

**PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR UNDERGRADUATE & LICENSURE-ONLY STUDENTS**

**Mission Statement**

The primary mission of the Donald R. Watson School of Education at the University of NC Wilmington is to develop highly competent professionals to serve in teaching and other educational leadership roles in southeastern NC, the state, and nation. The Watson School is committed to achieving excellence in teacher and administrator preparation in all of its programs. To realize the mission of the Watson School, thorough grounding in theoretical and empirical bodies of knowledge is provided, the educator's capacity to utilize knowledge to improve schools and enhance learning by children and youth is developed, and commitment to personal, professional, and institutional development is fostered.

**Programs Offered**

***Majors and Licensure available in:***

- \*Education of Young Children (B-K)
- \*Elementary Education (K-6)
- \*Middle Grades Education (6-9)
- \*Special Education – General Curriculum (K-12)
- \*Special Education – Adapted Curriculum (K-12)

***Licensure for grades 9-12 available in:***

- \*English
- \*Mathematics
- \*Science (Biology, Chemistry, Geology)
- \*Social Studies (History, Political Science, Sociology, Anthropology)

***Licensure for grades K-12 available in:***

- \*Music
- \*Physical Education
- \*French
- \*Spanish

**Academic Concentrations**

Elementary, middle, and physical education majors are required to complete an Academic Concentration. See worksheets at [www.uncw.edu/ed/advising](http://www.uncw.edu/ed/advising)

Elementary Education students (18 hours required):

- Language Arts
- Math & Technology
- Fine Arts
- International Studies
- Social Studies
- Science & Health
- English as a Second Language
- Behavioral Studies

Middle Grades Students (24 hours required):

- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Science

**Requirements for Admission to the Watson School of Education**

Students **must** be admitted into the WSE in order to take courses numbered above EDN/SED 303.

Most students apply at the end of the first semester of their sophomore year in order to be admitted prior to their junior year. Transfer students are encouraged to take the Praxis I prior to enrolling at UNCW if possible and then apply to the WSE as soon as the other requirements listed below are met.

Secondary (9-12) students should apply for admission prior to the fall semester of their junior year (i.e., May 1 or August 1 application deadlines) and plan to begin SEC coursework beginning the fall semester of their junior year.

- \* Completion of ENG 101/201 or 103, one math, and one natural science (life or physical) with lab with grades of "C" or better.
- \* All students *except* students seeking Secondary (9-12) Teacher Licensure: Completion of EDN 200 "Teacher, School, and Society" and EDNL 200 with a grade of "C" or better.
- \* Completion of a minimum of 45 semester hours. A cumulative grade point average of 2.700 or better (4.0 scale) on work attempted at UNCW. Transfer students must have at least 12 hours completed at UNCW and also have a cumulative GPA of a 2.700.
- \* Passing scores on teacher education entry tests (Praxis I) specified and mandated by the Board of Education of the State of NC.
  - o Passing Scores for Praxis I: Reading= 176, Writing= 173, Math= 173, or a combined total score of 522
  - o Praxis registration information: Contact UNCW's Testing Center to register, 962-7444 or [www.ets.org/praxis](http://www.ets.org/praxis)
  - o Students **must** request their Praxis scores be sent to UNCW, even if the test is taken on the UNCW campus.
  - o Praxis Information is available online at: <http://www.uncw.edu/ed/advising/praxis.html>

**Exemption policy for Praxis I based on SAT or ACT Scores:**

Students with SAT scores of 1100 or higher can be exempt from taking Praxis I. Students with SAT scores of less than 1100, but with SAT scores of 550 or better on Verbal can be exempt from Praxis I Reading and Writing, SAT of 550 or better on Math can be exempt from Praxis I Math.

Students with an ACT combined score of 24 or higher can be exempt from taking Praxis I. Students with ACT scores of less than 24, but with ACT scores of 24 or better on English can be exempt from Praxis I Reading and Writing, ACT of 24 or better on Math can be exempt from Praxis I Math.

- \* **Application Process:** Students **must** submit a completed application in order to be admitted into the WSE. Admission decisions are made at the end of the spring, summer II, and fall semesters. Applications are due by the last day of classes each term, and are available online on SEAPORT.
- \* Students should ensure that all requirements listed above are met **prior** to the time of anticipated admittance.

**Field Experiences**

One of the strengths of the Teacher Education Program at UNCW is involvement in a variety of field-based activities. These field experience requirements include individual and small group instruction in public school settings, testing and tutoring in the Education Lab, and working in community programs. Since field experiences of one to three hours per week are required in virtually every education methods class, it is vital for students to carefully plan their academic courses, as well as work, family, and extracurricular schedules, in order to make the necessary accommodations to ensure success in the program.

