compliance with EEO Program objectives prior to the final Agency/University hiring decision.
4. Ensure all employees are made aware of the EEO Policy including the Annual EEO Plan, EEO Policy, Reasonable Accommodation Policy, and Unlawful Workplace Harassment Policy and develop strategies to prevent unlawful workplace harassment and retaliation in the workplace.
5. Maintain and analyze data on workforce utilization and employment practices, including records of all complaints and grievances alleging discriminatory practices.
6. Advise management of the EEO Program's impact and effectiveness.
7. Provide or coordinate EEO training for management and employees.
8. Provide confidential consultation for management and employees in matters involving EEO concerns.
9. Ensure federal laws prohibiting job discrimination are posted in work locations where notices to applicants and employees are customarily posted and easily accessible to applicants and employees with disabilities.
10. Establish and maintain effective working relations with groups concerned with EEO and Diversity & Inclusion.
11. Coordinate programs to achieve program objectives.
12. Present information on the EEO Plan and program to management and employees on a regular basis; and
13. Ensure all newly hired, promoted, or appointed supervisors and managers complete required EEO training in accordance with N.C.G.S. 126-16.1.

C. Equal Employment Opportunity Committee

The Equal Employment Opportunity Committee's responsibilities include the following:

1. Serve as a communication link between managers, employees, and EEO staff on aspects of the EEO plan and program.
2. Review and evaluate the EEO plan and program.
3. Review workforce representation data in each occupational category.
4. Survey the organizational climate and employee attitudes and evaluate the resulting data.
5. Meet with the University Chancellor in conjunction with the EEO Officer to discuss EEO programs, report on employee concerns and on recommended changes or additions to the EEO policy, plan, or program.
6. Identify recruitment resources and other activities decided to strengthen the EEO program.
7. Meet quarterly or remain active and engaged if meeting less frequently.
8. Attend EEO training.

The work of an Equal Employment Opportunity Committee is currently completed by several Committees and workgroups across campus, including, but not limited to, those described below, in conjunction with members of the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office and Office of Human Resources.

University Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council: The University Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Council at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill serves as the advisory and recommending body to the Chief Diversity Officer, and liaisons to schools and colleges across campus. The DEI Council will work closely with the Chief Diversity Officer to help implement Carolina's diversity, equity, and inclusion action plan and to promote knowledge, skills, and best practices. The council will also represent a collective voice to advise the Provost and Chancellor on the inculcation of best practices for structural change. Membership information is available on the Council's webpage. [University Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council | University Office of Diversity & Inclusion](#)

Dean's Diversity Advisory Committee: The aim of the College of Arts & Sciences Dean's Diversity Advisory Committee (DAC) is to forward the College's goals and values concerning diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). The DAC, made up of faculty and staff from across the College, advises the Dean and Senior Associate Dean for DEI (SADDEI) on strategies for enhancing inclusion and equity among faculty and staff in the College. The DAC also advises the Dean and SADDEI on ways to support DEI efforts in the College's units. Additionally, the committee is charged with critically reviewing and making recommendations for the College's progress in DEI. Membership information is available on the [Committee's webpage](#).

D. Senior Administrative Officers, Managers, and Supervisors

Senior Administrative Officers of the University include the Vice Chancellor for Human Resources and Equal Opportunity and Compliance, the Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Equal Opportunity and Compliance, and the Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion/Chief Diversity Officer. These Senior Administrative Officers have responsibility for implementing elements of the EEO Plan, including the following:

1. Assist in the development and implementation of the EEO Plan and Program and establish program objectives.
2. Assist the EEO Officer in periodic evaluations to determine the effectiveness of the EEO program.

Every manager and supervisor is responsible for implementing the specific elements of the EEO Plan, which are designed to eliminate barriers to equal employment opportunity which cause underutilization. The responsibilities of managers and supervisors include the following:

1. Maintain a diverse workforce for the department, division, work unit, or section.
2. Provide a work environment and management practices which support equal opportunity in

all terms and conditions of employment.

VII. Dissemination of the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

The policy and policy statement are disseminated formally both internally and externally. Within the University, the policy and/or policy statement appears in several University-sponsored publications. These publications reach all levels of University employees. Communications covering various aspects of the policy are published regularly online. Additionally, formal statements of the Equal Opportunity Policy are posted on departmental bulletin boards around the campus. A copy of the current edition of the Plan is available on the University website at: <https://eoc.unc.edu/what-we-do/equitable-employment-opportunities/> for all departments, schools, units, and applicants. A copy of each archived edition of the Plan is available in the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office.

The below tables show the circulation of the publications, which office or department has responsibility for each, and the time of publication.

A. Publications Reaching All Employees

Name of Publication	Responsibility	Time of Publication
Equal Opportunity and Compliance (EOC) Home Page	EOC	Continuing
Posters and notices for departmental bulletin boards	Office of Human Resources Department Heads	Continuing
EHRA Non-Faculty Position Permanent and Temporary Openings List (web-based)*	Office of Human Resources	As received
SHRA Permanent and Temporary Openings List (web-based)*	Office of Human Resources	As received
SHRA Permanent Job Openings List (hard copy)	Office of Human Resources	Weekly
Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty Position Openings List (web-based)*	Office of Human Resources	Weekly
Human Resources and EOC Home Page - Careers at UNC Chapel Hill	Office of Human Resources	Continuing

*Listed on the University's Office of Human Resources Careers at UNC Chapel Hill web page: <https://hr.unc.edu/careers/>.

B. Publications Reaching the Faculty

Name of Publication	Responsibility	Time of Publication
Faculty Handbook	Faculty Welfare Committee Office of Faculty Governance	Continuing

C. Publications Reaching Staff Employees

Name of Publication	Responsibility	Time of Publication
Memoranda	Office of Human Resources EOC Diversity and Inclusion	Continuing
SHRA Employee Policies	Office of Human Resources	Continuing
EHRA Non-Faculty Employee Policies	Office of Human Resources	Continuing

Additionally, the Office of Human Resources conducts a formal orientation program for all new permanent SHRA and EHRA Non-Faculty employees, during which portions of the Equal Opportunity Policy are reviewed. Supervisors are also required to attend the Blueprint for Engaged Supervision Training (BEST) program, a program designed to educate and motivate UNC’s frontline supervisors, in addition to the State’s EEO/DF course. The BEST program emphasizes practical and basic needs of all supervisors, including an understanding of the University’s commitment to equal employment opportunity and an environment free from unlawful discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

With respect to external dissemination of the University's Equal Opportunity Policy, the following table outlines some of the ways in which the policy is disseminated externally and the persons who have the continuing responsibility for the particular dissemination.

Means of Dissemination	Responsibility
Incorporate the phrase “Equal Opportunity Employer” in all purchase orders and contacts	Purchasing Services Office of Sponsored Research Construction Management
Incorporate the Equal Opportunity statement, “UNC-Chapel Hill is an equal opportunity employer that welcomes all, including protected veterans and individuals with disabilities” in all employment notices and advertisements.	Employment and Staffing EOC
Communicate to prospective employees the existence of the policy and make available as appropriate. Distribute specialized outreach materials. Facilitate outreach training sessions.	Office of Human Resources

Means of Dissemination	Responsibility
Send written notification of University policy to all subcontractors, vendors, and suppliers communicating obligations and responsibilities under the Plan.	Purchasing Services Office of Sponsored Research Construction Management
Make formal contacts with recruiting sources, including minority and female organizations, veterans, and disability services providers, to explain the University’s policies and to seek qualified job applicants.	Employment and Staff OHR Department Heads

VIII. Reasonable Accommodations for Disability, Pregnancy, and Religion

The University complies with federal and state laws governing reasonable accommodation, as applicable. The University provides reasonable accommodations to applicants and employees. The University encourages employees to complete the Voluntary Self-Identification of Disability form.

A. Policy on Accommodations

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is committed to equal opportunity in all aspects of employment for qualified individuals with disabilities; all aspects of employment, academics, programs, and services for qualified individuals who are pregnant, who have pregnancy related conditions, or who are lactating; and to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment that is respectful of the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the University community.

In accordance with applicable law¹ and consistent with the University’s [Policy on Accommodations](#), it is the University’s policy to provide reasonable accommodations in employment to any qualified individual covered by the Policy on Accommodations, unless the accommodations would pose an undue hardship to the operation of the University’s business or would change the essential functions of the employment position. Retaliation against an individual for seeking accommodations under the policy is prohibited.

B. Family & Medical Leave (FMLA) for Pregnancy Related Illness

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is committed to promoting health and wellness to all of its pregnant campus community members. Pregnant employees are eligible for pregnancy related resources and programs including the Parental Leave Policy (PLP), which provides paid parental recuperative leave as well as paid parental bonding leave; coverage under Family and Medical Leave (FMLA) for serious health conditions, including incapacitation due to pregnancy and prenatal medical

¹ Applicable laws include the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, the PUMP Nursing Mothers Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and N.C. Gen. Stat. § 116-11(3a).

care, that make them unable to perform essential functions of their job; and assistance through the [Lactation Support Policy](#) and the Campus [Lactation Guide](#), which assists employees with their transition back into the workplace following the birth of their child.

IX. Equal Employment Opportunity & Diversity Fundamentals

All new supervisors are required to attend Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity Fundamentals (EEODF) training within the first year of becoming a supervisor. This training is offered by the Office of State Human Resources (OSHR). This day-long program addresses EEO law compliance and workplace diversity in state government. The program focuses on developing awareness and building skills to use on the job. All NC State employees may access the EEODF training through the statewide learning management system, the NC Learning Center. See <https://ncgov.csod.com/client/ncgov/default.aspx>.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the University offered EEODF on-site at the UNC Chapel Hill campus. The on-campus EEODF was facilitated by five state-certified adjunct trainers that were members of the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office. However, due to the extenuating circumstances of COVID-19, all in-person training classes were postponed. This resulted in a significant decrease in the number of employees who completed EEODF at UNC's campus. Additionally, four of the University's state-certified adjunct trainers have left the University. During this plan year, the University's EEO Officer has communicated with OSHR as part of the process to have new trainers certified and make it easier for University employees to complete EEODF through OSHR's training sessions.

X. Responsibility for Establishing Procedures for SHRA Employment

OHR, EOC, and senior administrative officers are responsible for designing the reporting forms, procedures, and schedules and for devising the methods of review of the reports and of the results achieved through equal opportunity programs undertaken. The monitoring process covers recruiting methods, initial appointments, promotions, reclassifications, transfers, demotions, reinstatements, and salary-setting actions. These decisions and actions are amply documented to permit the required monitoring.

A. Reporting and Monitoring

Compliance with this Plan requires the use of methodical and formal procedures in evaluating applicants for initial appointment, promotion, reassignment, transfer, demotion, re-appointment, and salary-setting actions. University procedures require that careful records of selection and non-selection decisions be maintained on file.

These procedures have been designed to help ensure that decision making at all levels, from the department through the Chancellor's office, are without consideration of age, color, disability,

gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, or political affiliation/influence, and that in appearance as well as in fact, fairness prevails.

Comprehensive records of decisions and their justifications are required and maintained so that reviewing officers remain informed of efforts to recruit and hire minorities, females, veterans, and individuals with disabilities. Also, records are maintained to enable the University to respond to any future inquiry with respect to any appointment, promotion, reassignment, transfer, demotion, reappointment, and salary setting decision made by a department.

The senior administrative officers of the University and the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office continuously review procedures and records pertaining to employment activities. This review ensures compliance and results in improvement to processes and procedures.

