



January 17, 2025

Dear UNC Retirement Plan Participant,

The University of North Carolina (The University) is committed to providing you with competitive retirement benefits. You are our greatest investment, and we made enhancements to the retirement programs in 2024 to help you plan and save for a more secure tomorrow. These changes included the option for guaranteed payments for life with the addition of the UNC Target Date Models on November 7, 2024.

The UNC Target Date Models automatically manage your investments, making it easier for you to stay on track with your retirement goals while serving as the programs' new default investment option.¹ One of the features of these new models, unlike the Vanguard Target Date Funds/Trusts, requires that participants be fully invested in the UNC Target Date Model, so having a percentage of your investments allocated to these new models cannot be achieved using the model portfolios. Other features included lower cost funds/trusts and a more diversified mix of investments using existing Vanguard Funds/Trusts and guaranteed annual returns from the TIAA Traditional Annuity allocation. The models use a disciplined investment approach that becomes more conservative as you near retirement. The University's long-term advisor, CAPTRUST, has been engaged to professionally manage the UNC Target Date Models.

You are receiving this letter because you have been identified as a participant who had a partial investment in the Vanguard Target Date Funds/Trusts and your entire plan account(s) balance was automatically subscribed to a UNC Target Date Model based on the year you turn age 65 unless you opted out of the models and chose an alternate investment option(s) prior to November 7, 2024.

The University along with TIAA, our retirement service provider created multiple communications regarding this change asking for you to review the information carefully to learn about the changes, steps you can take and key dates. These communications include:

- **UNC announcement postcard** mailed on September 23, 2024, to bring awareness that information was coming about the new target date model service
- **The UNC System PIER newsletter** article posted on October 25, 2024
- Communications posted to the **UNC System retirement website** under IMPORTANT NOTICES <https://myapps.northcarolina.edu/hr/benefits-leave/retirement/orp/> and posted to **tiaa.org/unc**
- **UNC Target Date Model Transition Guide** sent on October 7, 2024, based on your TIAA communication preference (email or U.S. mail) that provided all the details of the changes, what to expect if you held a balance in the Vanguard Target Date Funds/Trusts, and updating your investment choices if you do not want to use the new model portfolio.
- **Information webinars** held on October 17 and 18, 2024 with the ability to listen on-demand at your convenience.

WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

Please note that as part of the transition, you were assigned to a model based on the year you turn age 65, so no action is required on your part if you want to keep this model portfolio. You can personalize your model by completing a short questionnaire about your expected retirement age and risk tolerance to receive a recommended model that more closely aligns with your retirement preferences. You can also review and select any other available model. To personalize, log into your TIAA account at **tiaa.org** and select **Personalize it**.

However, **if you prefer to opt out of the UNC Target Date Models**, you can unsubscribe at any time by logging in to your account at [tiaa.org](https://www.tiaa.org) and following these instructions:

- Click on the plan that you want to unsubscribe from.
- Scroll down and select *Stop using UNC Target Date Model*.
- To proceed, you must answer the question ***Are you sure you want to choose your own investments?***
- Proceed through the unsubscription process.
- You will need to choose your own investments to build a new portfolio by changing how your existing assets and future contributions will be allocated.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are enrolled in multiple UNC Retirement plans, be sure that you review each plan where you had a partial investment in the Vanguard Target Date Funds/Trusts as you will need to unsubscribe for each plan you have in the models.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about the UNC Target Date Models and how they can help you plan and save for your retirement, you can review the transition guide which is located at [tiaa.org/unc](https://www.tiaa.org/unc) or on the UNC System retirement website. You may also call TIAA at **800-842-2252**, weekdays, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET or schedule a retirement advice and education session with TIAA at [tiaa.org/schedulenow](https://www.tiaa.org/schedulenow) or with CAPTRUST at [captrustatwork.com](https://www.captrustatwork.com).

Sincerely,



Ashley Nicklis
Associate Vice President
of University Benefits & Retirement



Brian Usischon
Vice President
for Human Resource Services

1 CAPTRUST is an independent registered investment advisor that has been chosen by your employer. The University has delegated the responsibility for managing and adjusting the UNC Target Date Models to CAPTRUST. For employees enrolled in the UNC Target Date Models, this is done on a discretionary basis, meaning CAPTRUST, in consultation with The University, will adjust the asset allocation strategy over time to follow the long-term investment strategy of the model.