## Standards of Professional Conduct

**Preamble:** Educators are entrusted with the care and education of learners at all levels; therefore, they must adhere to a high standard of personal character and conduct in order to serve as positive role models for pupils, families/caregivers, and the community. Professional responsibility begins with a prospective educator's initial association with the WSE and continues after their admission as a candidate for licensure. All students associated with the WSE, prior to and after admission to the school, must accept the responsibility for adhering to high ethical standards, as they make a commitment to serve pupils, schools, and their profession. Commitment to ethical and professional standards is expected to continue as candidates are licensed and assume their professional roles. All policies, procedures and regulations contained in the *UNCW Code of Student Life* also apply.

The WSE Standards of Professional Conduct incorporate the following:

- the Code of Ethics for NC Educators (adopted by the NC State Board of Education, June 5, 1997; [www.ncpublicschools.org](http://www.ncpublicschools.org));
- the Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for NC Educators, effective April 1, 1998 (Section 0.600; [www.ncpublicschools.org/teacher\\_education/conductcode.htm](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/teacher_education/conductcode.htm)); and
- the WSE professional expectations as identified in the Performance Evaluation Scale exit criteria.

Adherence to these professional standards is expected during all aspects of students' matriculation and career with the WSE, including practica and field activities. Violations of these Standards of Professional Conduct may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to withdrawal from courses (including those that require field experiences and practica) and/or dismissal from the teacher education program. Students are also subject to discipline for misconduct as stated in the *UNCW Code of Student Life*.

### **Commitment to the Education Profession**

1. Understands, respects and applies principles of teaching and learning and content knowledge relevant to the area of licensure;
2. Pursues growth and development in the theory, principles, and practices of the profession and uses knowledge and skills appropriately to improve the educational opportunities, experiences, and performance of student learners and colleagues.
3. Demonstrates appropriate behaviors, attitudes and skills related to the conduct of a professional educator, such as the following:
  - attire appropriate to the setting, punctuality, attendance,
  - professional interactions with peers, faculty, staff, and administrators as well as field-based personnel,
  - development and use of appropriate professional language in oral and written communications, and
  - adherence to institutional policies and procedures.
4. Provides accurate and truthful credentials and information regarding admission, requirements for licensure, and in all interactions with faculty and staff.

### **Commitment to Schools and School Systems**

1. Contributes to a classroom climate conducive to learning.
2. Promotes optimal learning opportunities for all those engaged in the educational setting on-campus, on-line or in field experiences and/or practica.
3. Acknowledges and supports diverse views of students, parents and legal guardians, and colleagues as they work collaboratively to shape educational goals, policies, and decisions; does not proselytize for personal viewpoints that are outside the scope of professional practice.
4. Participates positively, collegially and cooperatively in campus-based coursework, school/community-based work and in other professional decision-making processes.
5. When acting in a professional capacity:
  - A. Acts fairly, consistently, and prudently in the exercise of authority.
  - B. Protects the rights of others in the educational setting, and does not retaliate, coerce, or intentionally intimidate others in the exercise of their rights protected by law.
6. Acts and speaks respectfully in educational settings as a representative of UNCW, the WSE and its programs.

### **Commitment to Students**

1. Supports, acknowledges and respects diversity among individuals in all educational settings.
2. Sets high expectations for all students and provides various methods and opportunities for students to achieve goals.
3. Protects students from conditions within the educator's control that circumvent learning or are detrimental to the health and safety of students.
4. Manages student behavior fairly and consistently. Influences student behavior in positive ways while maintaining students' dignity.
5. Assesses students and assigns grades based upon the students' demonstrated competency, merit, and performance, without regard to personal factors that are irrelevant to the program involved.
6. Holds in confidence information learned in professional practice and contained in educational records except when disclosure is required by pertinent regulations or statutes.
7. Treats all students with respect and maintains an appropriate relationship with students in all settings. The educator will not commit any abusive act or sexual exploitation with, to, or in the presence of a student, whether or not that student is or has been under the care or supervision of that educator, as defined below:
  - A. Speech that is considered abusive, profane, vulgar, demeaning or obscene
  - B. Acts of child abuse, as defined by law
  - C. Any provision, sale or supply of alcohol or drugs
  - D. Any act of harassment based on sex, race, religion, disability, age, and national origin as defined by policy and law and
  - E. Any intentional solicitation, encouragement, whether written, verbal, or physical, or consummation of a romantic or physical relationship with a P-12 student, or any sexual contact with a P-12 student. The term "romantic relationship" shall include dating any P-12 student.