Employment & Staffing, using the data on SHRA applicants and referrals, annually compares applicant metrics. Specifically, Employment & Staffing routinely uses data obtained from HR systems on SHRA incumbency v. estimated availability to consult with campus departments on underrepresentation of minorities and females. Respective departments focus their recruitment efforts to increase the applicant pools in job groups where underrepresentation exists.

Methods used by the Office of Human Resources to ensure that employment decisions are made in accordance with the Plan include the following:

- Maintaining centralized application and referral procedures and systems;
- Offering continued training on HR systems and a campus-wide HR model with defined roles and responsibilities;
- Offering continuing education and training of Office of Human Resources staff, Carolina HR Council, and Human Resources representatives as to relevant laws, policies, systems, data and equal employment opportunity objectives;
- Requiring the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office Search Committee training for hiring managers. Training is available at: <https://unc.csod.com/ui/lms-learning-details/app/course/c84cf1f6-1bef-4bde-9b89-92db469a1db5>.
- Routinely using data obtained from HR systems on SHRA applicants and referrals to consult with campus departments on under-representation of minorities and females;
- Extensively recruiting from all reasonably available sources to maximize the number of minority, female, and veteran applicants from those available in the University's recruitment area;
- Continuing recruitment from local vocational rehabilitation offices and other sources for referral of individuals with disabilities interested and available in the University's recruitment area;
- Referring applications from qualified internal and external applicants, with due regard for equal opportunity, to departments;
- Reviewing and following-up on hiring decisions with hiring departments as to correct

application of hiring policy and compliance with equal employment opportunity initiatives;

- Continuing to communicate the SHRA Grievance Policy and Procedure for reporting complaints of alleged discrimination, without complainants’ fear of retaliation; and
- Ensuring prompt and responsive handling of any such complaint.

The University will, at appropriate intervals, re-examine the various aspects of its equal opportunity efforts. Should any instances of discrimination be discovered, the appropriate University officials will take prompt corrective actions.

XI. Equal Employment Opportunity Programs

A. EEO Program Area Goals

Program Area	Goal
Recruitment	Attract a diverse pool of applicants to each occupational category, including veterans and persons with disabilities.
Selection	Continue to ensure that the University’s procedures for SHRA employment are used methodically and consistently in every recruitment and that all steps in the selection process are non-discriminatory and job related.
Onboarding	Ensure that all SHRA and EHRA non-faculty employees attend the applicable mandatory new employee orientation and access to information to ensure their understanding of their role and the University’s commitment to discrimination and harassment prevention.
Promotion	Enhance upward mobility and fully use the skills of the existing workforce in a non-discriminatory manner.
Training	Provide all employees access to free training opportunities to enhance their skills and readiness for career opportunities.
Job Structuring/ Compensation	Analyze compensation and job structuring practices to identify any potential areas of adverse impact.
Transfer, Promotion, Termination	Identify trends that highlight any potential issues of adverse impact.
Performance Management	Hold managers, supervisors, and employees accountable for their progress towards meeting the University’s institutional goals regarding compliance and integrity by complying with equal opportunity policies and meeting the EEO hiring objectives, as applicable.
Disciplinary Procedures & Grievance Process	Provide equitable treatment for all employees in accordance with the University’s SHRA Disciplinary Action Policy and SHRA Employee Grievance Policy.

Transfer and/or Separation	Identify trends and measure impact on underutilized groups.
----------------------------	---

B. Recruitment

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will strive to actively recruit from a variety of sources to achieve a diverse workforce that successfully meets the needs and demands of the University. The hiring department, with assistance and guidance from the Classification & Compensation Consultants do the following:

- Assess the need for the position to ensure it contributes to meeting the goals, objectives, and mission of the work unit;
- Conduct a job analysis including a review of the duties and responsibilities of the position, and the qualifications required for organizational success; and
- If necessary, revise the position description.

Job analysis is necessary only when there is a change in the duties and responsibilities that impact the qualifications and competencies required. If a current, accurate job analysis already exists for a given job type, there is no need to conduct an analysis for each vacancy. For example, in instances where there is a high volume of positions in a classification, frequent turnover in a classification, or little job change, there will likely not be a need to conduct a new job analysis each time a vacancy occurs. The hiring department in consultation with Employment & Staffing and Classification & Compensation staff ensures that the essential functions, knowledge, skills, abilities, training, and experience requirements necessary for successful performance of the duties of the position are identified (including any additional position-specific factors). The knowledge, skills and abilities described in classification specifications developed by the Office of State Human Resources (OSHR) may be used for recruitment and selection purposes where they are sufficient to differentiate among the qualifications of applicants.

A department needing to fill an open permanent position notifies Employment & Staffing by submitting a request to post a position to their department’s Human Resources representative. The Human Resources representative initiates the posting by updating the position description in ConnectCarolina and submitting it to the applicant tracking system. The Talent Acquisition Partners review the posting to ensure compliance with equal employment opportunity and ADA standards. The position posting includes the Equal Opportunity statement, “The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is an equal opportunity employer that welcomes all to apply, including protected veterans and individuals with disabilities.” Talent Acquisition Partners use information from the state job classification, as well as any additional information provided by the hiring department, to review the vacancy announcement and ensure its compliance with State and University requirements. Talent Acquisition Partners also consult with the department about including additional job duties and required competencies, as well as preferred qualifications in vacancy announcements. In addition,

Talent Acquisition Partners consult with the hiring department to determine the need for additional recruitment advertising in professional journals, newspapers, professional journals, diversity websites, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities to target specific audiences.

Each permanent recruitment is initially posted for no less than five business days and includes a closing date. Generally, extensions to posting periods must be for at least three business days. The maximum posting period for recruitment is six months from the date of the initial posting; this maximum posting period includes initial recruitment and extensions as determined by the hiring department. Unless an exception to the posting policy is approved, the customary employment procedure is to post the opening for a minimum of five business days on the designated internet websites ([Careers at Carolina - UNC Human Resources](#), [circaworks.com](#), [hercjobs.org](#), [insidehighered.com](#), and [www.nccommerce.com/workforce/job-seekers](#)), as well as on job posting boards located outside of the Office of Human Resource's office at the Administrative Office Building (AOB), 104 Airport Drive, Chapel Hill, NC. Graystone Advertising Group was added to the advertising section of the posting in the applicant tracking system to enable departments to easily work with advertising specialists to target diversity advertising.

Under the direction of the Assistant Director, Employment, the Talent Acquisition Partners are responsible for permanent staff (SHRA) recruitment and for ensuring the preliminary screening and approval of selected candidates for interview to departments per policy. Talent Acquisition Partners review and coordinate all applicant screening and referrals, ensure proper handling of applicants with priority status, analyze, and approve selected applicant qualifying salary, submit defined salary exceptions to UNC System Office for approval, and negotiate the job offer for a designated set of campus departments. Applications are reviewed and qualified based on Office of State Human Resources (OSHR) career banding guidelines and the *University SHRA Qualifications Screening Guide*.

Prior to the vacancy closing date, the hiring department will determine any selection tool(s) that will be used in the final evaluation process. Any selection tool(s) used will be objective, based upon job-related knowledge, skills, and abilities, and consistently applied to all applicants in the final selection pool. Talent Acquisition Partners and Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office representatives are available for consultation and assistance in determining selection tool(s). Some examples of selection tools (excluding typing and spelling tests) include a structured interview, reference checks, and with advance approval from the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office, in-basket exercises, written tests, and skills tests.

The departments are responsible for reviewing applications received based on overall qualifications and for being mindful of special priority considerations established by OSHR, such as promotional priority, re-employment (layoff) priority, veteran's preference, or return from workers' compensation, if applicable. From this screening process, departments will choose applicants for interview. Applicants selected for interview are then reviewed and approved by Talent Acquisition Partners to make sure they meet the minimum qualifications. The department then selects the most qualified candidate from those interviewed based on the posted essential knowledge, skills and

abilities. Generally, the Office of Human Resources expects departments to interview at least three of the most qualified applicants for a vacancy.

1. **Applicants and Applications**

An important foundation for recruiting is the management of SHRA permanent *Applications for Staff Employment*. For the purpose of the **Plan**, an applicant is any person who submits a completed application via the University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill online via the applicant tracking system during the open posting period. Each application identifies the specific position number, position title, and department number of the position for which the applicant is applying. In addition to completing the application, an applicant may complete an addendum as necessary.

The application includes the following Equal Opportunity statement and the University's Equal Opportunity Pledge, which states, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, race, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a protected veteran, which summarizes the University's equal opportunity commitment.

The application also includes a demographic data section within which the applicant voluntarily indicates gender, race, and ethnic background. In addition, the applicant is given the opportunity to voluntarily indicate their protected veteran status (if any) and disability status. The demographic data section includes a statement that the federal government requires the University to obtain, monitor, and report certain demographic data including gender, race, ethnicity, protected veteran status, and disability status (if any). It makes clear that "this information will remain confidential and will be used only by the UNC - Chapel Hill Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office for statistical purposes." This demographic information is stored separately from the application to maintain confidentiality. It is not viewed by any departmental Human Resources representative and is never shown to a hiring department.

Each applicant is provided information describing the SHRA application procedures, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) is the Law poster, campus security report, and applicant frequently asked questions.

To be considered for employment, an application must contain the following:

- Complete education and all work experience history, including dates employed and, if part-time, number of hours worked per week; and
- An electronic signature when the application is submitted electronically via the University's applicant tracking system.

A complete application is required online in the University's applicant tracking system for each position for which an applicant desires consideration. Applications must be received before the specified closing date and time to be considered. The application remains active until the

corresponding position is filled or cancelled. The applicant pool includes individuals who have applied to: (1) posted openings at the Administrative Office Building and online at: [Careers at Carolina - UNC Human Resources](#); (2) employment advertisements in newspapers, professional publications, and on recruitment websites (i.e., [indeed.com](#), Graystone Advertising Group, etc.); (3) job postings through the NC Commerce, Workforce Solutions Division website; (4) job postings through [circaworks.com](#); (5) job postings through [insidehighered.com](#); (6) job postings through [hercjobs.org](#); and (7) positions that potential applicants learned about at career fairs.

If no applicants exceed the minimum qualifications and adequate employment, the hiring department may consider the remaining applicants to be the most qualified applicant pool. The hiring supervisor may alternatively choose to extend the closing date in additional increments up to six months, should the initial recruitment efforts not generate sufficient applications. Any applications received after the initial closing date and time and prior to the new closing date and time would be considered for referral.

Occasionally, departments may identify potential applicants through informal sources. In these cases, departments inform applicants to use the University's online applicant tracking system to apply for any staff opening. The Talent Acquisition Partners ensure that all applications that are screened and referred to meet the Office of State Human Resources policy and minimum qualifications for the position.

All employment facilities are open to all applicants on the same basis, by policy and practice and, as requested, accommodations are made for any applicant who voluntarily self-identified as having a disability.

2. **Posting and Advertising Permanent Staff Position Openings**

a. Permanent SHRA Staff Openings

- The hiring department must post the Announcement of SHRA Position Recruitment for each of its staff openings. Departments may post permanent and time limited SHRA positions for internal and external applicants or post as "Internal Only."
- Employment & Staffing coordinates all other recruitment functions including:
 - The posting process for SHRA positions. This continues until the closing date passes, recruitment is put on hold or canceled, or until the hiring supervisor extends the closing date and the new closing date passes.
 - A current abbreviated Staff Openings List. This is posted outside the Administrative Office Building weekly on Wednesdays by Employment & Staffing. , There are Candidate Application Process Quick Reference Guide handouts for applicants and the front desk lets applicants use the computer kiosk to search openings. A searchable electronic copy of the Staff Openings List. This is posted on the Office of Human Resources website at [Careers at Carolina - UNC Human Resources](#) and is updated instantly to include all new permanent SHRA Recruitment Requisitions processed

- during the workday.
- A job offer for departments without delegated authority.
- A job offer or other commitment for an opening is prohibited prior to the posted closing date. In emergency circumstances, the five-business day posting requirement may be waived with advance approval from the Sr. Director of Employment & Staffing.
- Timely notification is provided to each applicant interviewed for a position after the selection decision is made and the position is filled. In addition, all applicants for a position for which recruitment is cancelled will receive a notification by email.

