In February 2011, UNC launched ecrt (Effort Certification and Reporting Technology), a new Effort Reporting management system that replaces the old “PARS” system. This launch represents a major milestone in increased efficiency and compliance for managing effort reporting at Carolina.

ecrt is a web-based technology that intuitively guides certifiers and administrators through the various facets of the effort reporting and certification process on a periodic basis. It is designed to simplify and standardize our effort certification process, as well as provide a variety of tools and reports for departmental and administration needs.

Departments began the pre-certification review period on February 14, at which time their designated effort coordinators were able to review their employees’ effort cards and make appropriate changes and add notes. The first ecrt Certification Period began on February 28th and the certifiers (individuals authorized to electronically certify effort reports) received an email providing them with a link to take them directly to their current effort card for certification. At UNC-CH, all PIs, Faculty, Staff, and Students who work on sponsored projects are subject to UNC’s Effort Certification policy and will be required to certify their effort.

The first Certification Period includes the Total Professional Effort for:

- EPA employees Period of Performance: July 01 – December 31, 2010 (M01-M06)
- SPA employees Period of Performance: September 13 – December 19, 2010 (B07-B13)

After the first certification period, EPA employees will continue to certify their effort every six months and SPA employees will certify quarterly. All affected employees will receive an automated email at the start of each Certification period and will have approximately 30 days to complete their certification.

Self Certifiers can access their effort cards for certification from the link provided on their email or by clicking on this link: https://ecrt.unc.edu. All questions or comments related to effort certification and reporting may be sent to ecrt_help@unc.edu.