Employment & Staffing, as feasible, works with departments to consult on advertising for position openings in a job group where there is difficulty in attaining a sufficient pool of qualified applicants. Departments are also referred to Graystone Advertising Group for the placement of advertisements.

The University, with respect to affirmative recruiting for disability status, complies with federal and state laws and is committed to increasing its employment of qualified individuals with disabilities. The recruitment described here contributes significantly to the objective of increasing the employment of individuals with disabilities and advancing their employment. The University continues its commitment to employing individuals with disabilities and supporting, through provision of reasonable accommodations, their success when employed.

The University, with respect to affirmative recruiting for veterans, subscribes fully and without reservation to Federal and State laws and to increasing its employment of veterans, when otherwise qualified.

Continuing recruitment activities for staff employees include the following:

- Posting the Staff Permanent Openings List daily on the on-line application system at [Careers at Carolina - UNC Human Resources](#). The list is also posted at the Administrative Office Building, 104 Airport Drive each Wednesday by Employment & Staffing;
- Participating in Job/Career Fairs sponsored by recruiting sources, community organizations, veteran organizations, local Department of Social Services, and other area employers;
- Periodically contacting community organizations such as the NC Commerce, Workforce Solutions Division as well as, organizations for veterans and Individuals with Disabilities (IWD);
- Providing the [Careers at Carolina - UNC Human Resources](#) URL to other agencies, such as the NC Commerce, Workforce Solutions Division the University of North Carolina-System Office, and the Office of State Human Resources to establish links between the websites;
- Providing collateral materials such as recruitment handouts and marketing items to agencies, minority groups, and community organizations;
- Recommending placing advertisements through Graystone Advertising Group, as appropriate, in diversity recruiting sources such as the *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* and the *INSIGHT into Diversity*, as well as cross-posting on Indeed.com partner diversity sites, circaworks.com, insidehighered.com and hercjobs.org;

- Attending and networking at professional meetings such as Triangle Industry Liaison Group (TILG) meetings and Disability: IN NC; and
- Applicant screening and referral to departments with open staff positions.

All applications for a position are automatically screened based on responses provided to supplemental questions via the University's applicant tracking system. The Talent Acquisition Partners screen applications of candidates who will be interviewed in accordance with the Minimum Recruitment Standards established by OSHR and *University SHRA Minimum Qualifications Screening Guide* through the applicant tracking system. The continuing training of Talent Acquisition Partners and their commitment to avoiding bias minimizes the possibility of discrimination based on age, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or veteran status, or political affiliation/influence in making referrals.

The University conducts a comprehensive pre-employment background check including federal, state, and/or local criminal conviction records, driving record (for positions requiring driving), education and/or professional license verification (if required for the position), national sexual offender registry check and federal debarment (System for Award Management List and Office of Inspector General) check for all new, rehire as well as current employees who have a change such as a promotion or voluntary demotion. The University does not automatically bar employment for applicants based on conviction records. The University does not perform credit checks of applicants, except as part of the background investigation of applicants considered for sworn positions in the UNC Police Department. Marital status, dependency, or minor children as such have no influence in the screening, referring, and hiring decisions.

Applicants with questions regarding the hiring process are encouraged to call the Talent Acquisition Partner or the Office of Human Resources Service Center for more information. In certain cases, applicants may also meet with a Talent Acquisition Partner to have more complex questions answered in person.

The Talent Acquisition Partners carry out their responsibilities through oversight of the application screening and referral process. Among other things, this process provides for the referral of applications to hiring departments, submitted by applicants within the posted recruitment period who have specified a position number, department number and classification title for the departmental position, and which meet the State's Minimum Recruitment Standards as established by OSHR for the job classification. These State standards are expressed as minimum education and experience requirements and are shown in the appropriate classification specification issued by OSHR. The Talent Acquisition Partners thoroughly examine each application selected for candidate interview and determines if the candidate meets the State's Minimum Recruitment Standards before the department can conduct an in-person formal interview of the candidates. The State's Minimum Recruitment Standards also apply to employees who are eligible for veterans' preference (as per OSHR policy) and layoff priority consideration.

An eligible veteran or eligible spouse/dependent who is not a current State employee shall be hired when overall qualifications are substantially equal to the non-eligible persons in the most qualified applicant pool who do not have a priority described below.

- If the selection decision is between an eligible veteran or eligible spouse/dependent who is not a State employee and a substantially equal applicant with a priority described below, the applicant with the priority described below shall be selected.
- A qualified current State employee who has completed the probationary period and has career status seeking a promotion.
- A qualified State employee with layoff reemployment priority.
- An employee returning from workers' compensation leave or military leave.
- A qualified employee separated from an exempt policy-making or exempt managerial position for reasons other than just cause.

For eligible veterans or eligible spouse/dependents who are current State employees seeking promotion, reassignment or lateral transfer, the eligible person competes with all other applicants who have substantially equal qualifications.

The hiring department receives all applications meeting the State Minimum Recruitment Standards and performs the second level of evaluation. The determination of the pool of most qualified applicants cannot be made by the hiring department until after the position closes.

When a hiring department representative evaluates applications to determine which applicants to interview, they must:

- have specific knowledge of the job(s) being filled; and
- be familiar with selection guidelines by completing the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office's Online Search Committee training.

Employment & Staffing is available to advise to ensure that policies and procedures are consistently applied. The department conducts essential reference checking and submits the required job-related documentation on each referred applicant to the designated Talent Acquisition Partner via the selection document (hiring proposal). The Talent Acquisition Partner confirms the appropriate salary for the job offer with the department and advises the department on salary administration and other appropriate personnel policies and procedures.

The Talent Acquisition Partner or trained department representative extends the offer to the selected candidate and confirms the salary acceptance and proposed effective date. If the selected candidate is an external applicant, the Conditions of Employment are reviewed and, if the offer is accepted, the applicant is scheduled for a New Employee Orientation (NEO). Then the Talent Acquisition Partner prepares electronic documents including the salary approval form (if applicable), the application, hiring proposal with internal pay alignment, and a copy of the posting and attaches them to the hiring action in ConnectCarolina. The School/Division HR representative uploads the

cleared background check summary document to the hiring action. Following NEO, the NEO Program Manager uploads policy acknowledgement, DD-214 (if applicable) and signed Conditions of Employment COE. HR Records uploads service documents once service credit is verified. The NEO Program Manager ensures delivery of EEO Data forms documents to EOC.

The customary procedures for applicant referrals are followed day-to-day. However, as might be expected in a dynamic work environment, minor variations are necessary to handle contact with applicants and employees, the continuing contact between Employment & Staffing and hiring departments, the scheduling of interviews by department representatives, and essential reference checking by the departments and related processes. These variations, when they occur, must not contravene the spirit of equal employment opportunity.

The number of qualified applicants for some types of positions may vary widely, either seasonally or according to occupation availability. At any given time, there may be few applicants or a multitude of applicants for a given opening, and increasingly greater campus needs for qualified applicants. Regardless, it is not the University's practice or interest to turn away any applicant qualified for an open position, except when a better-qualified applicant is selected.

b. SHRA Temporary Recruitment

This section applies only to temporary SHRA employees hired directly onto department payrolls (Direct Hire Temporary), not to temporary employees hired through external temporary worker agencies. There are two direct hire temporary appointment types (regular temporary and retiree temporary).

1. A "regular temporary" SHRA appointment is an employment status of limited duration, normally not to exceed three to six months. In no case shall the temporary employment period exceed 11 consecutive months. When a temporary employee has worked for 11 consecutive months at the University, the employee's appointment must be terminated without exception. The employee cannot be hired into another temporary appointment with the University for at least 31 calendar days. Because the University as a whole is considered one employer, a 31-day break in service must be from the University, not just from one department. Likewise, individuals on this mandated break may not be re-employed by the University through an outside temporary agency or through any other third-party entity. A new temporary employment period will begin if the individual returns to work as a regular temporary employee following the 31-day break in service. If the need for a temporary staffing situation is beyond 11 months, a time-limited position should be considered. Creation of time-limited positions is through Classification and Compensation Consultants in the Office of Human Resources.

- 32 A "retiree temporary" SHRA appointment is an employment status for individuals who are drawing a retirement income and/or social security benefits. State policy allows retirees in temporary appointments to work beyond 11 consecutive months so long as the employee

certifies on the Conditions of Employment that they are not available for or seeking permanent work and has benefits through their retirement plan or Social Security. Employees who retire from the State of North Carolina and receive a pension through the State are limited in the salary amount they can continue to receive as a temporary employee for the State. A "retiree temporary" who is hired at an FTE of 75% or greater is no longer eligible for the retiree health coverage and must be placed on the active group plan at the department's expense.

Consistent with federal and state law and University policy, the University does not practice or condone age discrimination. Even so, there are certain circumstances under which age limitations may lawfully apply for employees (including temporary employees), such as:

- Persons must be at least 16 years of age in order to be considered for temporary employment.
- Law enforcement officers must be at least 21 years of age, as required by State law.

Importantly, there is no maximum age for employment.

A department needing to fill an open temporary position notifies Employment & Staffing by initiating the posting in the applicant tracking system. The Talent Acquisition reviews the posting to ensure compliance with equal employment opportunity and ADA standards. The position posting includes the Equal Opportunity statement, "The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is an equal opportunity employer that welcomes all to apply, including protected veterans and individuals with disabilities." Talent Acquisition Partners use information from the state job classification and any additional information provided by the hiring department to review the vacancy announcement and ensure its compliance with state and University requirements. Talent Acquisition Partners also consult with the department about including additional job duties and essential skills, as well as preferred qualifications in vacancy announcements. In addition, Talent Acquisition Partners consult with the hiring department to determine the need for additional recruitment advertising in professional journals, newspapers, professional journals, diversity websites, and technical colleges/universities to target specific audiences.

Each temporary recruitment is initially posted for no less than three business days and includes a closing date. Unless an exception to the posting policy is approved, the customary employment procedure is to post the opening for a minimum of three business days on the designated internet websites ([Careers at Carolina - UNC Human Resources](#), [circaworks.com](#), and [www.nccommerce.com/workforce/job-seekers](#)), as well as in binders located in the Office of Human Resource's main reception area at the Administrative Office Building (AOB), 104 Airport Drive, Chapel Hill, NC. The department is responsible for staff (SHRA) temporary recruitment and for ensuring the preliminary screening and approval of selected candidates for interview is according to policy. Temporary position postings use equivalent Office of State Human Resources (OSHR) classifications and minimum training and experience. The hiring department is responsible for ensuring the temporary employees meet the posted minimum recruitment requirements.

Prior to the vacancy closing date, the hiring department will determine any selection tool(s) that will be used in the final evaluation process. Any selection tool(s) used will be objective, based upon job-related knowledge, skills, and abilities, and consistently applied to all applicants in the final selection pool. Talent Acquisition Partners and Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office representatives are available for consultation and assistance in determining selection tool(s). Some examples of selection tools (excluding typing and spelling tests) include a structured interview, reference checks and with advance approval from the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office, in-basket exercises, written tests, and skills tests.

The departments are responsible for reviewing applications received based on overall qualifications. From this screening process, departments will choose applicants for interview. The department then selects the most qualified candidate from those interviewed.

An important foundation for recruiting is the management of applications for staff employment. For the Plan's purpose, an applicant is anyone who submits a completed application via the University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill online applicant tracking system during the open posting period. Each application identifies the specific posting number, position title, and department number of the position for which the applicant is applying. In addition to completing the application, an applicant may complete an addendum, as necessary.

The application includes the following Equal Opportunity statement and the University's Equal Opportunity Pledge. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, race, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a protected veteran, which summarizes the University's equal opportunity commitment.

The application also includes a demographic data section within which the applicant voluntarily indicates gender, race, and ethnic background. In addition, the applicant is given the opportunity to voluntarily indicate his or her protected veteran status and disability status. The demographic data section includes a statement that the federal government requires the University to obtain, monitor and report certain demographic data including gender, race, ethnicity, protected veteran status, and disability status. It makes clear that "this information will remain confidential and will be used only by the UNC - Chapel Hill Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office for statistical purposes." In fact, this demographic information is stored separately from the application to maintain confidentiality, is not viewed by any departmental Human Resources representative, and is never shown to a hiring department.

Each applicant is provided links with information on the application portal page to "Working at Carolina," "Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) is the Law" poster, and campus "Security Report."

To be considered for employment, an application must include an electronic signature when the application is submitted electronically via the University's applicant tracking system.

A complete application is required online in the University's applicant tracking system for each position for which an applicant desires consideration. Applications must be received prior to the specified closing date and time to be considered. The application remains active until the corresponding position is filled or cancelled. The applicant pool includes individuals who have applied to: (1) posted openings at the Administrative Office Building and online at: www.jobs.unc.edu; (2) employment advertisements in newspapers, professional publications, and on recruitment websites (i.e. indeed.com, etc.); (3) job postings through NC Commerce, Workforce Solutions Division; (4) job postings through circaworks.com; and (5) positions that potential applicants learned about at career fairs.

If no applicants exceed the minimum qualifications and adequate employment, the hiring department may consider the remaining applicants to be the most qualified applicant pool. The hiring supervisor may alternatively choose to extend the closing date, should the initial recruitment efforts not generate sufficient applications. Any applications received after the initial closing date and time, and prior to the new closing date and time would be considered for referral.

Occasionally, departments may identify potential applicants through informal sources. In these cases, departments inform applicants to use the University's online application system, to apply for any staff opening.

All employment facilities are open to all applicants on the same basis, by policy and practice and, as requested, reasonable accommodations are made for any applicant who voluntarily self-identified as having a disability and requests an accommodation.

3. Applicant Inquiries

Employment & Staffing actively solicits applicant feedback as to any problem or concern arising in the employment process. The Office of Human Resources Service Center, Staffing Support Services Specialist, Assistant Director, Employment, Staffing Manager, and the Senior Director of Employment & Staffing are available to any applicant experiencing difficulty with the applicant tracking system. In addition, Talent Acquisition Partners are available to any applicant who feels they have been unfairly treated in this process. Each Talent Acquisition Partner is responsible for handling such inquiries or referring them to the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office if the complaint is based on protected status. The Senior Director of Employment & Staffing and the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office are also available to address complaints. The Equal Opportunity Officer welcomes any such feedback as a method of correcting any improper situation. The same officials are readily available to any incumbent employee who feels they should have been treated differently as an applicant for a given position. Beyond that, the SHRA Grievance Policy is available to any eligible internal applicant.

The Office of Human Resources staff includes individuals with disabilities, minorities, females, and veterans. Members of the staff are carefully selected and trained. No person with any identifiable

bias is selected or retained for this staff. Each staff member receives continuing training to ensure commitment to equal employment opportunity goals and objectives and to be aware of inadvertent bias arising out of procedures or any other source. This affirmative and preventative training extends to all staff members engaged in position evaluation and classification, salary administration, recruitment and selection, promotion, disciplinary and grievance handling, and related processes.

The University will, at appropriate intervals, reexamine the various aspects of its equal employment opportunity efforts. Should any instances of discrimination based on age, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, or other non-job-related factors be discovered in such analyses, or by other available means, corrective action will be taken promptly by the appropriate University officials.

C. Selection

Using methods and procedures consistent with the principles and goals of equal employment opportunity, Employment & Staffing is responsible for the recruitment through the University's applicant tracking system for permanent staff positions. The head of the hiring department or their designee has the final selection authority. The recruitment and selection process complies with all federal and state laws, regulations, and policies and gives equal employment opportunity to all applicants, without regard to age, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. The department may view a summary report in the applicant tracking system which includes applicant ethnicity/race and gender data for evaluating total applicants applied versus 1) total applicants referred and 2) total applicants interviewed by the department. The final selection decision is made from among the most qualified applicants, which includes applicants with priority consideration, based solely on job-related criteria. Ultimately, the hiring department, in its judgment, selects the best-qualified applicant based on state minimum requirements, and essential and preferred qualifications documented in the position posting. The hiring department in consultation with the Talent Acquisition Partner is accountable for the final selection, consistent with equal opportunity requirements.

In addition, a department needing to fill an opening may consider employees within that department who want to apply for the open position. Those whose applications meet the State's Minimum Recruitment Standards for the classification of the open position are referred along with any applications of employees in layoff priority, veterans' preference and/or workers' compensation priority status.

After selecting an applicant for hire, the hiring department is responsible for indicating the selected applicant, documenting the selection process, and justifying the job-related reasons for the hiring recommendation on the selection document. In addition, the hiring department must also document the specific reasons for non-selection of all other applicants referred, using a standard set of non-selection reasons. When complete, the selection document is then forwarded to the designated Talent Acquisition Partner for job offer approval.

The department's assigned Talent Acquisition Partner is available for guidance and assistance to the hiring department at any time during the selection process. Under the direction of the Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, Senior Director Employment & Staffing, and the Assistant Director, Employment, the Talent Acquisition Partner provides centralized evaluation, consultation, and processing to support departmental new hires, promotions, transfers, reassignments, demotions, and reinstatements. Acting in coordination with hiring departments, the Talent Acquisition Partner monitors such personnel actions in terms of equal opportunity and advises departments of any apparent legal or policy issue.

Employment & Staffing, in coordination with HR Records & Information, maintains supporting documentation of the recruitment and selection process to provide fact-based information for monitoring and evaluating departmental recruitment and selection practices and procedures. Employment & Staffing maintains records of decisions and recommendations of all University schools, departments, and other units with respect to the hiring and non-selection of permanent staff applicants and the promotion, transfer, and demotion of permanent staff employees, by race and sex for a three-year period. The Office of Human Resources – HR Information Management monitors promotions by race and sex by federal occupation category/job group and reports these annually to the University's Equal Opportunity Officer.

The Equal Opportunity Officer oversees and monitors the implementation and administration of the Plan including the SHRA Employment process and achievement of placement goals. While the oversight responsibility lies with the Equal Opportunity Officer, the recruitment, hiring and onboarding process is administered and reviewed by the staff within the Office of Human Resources Employment and Staffing department who have day-to-day responsibility for making employment decisions in the University. Organization and Professional Development manages the new employee orientation program for both SHRA and EHRA Non-Faculty employees. Departments are responsible and accountable together with the Human Resources and Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office, and the University administration for advertising for positions that are under-represented. The Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office provides incumbency and availability data for use with each position opening that reflects, at the initiation of the recruitment, whether the position is under-represented. The Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office works collaboratively with the Employment and Staffing office on recruitment, employment and equal employment related efforts including process improvement, data collection and correction, training and development, outreach, and University programming.

D. Onboarding

All permanent SHRA new employees receive a Conditions of Employment (COE) document, which outlines the terms and conditions of their job offer. The COE is presented to and signed by the employee on their first day, during new employee orientation. All SHRA new hires must attend a half-day new employee orientation session before starting work. The classroom-based orientation held via Zoom provides an overview of the programs, history of UNC Chapel Hill, services, policies, and benefits offered by the University. Specific benefit information is provided during the benefits review, Q & A and forms collection session.

Temporary SHRA new employees are on-boarded by their departments using the online computer-based training located at: <http://new.unc.edu/temps/>. The campus HR representative and/or hiring supervisor or manager uses the Orientation Checklist for Supervisors (available on the HR website) and provides information on accounting for time worked, parking, department policies, and other relevant information to the new temporary employee. Department HR representatives are responsible for ensuring that each University employee completes employment forms and have access to the Equal Employment Opportunity program information. All temporary SHRA new employees receive a Conditions of Employment (COE) document, which outlines the terms and conditions of their job offer directly from their department. The COE is presented to and signed by the employee on their first day.

E. Job Structuring/Compensation

Classification & Compensation Consultants, under the guidance of the Senior Director of Classification & Compensation, administer the HR policy and processes covering establishment of new positions and position classifications. In such administration, these departments use the State's systems, including the career banding system and related policies.

OSHR exercises complete administrative control of the career banded systems, which it has delegated to the UNC System Office. Any changes to the policies or rules go through OSHR, but the day-to-day administration is handled at the System Office. Employment & Staffing and Classification & Compensation receive functional direction, detailed procedures, and close monitoring and auditing by the System Office. The University has delegated authority from OSHR to classify most of the state's Career Banded positions and both Classification & Compensation and Employment and Staffing have delegated authority for salary administration of these classes for the actions for which they have responsibility. [Note: Certain types of actions or salary thresholds may require external approval from the UNC System Office and/or OSHR.] These processes apply to all State positions subject to the State Human Resources Act at the University. Operating departments are responsible for the assignment of duties and responsibilities to positions at the outset and for changing these as operations require. Departments are required to prepare and submit to the Office of Human Resources a detailed position description on a standardized form and complete organizational chart for each new position request, reclassification request, or update to duties.

Classification & Compensation Consultants provide advice to departments on position design and the formulation of position descriptions, among other things. A Classification & Compensation Consultant reviews the description and interviews department representatives and supervisors as appropriate for any clarification of responsibilities and additional information needed to assure a fair, equitable, and appropriate classification decision. A detailed review is completed by first ensuring that the position's duties meet the OSHR classification specifications and competency profiles. This review determines the job classification only. A review of positions on the organization chart that are in the line of supervisory span and a review of other similarly situated positions on the organizational chart of that particular School/Unit is then conducted. This ensures equitable leveling assignments within that School/Division. Lastly, a campus-wide equity review is completed.

This entails comparing the requested position's classification and level to like positions on campus and/or to established University-wide benchmarks.

Following this detailed review, the Classification & Compensation Consultant classifies the position by assigning it to the correct job classification, determining the wage/hour status, and the correct level based on the responsibilities in the description as well as the required competencies needed to complete the duties as assigned by the operating department. The qualifications of any particular employee are not considered in classifying a new position. For reclassifications, incumbents must meet the minimum requirements of the new class. Such classification actions are subject to later monitoring and detailed on-site or other audits by OSHR.

When a department manager significantly changes the duties and responsibilities of an existing filled position, they are responsible for preparing an updated position description. Here, as in the earlier stages, the Classification & Compensation Consultant provides advice on position design and the writing of the description. Following that, the department is responsible for submitting the description and organizational chart for requesting that a formal classification study of the position be completed. The Classification & Compensation Consultant evaluates the position based on the same three step criteria in which a new position study is conducted and may interview current incumbents as part of the reclassification process.

Departments have the fundamental responsibility for maintaining accurate position descriptions with respect to actual and essential duties required for each position. Positions which have been vacant for more than one year must be resubmitted for a classification review prior to posting to ensure that the level is still appropriate when compared to similar positions. As a complement to department maintenance efforts, Classification & Compensation Consultants and OSHR may initiate studies of position families or classifications at the request of a department. In these studies, the department would be asked to have current position descriptions prepared for all the positions affected and to submit them for evaluation and review. Studies will also be initiated as a result of a directive from the Office of State Human Resources.

F. Training

OHR Organization & Professional Development provides many learning opportunities for all UNC-Chapel Hill employees by coordinating, designing, and delivering specialized training programs and organizing development activities for individuals and teams. The professional development courses are designed to develop and enhance essential workplace skills, increase job effectiveness, and improve performance throughout the University. By continuing to develop and strengthen our workforce, UNC-Chapel Hill provides more enriching careers while ensuring that all employees have access to training to increase their skills and knowledge.

OHR Organization & Professional Development offers a comprehensive program that addresses core characteristics and skills needed to lead effectively in an academic environment. The University Leadership Education and Development (ULEAD) program develops highly skilled and motivated leaders to meet the challenges of higher education's changing environment. The program is open to 25 applicants from UNC – Chapel Hill and NC Central University, and the UNC System Office.

Eligibility requirements for the program include employees with permanent status who supervise at least one lower supervisor or who manages a program that is University-wide or of significant size and complexity.

The OHR Organization & Professional Development department, in conjunction with Employment & Staffing, provides recruitment and selection training to managers and supervisors on a scheduled basis through such courses as SHRA Hiring: From Posting to Probation, the Blueprint for Engaged Supervision Training (BEST), and other programs.

The department's mission is to provide meaningful learning opportunities that encourage development, stimulate productivity, create a healthier workplace environment, and enhance the capabilities of the University's committed and diverse workforce. Available programs address a wide variety of management, supervisory, and employee needs including topics such as Discovering Your Leadership & Team Player Styles, Communication Essentials, Customer Service Skills, Dealing with Change from Any Position, Emotional Intelligence, Building Influence & Motivation Through Self-Discovery, Remaining Productive in a Remote Work Environment, and Using Reason to Resolve Conflict.

Courses supported by OHR Organization & Professional Development also include a variety of cultural diversity programs, such as Diversity in Hiring, Diversity in the Workplace, and Ethics in the Workplace. All workshops are free to UNC-Chapel Hill staff and faculty. Special training is available upon request from intact teams, hiring departments, and selection committees.

All educational and other training programs sponsored by the University are open to qualified employees without regard to age, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Employees are encouraged to take advantage of these training opportunities advertised through a variety of communications from the Office of Human Resources. In addition, educational leaves may be granted by the University for approved educational programming. Information about OHR Organization & Professional Development programs, tuition and fee waivers, and other educational assistance programs, as well as online, technical training opportunities such as Microsoft IT Academy and LinkedIn Learning is available in Carolina Talent Learning as well as on OHR and ITS websites.

Management Training

Training programs for managers and supervisors are critical to the University's equal opportunity efforts. The Office of Human Resources administers the Blueprint for Engaged Supervision Training (BEST) program, a mandatory program designed to educate and motivate UNC's frontline supervisors on topics including effective supervision, communication, interviewing, classification and compensation, performance management, and FMLA policies. Participants in BEST are also strongly encouraged to complete state-mandated EEODF classes. Participants have three months to complete the mandatory program.

Hiring managers were trained to streamline the hiring process as a directive of the Provost. Several tools were developed to make the hiring process more efficient and effective:

- Hiring Playbook: Guides hiring managers and HR representatives step-by-step through the hiring process in 45 days and provides best practices from across the campus community.
- Staff Hiring Dashboards: Provide an overview of active hiring events so hiring managers and senior leaders can see the status within their units and identify where additional support may be needed. An Operations Dashboard and Executive Dashboard were created to suit the needs of different populations.
- War Rooms: Meetings where OHR collaborates with school/division HR representatives to celebrate hiring successes and to proactively identify potential recruitment obstacles.
- OHR Organization & Professional Development offer additional management-based training such as:
 - Growing Your Career at Carolina Addressing Employee Performance in a Supportive Way
 - Working as a High Performing Team Hiring by the Carolina Playbook
 - Communication Essentials
 - Time Management
 - Discovering Your Leadership & Team Player Styles
 - Creating Synergy in a Multi-Generation Workforce
 - High Impact Feedback & Listening Using Reason to Resolve Conflict

Specific and comprehensive training on EEO policies and practices, is also delivered by Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office staff. This training covers the following topics:

- The definition of equal employment opportunity;
- The legal basis for equal employment opportunity;
- Interpreting and applying equal employment opportunity policies and guidelines;
- Preventing workplace harassment;
- The guidelines for valid and legal selection procedures;
- Identifying and eliminating barriers which can lead to discrimination;
- Implementing the equal employment opportunity program for staff employment;
- Information on the Policy on Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment and Related Misconduct, which includes the established procedures for reporting, investigating, and resolving such matters.

G. Promotion Procedure

The University's staff workforce is highly mobile. The University has formal systems designed to support staff employees seeking upward mobility through transfer or promotion. These systems result in a high level of satisfaction among, and participation by, staff employees. Promotions due to open competitive recruitments during recent years comprised 20-% of job openings filled each

year. For the year ending October 31, 2023, 523 employees were promoted, comprising 30% of the 1,719 openings filled.

The number of promotional opportunities generally depends on fund availability absent any State spending restrictions. Promotional opportunities include upward movement through competitive recruitment, position reclassification or salary range revision, or transfer to another position at a higher salary grade/competency market rate within the same department or by transferring to another department.

H. Performance Management

The University of North Carolina System Office establishes institutional goals for all employees covered by the University SHRA Performance Appraisal Policy: Expertise, Accountability, Customer-Oriented, Team-Oriented, and Compliance and Integrity. Supervisors cannot edit or change these goals and must use as written. Regarding the "Compliance & Integrity" level of performance under Institutional Goals, supervisors must evaluate the employee's compliance with personnel and equal employment opportunity policies, including prohibitions on harassment, discrimination, and workplace violence, and all other policies.

Supervisors are evaluated on their contributions towards meeting University equal opportunity goals. The University of North Carolina System Performance Management Policy states that failure to execute these performance management requirements through the policy will be addressed in their annual appraisal and, as necessary, through application of the SHRA Disciplinary Policy or other applicable corrective process for SHRA or EHRA managers/supervisors.

The overall success of the University relies on the individual accomplishments of all faculty and staff. The Performance Management Program provides a mechanism for communicating responsibilities and evaluating achievements. All permanent University staff are evaluated annually on their performance.

SHRA Performance Management

Performance appraisal information is one consideration in making other personnel decisions such as promotions, disciplinary actions, layoff determinations, and salary increases. Therefore, proper application of the performance management system is essential in the effective application of other personnel policies.

The annual performance cycle runs from April 1 to March 31.

The employee's performance plan contains institutional goals, performance goals, and development goals. Performance and development goals are set by management for each employee for the performance cycle and organizational values that are set by the Office of Human Resources for all employees. For institutional goals, UNC System Office provides a set of

performance expectations that address critical aspects of every employee's overall work product. UNC System Office will provide managers/supervisors with definitions of these goals at the "meeting expectations" level of performance. Performance plans must be issued within 60 calendar days of the start of the cycle or the employee's start date. Performance expectations and appraisals are recorded on a standardized form, the Performance Management & Competency Assessment Form, and the completed and signed document uploaded into Carolina Talent. Carolina Talent (Cornerstone product) is the program that will be used for online Performance Management and is the system of record.

Employees receive overall annual ratings and individual ratings for performance goals and organizational values on a three-point scale (Not Meeting, Meeting, or Exceeding Expectations). Interim reviews are required for employees that received an overall rating of Not Meeting Expectations near the midpoint of the performance cycle. Employees may appeal an overall rating of "Not Meeting Expectations" on the annual appraisal through the SHRA Grievance Policy.

As part of the career banding system for SHRA permanent employees, supervisors must also conduct an annual Employee Competency Assessment along with the Annual Performance Appraisal.

I. SHRA Hiring & Recruitment Policy

The University consistently applies the SHRA recruitment and selection process to promote open and fair competition to select from the most qualified persons to fill vacant positions. Selection decisions will be based solely on job-related criteria. Employment is offered based upon the job-related qualifications of applicants for employment using fair and valid selection criteria and upon satisfactory completion of all relevant reference checks, credentials verification, and verification of eligibility to work in the United States.

No selection decision shall be made that will constitute unlawful discrimination in violation of state and federal law. The University will give Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) to all applicants, without regard to age, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Preferential treatment will not be given to any individual based on undue influence.

1. Recruitment Request

To initiate recruitment for a vacant SHRA permanent position, departments must submit a posting request through the applicant tracking system by first updating the position description in ConnectCarolina. Departments do not need to wait until the position is vacant before submitting the recruitment. However, the hiring supervisor must have received a signed resignation letter or other official documentation of separation date from the current employee.

Each SHRA position has State standards for minimum training and experience. These standards indicate the knowledge, skills, and abilities, or competencies, necessary for successful job

performance. Specific formal education may be substituted for preferred experience in some positions. Directly related experience also may be substituted for certain educational requirements.

Hiring departments are responsible for determining any job-related qualifications required in addition to minimum State standards and for documenting the qualifications based on the Position Description Form (PD102CB). Additional qualifications may be identified as required or preferred.

2. Required Competencies

The required knowledge, skills, and abilities that are critical to a position, without which the duties of the position cannot be performed. Any required skill listed in the job posting must also be reflected as an essential skill in the position description. A selected candidate must possess all required competencies, qualifications, and experiences listed in the job posting of the position for which they are being selected. The knowledge, skills, and abilities/competencies in the vacancy announcement shall bear a direct and logical relationship to the minimums on the class specification, class administration guidelines developed by the Office of State Human Resources, and the specific position description.

3. Preferred Skills

The knowledge, skills, and abilities that would aid in successfully performing the primary duties of a position but are not required. If the hiring department identifies any special physical or mental requirement(s) for an open position, the Office of Human Resources may advertise any such requirement(s) in its recruitment. Hiring Managers cannot add a preference for a degree or license or additional years of experience when the classification is one that allows substitution of experience for education to meet the minimum qualifications.

4. Internal Only Recruitment

With the approval of Employment & Staffing, departments have the option to post SHRA permanent and time-limited positions as internal only. Internal only recruitments limit applicants to current, permanent employees, time-limited employees, temporary employees (directly hired by UNC-Chapel Hill) – not employed by a third-party staffing agency, university temporary services (UTS) employees (employed by UNC-Chapel Hill) and layoff priority candidates of UNC-Chapel Hill. Internal only recruitments may not be limited to employees of any specific unit, department or division of the University, nor may any of the positions' essential requirements indirectly infer required employment in a specific area of the University.

5. Posting Requirements

The Talent Acquisition Partners in the Office of Human Resources must approve the

recruitment before the vacancy can be posted. There are three required locations for posting announcements of SHRA position vacancies; State-Wide Posting, University Posting, and Departmental Posting.

- **State-Wide Posting.** The Employment & Staffing Department in the Office of Human Resources provides permanent job openings information to the NC Commerce, Workforce Solutions Division as required by State policy. The posting information includes the State's minimum training and experience requirements and, as appropriate, additional position requirements as defined by the hiring department.
- **University Posting.** The Employment & Staffing Department provides the Staff Openings List of SHRA positions under active recruitment. A list of highlighted positions is posted at the Office of Human Resources, Administrative Office Building, 104 Airport Drive. The Staff Permanent Openings List is also updated continuously on the Office of Human Resources website.
- **Departmental Posting.** After the posting request has been approved by the Talent Acquisition Partner, the hiring department prints the "Posting Details" from the online applicant system. State policy requires hiring departments to post conspicuously within the department the "Posting Details" for all its SHRA vacancies. This internal posting must be concurrent with the posting maintained by the Office of Human Resources and must remain posted in the department through the defined recruitment period's closing date. The hiring department must retain the posting information and recruitment information for three years.

Hiring departments are also responsible for ensuring that department employees currently on extended military Leave or Family Medical Leave have been informed in a timely manner of all departmental internal postings.

6. **Recruitment Posting Period**

The hiring department establishes the length of the posting period in the online applicant system. SHRA permanent or time-limited vacancies must be posted for a minimum of five business days. Direct Hire Temporary posting must be posted for a minimum of three business days. A posting should not close on a day on which the Office of Human Resources is closed for business. Only applications received no later than 11:59 pm EST/EDST on the closing date may be considered for the position. Although Schools/Divisions can start the process of contacting candidates prior to the posting closing, no employment offer or other commitment can be extended for an open position before the end of the vacancy's posting period. The hiring department may request to extend the posting period as needed by contacting their Talent Acquisition Partner. Extensions to SHRA permanent posting periods must be for at least three business days. The maximum posting period for recruitment is six months from the date of the initial posting; this maximum posting period includes initial recruitment and extensions.

7. **Application Submission**

To apply for an SHRA permanent, time-limited, or direct hire temporary position at the University, all applicants must use the University's online applicant tracking system to:

- Establish an Applicant Profile,
- Complete an application which includes the applicant's work history, and
- Submit an application to each individual position for which they wish to be considered no later than the closing time on the position's posted closing date.

Applicants may also attach cover letters and resumes to their applications for specific positions; however, information provided solely on a resume in lieu of an Application for Staff Employment is insufficient for consideration.

Anyone requiring assistance with the online application process may contact the Employment & Staffing Department in the Office of Human Resources.

J. Transfer Opportunities

To promote career advancement and to fill job openings with the best skills available, permanent SHRA (full-time or part-time) employees are eligible to seek transfer to another department or to another position within their current department. There is no requirement for the employee to work in a position for a specified minimum period before applying for a position change.

1. **Applicant Referral**

The Talent Acquisition Partners in the Office of Human Resources ensure each applicant's training, experience, and skills meet the State minimum recruitment standards and valid job requirements. Only applications meeting these requirements are referred to the hiring department for interview.

Hiring managers (and search committees) can review referred applications through the online applicant tracking system provided by the Office of Human Resources. The hiring department is responsible for further evaluation of referred applications, including reviewing applications for the essential skills listed in the job posting. Applicants who do not have the requisite essential skills as indicated on the job posting cannot be hired into the position.

2. **Best Qualified Pool and Interviewing**

The hiring department determines which applicants are the best qualified among those referred and then contacts those candidates directly to schedule screening interviews. Once a screening interview is completed, the hiring departments submit a complete list of candidates that were

selected for interview. Generally, it is expected that hiring departments will interview at least three candidates.

Hiring departments cannot move forward in the interview process beyond the screening interview with any candidate whose application was not referred to and approved by the Office of Human Resources for the vacancy. Interviews may take place by telephone, Skype, Zoom, or in person, and the interview questions must be applied consistently, regardless of method of contact. All layoff priority applicants must be interviewed for the vacant position if they meet the Required Qualifications, Competencies, and Experience requirements in the posting and are referred. Hiring supervisors with questions about appropriate interviewing may contact their Talent Acquisition Partner for assistance. In addition, OHR Organizational and Professional Development provides programs on interviewing skills for supervisors regularly.

3. Commitment to Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)

The University is committed to ensuring that employment decisions are based on an individuals' competencies and qualifications. Consistent with this principle and applicable laws, the University does not discriminate with respect to employment terms and conditions on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. This policy ensures that only relevant factors are considered and that equitable and consistent standards are applied to all personnel actions. More information and a copy of the University's Equal Employment Opportunity Plan is available on the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office website: <https://eoc.unc.edu/resources/office-reports/>.

The rich perspectives and experiences of our staff brings strength to the University. Our focus on EEO principles and non-discrimination in each search gives us the opportunity to hire, attract, and retain the talented staff we want and need to continue our legacy of excellence. An online training module can be accessed through Carolina Talent for Supervisors and Search Committees. Search Committee training provides valuable information, helpful advice, and proven techniques to enable our search committees to run more efficiently.

4. Special Consideration for Applicants with Disabilities

It is permissible to discuss an accommodation that may be needed and how the applicant would perform the essential functions of the job if one of the following is true: an applicant has an obvious disability, an applicant voluntarily discloses a non-obvious disability, or an applicant expresses the need for reasonable accommodation.

5. Pre-Employment Testing

Pre-employment tests (written, oral, physical, or skills) may be administered by the hiring department with prior approval from the Talent Acquisition Partner assigned to work with the

department and the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office.

6. **Selection and Hiring Proposal**

The Selection and Hiring Proposal form in the applicant tracking system is the official University record of those referred by the Office of Human Resources and the hiring department's selection and non-selection reasons. The School/Division recruitment coordinator uses a set of "Non-Selection Reasons" in the applicant tracking system to record the appropriate reason(s) for non-selection. The Hiring Proposal must be completed before a job offer can be extended to the final candidate.

K. Disciplinary Processes

1. **SHRA Disciplinary Action Policy**

Disciplinary processes for SHRA employees are meant to be corrective. Supervisors are strongly encouraged to contact Employee & Management Relations at the onset of any employee performance or conduct issues and to discuss both formal and informal methods for resolving such workplace issues. Employees also are encouraged to contact Employee & Management Relations to discuss ways of resolving workplace issues.

There are three categories of cause for disciplinary action: unsatisfactory job performance, grossly inefficient job performance, and unacceptable personal conduct.

There are four types of disciplinary action: Written Warning, Suspension without Pay (for one or two work weeks), Demotion (of rank and/or pay), and Dismissal.

For unacceptable personal conduct incidents or for grossly inefficient job performance, an employee may be dismissed on a first offense, depending on the severity and pervasiveness of the offense.

Discipline for unsatisfactory job performance is progressive and requires at least three disciplinary incidents within an 18-month period of each other: the first incident must result in a written warning; the second incident may result in a written warning, suspension, or demotion; and the third incident may result in a written warning, suspension, demotion or dismissal from employment. Employee & Management Relations is required to review all disciplinary letters before they are issued to employees.

Before any SHRA employee receives a written warning for unsatisfactory job performance a documented counseling session must occur.

Before any SHRA permanent employee can be suspended, demoted, or dismissed, the supervisor must hold a "pre-disciplinary conference" with the employee to provide the employee an opportunity to address management's concerns before it makes the disciplinary decision. A

staff member of Employee & Management Relations must be present at the pre-disciplinary conference.

Temporary and probationary employees are not covered by this policy and its procedures and can be released from employment as deemed appropriate by management after consulting with Employee and Management Relations.

2. **SHRA Probationary Period**

New SHRA permanent employees and those returning to State service after having more than a 31-day break from previous State service, are required to complete a minimum 12-month probationary period. During the probationary period, the supervisor evaluates if the employee is performing at the level required for the position.

Once an employee's 12-month probationary period is satisfied and career status is attained, a new probationary period shall not be required if the employee experiences any of the following changes: promotion; transfer; demotion; reinstatement after leave of absence; layoff priority re-employment with less than a 31-day break in service; reassignment; or return of a policy-making/confidential exempt employee to a non-policy-making position. If any of the above changes occurs while an employee is serving a probationary period, the satisfied portion of the probationary period will be credited toward the new assignment. The employee will then be required to complete only the remaining portion of the probationary period. Employees transferring from a local government entity subject to the State Human Resources Act who have already attained career status are not required to serve another probationary period, provided there is no break in service greater than 31 days.

A transferring or former SHRA employee who has had a break in service greater than 31 days must serve a new 12-month probationary period before career status is attained. Periods of extended leave of absence with or without pay do not suspend or increase the duration of the probationary period beyond 12 months.

If the supervisor determines that an employee is not able to perform as required for the position, the supervisor can terminate the employee's appointment and must do so prior to the end of the employee's probationary period. The employee must receive written notification of the termination. Supervisors must consult with Employee and Management Relations prior to moving forward with a probationary termination.

Once employees have completed their probationary period, they are protected under the disciplinary procedures found in the Disciplinary Action Policy (SHRA).

L. Pre-disciplinary Action Options

1. Facilitated Conversations

Employee & Management Relations in the Office of Human Resources provides a facilitated conversation program to assist management and employees in productively addressing workplace issues and improving communication and understanding in the workplace.

2. Counseling Sessions

When the supervisor determines that disciplinary action is appropriate for unsatisfactory job performance, a written warning is the first type of disciplinary action that an employee shall receive. However, as referenced in the SHRA Disciplinary Action policy, the manager/supervisor shall provide feedback in a Documented Counseling Session and following the meeting issue a Documented Counseling Memo (DCM) prior to beginning disciplinary actions for any performance issues. When a documented counseling session fails to correct employee performance, the manager/supervisor may address the matter by issuing a formal disciplinary action, the first level of which is a written warning.

M. Other Types of Employment Separations

Other than dismissal, a separation from employment may occur when a University employee resigns, retires, is dismissed, separated by reduction in force (layoff), is unavailable for work, or dies. Data is collected as to why individuals leave the University to identify trends and patterns.

1. Resignation

An employee is expected to notify management in writing at least two weeks (ten business days) prior to the last intended workday of a voluntary resignation. The last day the employee reports to work is normally the separation date.

2. Voluntary Resignation without Notice

When an SHRA employee fails to report to work for a period of at least three consecutive workdays without giving oral or written notice to management, that employee voluntarily terminates their employment with (resigns from) the University. The employee does not have appeal rights for this type of separation.

3. Retirement

An employee who is participating in the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS) or the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) can initiate the retirement process by completing the application through their Orbit account or by contacting the Benefits & Leave Administration Team. An application must be filed with the North Carolina Retirement System between 90-120 days prior to their retirement effective date. Those in the Optional Retirement Program should complete an ORP-3 retirement 60-90 days prior to retirement and provide it to

the UNC Benefits & Leave Administration Team. Failure to submit an application less than 90 days prior to the retirement date may result in delays for retiree benefits and retiree health coverage.

4. **Reduction-in-Force (Layoff)**

An employee may be separated by a reduction in force due to budgetary, operational, or organizational needs. Management submits a layoff plan to Employment & Staffing in the Office of Human Resources. In addition to identifying the work unit and employee classification, selection criteria include the following factors in order:

- 1) University needs
- 2) Type of appointment
- 3) Relative skills, knowledge, and productivity of employees
- 4) Length of total state service
- 5) Workforce diversity

Employees must receive at least a 30-day calendar written notice of the separation. Selected employees may appeal the decision through the SHRA Grievance Policy only if alleging discrimination based on a protected status or if alleging retaliation for making a report of harassment or discrimination.

3. **Termination when Unavailable and Leave is Exhausted**

An employee may be terminated from the University if they become or remain unavailable for work after all applicable leave credits and benefits have been exhausted and management, for sufficient reasons, cannot or does not grant (additional) leave without pay. Employees may appeal the separation through the SHRA Grievance Policy.

N. Grievance Policies

Whenever possible, the University prefers to resolve workplace conflicts informally through discussion or mediation. There are also several different means of formal grievance or appeal at the University, depending on type of employment (SHRA, EHRA Non-Faculty) and the issues being appealed.

1. **Grievances and Formal Appeals**

The University allows SHRA permanent employees to grieve a wide range of issues (see [policy](#) for details). Employees have 15 calendar days to file a grievance from the date of the incident being grieved.

Step 1 in the process is mediation between the employee and a representative of the employee's management (usually, the direct or second-level supervisor). If mediation ends in

impasse, then the employee may appeal to Step 2, which is a panel hearing. The employee and a representative of the employee's management (usually, the direct or second-level supervisor) present their information to a panel of three volunteer SHRA permanent employees.

The panel reviews the materials presented and writes a report and recommendation to the Chancellor, who then makes the final decision for the University on the issue. Certain issues can be appealed to the State's Office of Administrative Hearings after the completion of the internal process (see policy for details <https://hr.unc.edu/employees/policies/>).

By State regulation, the grievant cannot be represented by an attorney during the internal process. The Office of Human Resources provides guideline documents to assist employees through the process. For matters appealed to the State's Office of Administrative Hearings, the grievant is allowed to retain counsel at their own expense.

Grievances that allege prohibited harassment, discrimination, or retaliation due to allegations of discrimination or harassment are reviewed by the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office prior to Step 1 mediation.

2. **SHRA Performance Appeals**

The University allows SHRA permanent employees to appeal overall ratings of "Not Meeting Expectations" on their annual performance appraisals. Mid-cycle reviews and individual ratings on performance goals or institutional goals ratings on the annual appraisal are not appealable. Performance appraisal appeals are administered through the SHRA Grievance Policy.

3. **EOC Review of Discrimination/Harassment Complaints**

Employees may also report complaints of discrimination or harassment based on protected status to the EOC, where such reports will be assessed and addressed through formal or informal means as set out in the relevant procedures. Employees are encouraged to file complaints within 180 calendar days of the most recent event of alleged prohibited harassment or discrimination but may report to the EOC at any time. However, to preserve grievance rights for the issue, the employee must file the complaint within 15 calendar days of the event.

O. Internal Monitoring, Evaluation and Auditing System

Responsibility for compiling and monitoring the University's equal employment opportunity progress is done in collaboration between the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office, and Office of Human Resources, Employment & Staffing and/or HR Business Analysis units as follows:

- The Talent Acquisition Partner provides ongoing monitoring of department underrepresentation during the SHRA permanent and time-limited posting, hiring and selection process via the applicant tracking system. Specifically, to indicate underrepresentation of minorities and females by federal occupation/job group and

department.

- The Talent Acquisition Partner provides department consultations based on SHRA permanent and time-limited Workforce Profile data where underrepresentation is found. Focus is placed on targeted advertising and outreach efforts to increase candidate pools in the underrepresented demographic.
- The Talent Acquisition Partner audits the SHRA permanent and time-limited Hiring Proposal and Selection Document for each recruitment to ensure that an appropriate justification is provided in relation to recruitments with documented underrepresentation of minorities and females.
- The HR Business Analysts annually report recruitment and promotion activity, openings filled, internal transfers and terminations by race, sex and federal occupation category/job group and action reason for review by the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office.
- Upon request, assists the Equal Opportunity Officer to respond to reviews by the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, U.S. Department of Labor, and other federal offices.

XII. Harassment Prevention Strategies

The University is “committed to the highest degree of integrity in fulfilling the University’s mission, in upholding the dignity of individuals, and in advancing the common good of our community” and in doing so the harassment prevention strategies are woven throughout all equal employment opportunity programs through the following:

Equal Opportunity-Related Policies and Procedures

- [Policy on Prohibited Sexual Harassment Under Title IX](#)
- [Policy Statement on Non-Discrimination](#)
- [Policy on Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment and Related Misconduct](#)
- [Policy on Non-Discrimination Program Participants](#)
- [Policy on Accommodations](#)

Formal Equal Opportunity-Related Training Programs

- Annual Responsible Employee Training
- Annual Campus Security Authority (CSA) Training
- Equal Employment Opportunities and Diversity Fundamentals (EEOF)
- Annual Preventing Harassment and Discrimination Training
- Carolina BEST (Blueprint for Engaged Supervision Trainings)

Other Education, Training, and Awareness Programs

- HAVEN – Sexual Assault and Interpersonal (Relationship) Violence
- Green Zone Training – Military-connected and student veteran population

- Safe Zone Training – Sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression
- Stalking Awareness Month Campaign (January)
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month Campaign (April)
- Relationship Violence Awareness Month Campaign (October)
- Safe at UNC awareness campaign
- Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office (@unceoc) social media outreach

Other Prevention Strategies

- Performance Management Expectations and Accountability
- Communication of and Accessibility to EEO Policies and Procedures and Incident Reporting options

XIII. Layoff (Reduction-In-Force) Guidelines (SHRA)

The layoff procedure assures equitable treatment of SHRA employees when reduction-in-force becomes necessary. A layoff might become necessary because of a reduction in work or funds, abolishment of a position, or other material change in duties or organization. A layoff decision should be reached only after other applicable measures have been explored, including but not limited to such actions as: placing the employee into the same or lower role/competency level in the same job family; delaying the filling of or elimination of vacant positions; limits on purchasing and travel; retraining of employees in needed skill sets; or job sharing and work schedule alternatives.

A. Covered Employees

This policy applies to SHRA career status employees (full-time and part-time) holding permanent appointments.

The following types of SHRA employees may be separated without following the layoff procedures of this policy: SHRA temporary employees, SHRA employees within their probationary periods, and SHRA employees in time-limited permanent appointments.

Although this policy does not apply to EHRA and student appointments, departments should consider all staffing resources when determining positions to retain.

B. Procedures

A layoff decision requires a thorough evaluation of the need for specific positions and the relative efficiency of affected employees so that the University can provide the highest level of service possible with a smaller work force. The decision to layoff a particular employee or group of employee's rests with the management overseeing the affected work unit(s).

Work unit: The work unit is a formally established and recognized unit, section, division, or department of the University in which employees perform a closely related set of functions or duties.

The department determines which employees shall be laid off by applying the following factors in order:

1. **University needs.** Consider the continuing work to be performed by the work unit(s) and the number of positions in each branch, role, and competency level necessary to perform the continuing work. Once the position(s) to eliminate have been identified, management must consider all employees in positions with the same or related classification. "Same or related" classification means positions in the identified branch, role, and competency level. In order to identify the affected employees, apply the remaining guidelines.
2. **Type of appointment.** Temporary employees performing work comparable to work in the same or related classification must be terminated before any employee with a permanent appointment, provided that a permanent employee has the skills to perform the temporary employee's tasks. Employees with time limited or probationary appointments as well as trainees with less than six months of service must be terminated before any employee in the same or related SHRA classification with a permanent appointment, provided that the permanent employee has the skills to perform the tasks of the probationary employee or trainee.
3. **Relative skills, knowledge, and productivity of employees.** Employees to be retained must demonstrate the skills and knowledge required for the continuing work of the work unit or be able to attain those skills and knowledge within a reasonable period of time in accordance with the operational needs of the work unit. Selection must be consistent with the employee's most recent annual performance review and employee competency assessment, as well as other relevant documentation.
4. **Length of total state service of employees.** Length of service shall be considered but may receive less weight in the determination. Eligible veterans must be accorded one year of state service for each year (or fraction thereof) of military service, up to a maximum of five years of credit.
5. **Workforce diversity.** In accordance with federal guidelines affecting equal employment opportunity, any application of the layoff policy must be reviewed by the affected department(s) and the Office of Human Resources to determine its impact on the workforce diversity within the work unit(s).

Department management is responsible for documenting the basis for its decision in a manner

that clearly demonstrates reasonable and consistent application of these factors. The Talent Acquisition Partners in the Office of Human Resources provide consultation to department management regarding the effective application and interpretation of the Office of State Human Resources Reduction in Force Guidelines. The Talent Acquisition Partners analyze the applicable factors, perform an adverse impact analysis and if all criteria are met, work with the System Office and the Office of State Human Resources to seek approval of the layoff.

After the SHRA Layoff Request has been fully approved by OHR, and the System Office, and at least 30 calendar days before the effective date of the layoff, the director or department head must provide the following information, in writing, to the employee(s): the reason for the layoff; effective date of the layoff; notification that OHR will contact them to arrange for a layoff information session, including details on the University's policy on priority re-employment; completion of necessary forms; availability of aid in seeking other employment; eligibility to apply for unemployment insurance benefits; other benefits information for separating employees; the estimated amount of severance pay being requested, if any; and the SHRA Grievance Policy.

XIV. Equal Employment Opportunity Planning

A. Workforce/Labor Force Analysis

The University's SHRA Job Group Analysis is reported by race and sex as of October 31, 2023.¹

Comparison of Incumbency to Availability is calculated using the Two Standard Deviation Method with incumbency source data from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's ConnectCarolina system. The 2020 U.S. Census occupation data by race and sex was used to identify the percentage of minorities and females in the SHRA Incumbency v. Estimated Availability Analysis reports² as of October 31, 2023 compared to Recruitment Area Availability (Alamance, Chatham, Durham, Orange and Wake counties).

The University's recruitment area has experienced an increase in terms of population growth from 2020. The North Carolina Civilian Labor Force Estimates³ for the five counties in 2020 totaled 949,704 persons, and in 2023 it totaled 1,046,649 persons, which is a 10% percent increase from 2020.

These factors may reflect a change in the SHRA workforce/availability analysis. The availability data for the recruitment area is adjusted for the number of qualified employees in each race and sex category that are considered promotable, transferable, and trainable within the organization to determine the recruitment area availability.

¹ Report # 1 – SHRA Job Group Analysis

² Report # 2 – Incumbency v. Estimated Availability Analysis

³ North Carolina Civilian Labor Force Estimates – Not Seasonally Adjusted – NC Department of Commerce, Labor, & Economic Analysis Division (December 2020 and December 2023)

The comparison of the Staff Job Group Analysis to the recruitment area Estimated Availability is the basis for setting hiring objectives by occupation category/JCAT/job group (see attached UNC JCAT and Crosswalk.) Underrepresented classes are reviewed with departments when the availability percentage for the respective category exceeds the University's employment of minorities or females and when job openings are projected to become available during the period of the Plan. Any data arranged by the job group is presented to measure progress towards the University's commitment and for compliance with federal requirements. In addition, the evaluation of progress or determination of trends is critical to defining the need for corrective action.

B. Job Opening Estimates

Job opening projections take into account the University data on SHRA permanent staff openings filled as of October 31, 2023. SHRA openings filled for each of the last five years totaled, as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Filled</u>
2023	1,719
2022	1,985
2021	1,249
2020	942
2019	1,515

These openings were filled by promotions, lateral transfers, and new hires. In addition to the 1,117 new hires, the University processed 523 promotions (open competitive recruitment/changes from temporary to permanent job) and 79 lateral transfers.

C. Identification and Correction of Issues

Fluctuations in the number of openings filled each year can be attributed to changes in state-appropriated and federal research funding, and employee terminations. In the past, SHRA employee terminations have remained less than 20% of the SHRA staff workforce. However, the numbers still significantly impact campus. Terminations for SHRA employees totaled 937, which equaled 15% of the staff workforce, a decrease from the previous year. For the previous four years SHRA staff terminations totaled 1,114 in 2022; 983 in 2021; 774 in 2020; and 862 in 2019.

Retention has been impeded by the State's outdated pay ranges for the University's SHRA employees and costly benefits packages. Until ranges are fully updated and implemented, the University likely will continue to experience difficulty in the recruitment and retention of qualified persons, regardless of race, sex, veteran, or disability status.

The University continues to expand its outreach and recruitment efforts to increase the number of

minority, female, individuals with disabilities, and veteran applicants. See Posting and Advertising Permanent Staff Position Openings (pg. 26) and the B0170 UNC CH FY 2023 EEO Plan Report/Job Openings Estimate Report (attachment #5) for further details.

D. Attainment of Previous Year Placement Goals

Numerous circumstances can impact workforce projections by race, sex, and job group so that these are not always precise. The number of new positions that might be established and turnover in this dynamic labor market cause such projections to be estimates. In this context, percentage workforce goals to which the University is committed have been set where minorities and/or females are shown, by availability, to be under-represented in the University's workforce. The objective or "goal" is established to make good faith efforts that would result in an increase in the number of minorities or females in the workplace that equals or exceeds the number of minorities or females that are estimated to be available to work within the identified positions. These goals are shown in the Plan's Report #2 Incumbency v. Availability Analysis, and Report #3 Placement Goals, for occupations in which underutilization occurs, as of October 31, 2023. The percentage goals reflect the percent availability for the respective under-represented group in the respective job group. No goal is shown where the University's staff workforce in the respective job group already exceeds availability as identified by the availability study.

Based on an analysis of 2023 and 2024 EEO State Plan - Placement Goals, the Plan reflects continued and attained Placement Goals as follows:

Minorities in Job Groups

- 4A – Academic Affairs Prof.
- 4J – Health Science Professionals
- 7B – Skilled Craftsperson

Previous Year's Goals Attained

- 3C – Administrative Prof. Assoc.
- 4F – Facilities Prof.
- 6B – Technology Tech/Paraprof.
- 6E – Health Science Tech/Paraprof
- 6F – Environmental Tech/Paraprof
- 8A – Service/Maintenance Supervisor

Females in Job Groups

- 4G – Information Technology Prof.
- 4L – Athletic Affairs Prof.
- 5B – Administrative/Office Support Supervisors, Leads, Staff
- 6B – Technology Tech/Paraprof.
- 7B - Skilled Craftsperson

Previous Year's Goals Attained

4K – Environment Prof.

6F - Environment Tech/Paraprof

8B – Service/Maintenance

It is important to note that OSHR's B0170 UNC CH FY 2023 EEO Plan Report/Job Openings Estimate Report, which is pulled from Data Mart, represents a net increase in employment which does not include placements of underutilized groups that maintain their current representation levels.

See Attachment 1 for the UNC System Office Job Group Listings and Job Group/Occupational Classifications Crosswalk.

XV. Specific Provisions Regarding Equal Employment Opportunity for Individuals with Disabilities and Protected Veterans

Purpose

The Staff Equal Employment Opportunity Program for Individuals with Disabilities and Protected Veterans serves as a working document for taking affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities and protected veterans. In general, provisions that are unique for ensuring equal employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities and protected veterans are set forth in this section. In some instances when general provisions governing equal employment opportunity action encompass females, minorities, individuals with disabilities, and protected veterans, the provisions appear in early section of the Equal Employment Opportunity Plan.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs published a Final Rule in the Federal Register that makes changes to the regulations implementing the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act, as amended (VEVRAA) at 41 CFR Part 60-300, and Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Section 503) at 41 CFR Part 60-741, effective March 24, 2014. The changes were enacted to strengthen the provisions of the regulations to aid contractors in their efforts to effectively recruit, hire, and retain protected veterans and individuals with disabilities. In accordance with the changes to the federal regulations for protected veterans and individuals with disabilities, the University of North Carolina has an obligation to set an annual benchmark for veterans and utilization goals for individuals with disabilities that serve as an equal opportunity objective. The University will apply good faith efforts to make these objectives attainable.

While current federal regulations have established an employment objective for protected veterans, based on the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act (VEVRAA), which equals a benchmark of 5.7% for protected veterans for the 2023 State EEO Plan. In addition, federal

regulations also established a utilization goal for qualified Individuals with Disability of 7.0% based on Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act.

The University continued its efforts to increase the self-identification of individuals with disabilities by providing training to employees with current and clear information on the definition of “disability,” and the purpose of self-identification, specifically the University’s need, use, and confidentiality of the data. These efforts have helped to increase the number of SHRA employees that have self-identified as having a disability.

The University continues to promote the voluntary self-identification of individuals with disabilities through training and targeted outreach. Due to these continuous efforts, the University has made significant progress towards increasing the total number of employees who have self-identified.

Both the hiring benchmark and utilization as goal serve as quantifiable methods by which the University can measure the progress and effectiveness of our veteran and individuals with disabilities outreach, recruitment, and equal opportunity efforts.

Policy Statement

The University of North Carolina will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of a physical or mental disability or because they are a protected veteran in regard to any position for which the employee or applicant for employment is otherwise qualified. The University agrees to take affirmative action to employ, advance in employment, and otherwise treat qualified individuals with disabilities and qualified veterans without discrimination based upon their disability or veteran’s status in all employment practices. The University will recruit, hire, train, and promote persons in all job titles, and ensure that all other employment actions are administered, without regard to disability or veteran’s status; and ensure that all employment decisions are based only on valid job requirements.

In furtherance of this policy, the University prohibits retaliatory action against any employee or applicant for employment who makes a charge of employment discrimination, testifies, assists, or participates in any manner at a hearing, proceeding, or investigation of discrimination in an employment complaint.

Review of Employment Processes

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has reviewed its employment processes and determined that its present procedures are careful, thorough, and systematic in their consideration of the job qualifications of applicants and employees who are qualified veterans and individuals with disabilities. Job analysis is typically necessary only when there is a change in the duties and responsibilities that impact the qualifications and competencies required, such as for positions with low turnover. However, if the need arises the University analyzes specific job qualifications to ensure that the qualification requirements do not tend to screen out individuals with disabilities or qualified veterans. This analysis is completed on an individual basis should an individual with disabilities or qualified veterans be excluded from an open position. All qualification requirements approved by

the University are job-related or consistent with business necessity and the safe performance of the job.

Review of Physical and Mental Qualifications

The University reviews the physical and mental job qualification standards to ensure that, to the extent qualifications standards tend to screen out qualified individuals with disabilities or qualified protected veterans, they are job related for the position in question and are consistent with business necessity. All qualification requirements approved are job related and consistent with business necessity.

Reasonable Accommodation to Physical and Mental Limitations

Per the Policy on Accommodations, the University provides reasonable accommodations individuals with disabilities unless doing so would impose an undue hardship or change the essential functions of the position. The Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office, in consultation with other University offices, is responsible for ensuring that appropriate accommodations are available for employees or applicants for employment who self-identify.

Harassment Prevention

The University has procedures to ensure that its employees with disabilities are not harassed because of their disability. Employees with complaints alleging discrimination because of their disability and/or veterans' status are encouraged to use the Policy on Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment and Related Misconduct and grievance procedure(s) currently in effect in the University.

Faculty, staff and/or applicants should address their concerns to:

Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office
214 West Cameron Ave, CB #9160
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
(919) 966-3576

External Dissemination of the Policy

The University undertakes appropriate outreach and positive recruitment activities. All recruiting sources, including state employment agencies, state vocational rehabilitation agencies, organizations of or for individuals with disabilities and veteran service organizations are informed of the University's policy concerning the employment of qualified individuals with disabilities and qualified protected veterans and have been advised to actively recruit and refer qualified persons for job opportunities.

Internal Dissemination of the Policy

The University disseminates this policy internally as follows:

1. All employees are advised annually of the University's policy and of their role in implementing it;

2. Inform all employees and prospective employees of its commitment to engage in equal employment opportunity to increase employment opportunities for qualified individuals with disabilities and qualified protected veterans. The policy is included in employee orientation and management training programs; and
3. Applicants and employees who believe they are qualified individuals with a disability, or who are a qualified protected veteran are invited to identify themselves if they wish to benefit under the equal employment opportunity program.

Audit and Reporting System

The University has designed and implemented an audit and reporting system that will:

- Measure the effectiveness of the University's equal employment opportunity program;
- Indicate any need for remedial action;
- Determine the degree to which the University's objectives have been attained;
- Determine whether employees identified as persons with a disability and qualified protected veterans have had an opportunity to participate in all university sponsored educational, training, recreational, and social events;
- Establish and communicate hiring objectives when the population of veterans and individuals with disabilities in a job group is significantly less than the hiring benchmark;
- Measure the University's compliance with the equal employment opportunity program's specific obligations and;
- Take necessary action to bring the program into compliance where the program is found to be deficient.

Responsibility for Implementation

The Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office has overall responsibility for implementation of the University's equal opportunity and affirmative action programs. University senior administrators, supervisors, and managers share responsibility for implementation of the Plan.

Training

All personnel involved in the recruitment, screening, selection, promotion, disciplinary, and related processes shall be trained to ensure that the commitments in the University's Plan and programs are implemented.

Outreach

It is the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's intention to establish appropriate hiring objectives in order to improve the representation of veterans and individuals with disabilities where disparities exist. Continued outreach activities for employees include the following:

- Posting the Staff Openings List daily on the on-line application system (People Admin) at [Careers at Carolina - UNC Human Resources](#).
- Briefing sessions held with recruiting sources;
- Participating in Career Day programs offered at community colleges and technical schools, or at Job/Career Fairs sponsored by recruiting sources, community organizations, and other area employers;
- Periodically contacting community organizations such as the Division of Employment Security of the Department of Commerce, and Orange County Chamber of Commerce, as well as organizations for veterans and individuals with disabilities.
- Periodically contacting and meeting with representatives from leading Black, Hispanic, American Indian, and women's organizations in the University's recruitment area (Alamance, Chatham, Durham, Orange and Wake counties);
- Attending and networking at professional meetings including Chamber of Commerce and Triangle Industry Liaison Group (TILG) meetings;
- Providing the [Careers at Carolina - UNC Human Resources](#) URL to other agencies, such as the Division of Employment Security of the Department of Commerce, the University of North Carolina-System Office, and the Office of State Human Resources to establish links between the websites.
- Providing collateral materials such as a recruitment trifold and marketing items to agencies, minority groups, and community organizations. Recommending placing advertisements through Graystone Advertising Group, as appropriate, in diversity recruiting sources such as the *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* and the *INSIGHT into Diversity*, as well as cross-posting on Indeed.com partner diversity sites, circaworks.com, insidehighered.com and hercjobs.org;
- Contacting Business Relations Representative from the NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Orange, Chatham, and Lee Counties to develop a referral and follow-up process for applicants from this program. Maintain regular contacts with other representatives of vocational rehabilitation.

SHRA EEO PLAN WORKFORCE REPORTS – Data as of October 31, 2023

Report # 1 – SHRA Job Group Analysis

Report # 2 - SHRA Incumbency v. Availability Analysis

Report # 3 - SHRA Placement Goals

Report # 4 – SHRA Workforce Analysis

SHRA EEO PLAN ATTACHMENTS

- #1. Occupational Classifications – UNC System Office Job Group Classifications and Crosswalk
- #2. Race and Ethnicity Descriptions
- #3. Statistical Evaluation (Employment Activity)
- #4. HRDM - Staffing Activity Report (SHRA Only) EEO Quantitative Analysis
- #5. B0170 UNC CH FY 2023 EEO Plan Report/Job Openings Estimate Report
- #6. OSHR Reduction in Force Policy