



WATSON SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON

MASTER OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

The Master of School Administration (M.S.A.) program is comprised of four thematic units addressing School Leader as Learner and Learned; School Leader as Conceptualizer, Synthesizer, and Inventor; School Leader as Decision Maker, Problem Solver, and Assessor; and School Leader as Planner, Operations Guide, Evaluator, and Communicator. The graduate program incorporates the conceptual framework which is common to all teacher education programs at UNCW: The Watson School of Education develops highly competent professionals to serve in educational leadership roles.

Program Objectives

Upon completion of the School Administration program, graduates will be professionals who:

1. Foster the collaborative creation and maintenance of a school vision based on community values and guided by empirical evidence of effective practices.
2. Systematically and consistently evaluate student performance and modify practices as necessary.
3. Systematically and consistently evaluate teacher performance and modify practices as necessary.
4. Establish a collegial and supportive school culture in which leadership positions are allocated equitably and on the basis of demonstrated knowledge and skill.
5. Encourage respectful relationships between and among all of the school's constituents – students, faculty, administration, families, and the larger community.
6. Are responsive to the concerns of parents and the larger community, and to the diversity and pluralism of society generally.
7. Work to create and maintain a safe and orderly organization in which instruction and learning can be achieved.
8. Are versed in organizational analysis and possess the skills to identify areas of strength and areas in need of improvement.
9. Make decisions and allocate resources rationally on the basis of evidence and/or demonstrated need.
10. Act with integrity and fairness in dealings with students, faculty, staff, and the larger learning community.
11. Apply appropriate technology to support achievement and effective leadership in a school setting.
12. Lead in the selection, evaluation, and implementation of effective curricula.

Important Information

- A. The Master of School Administration program requires that students have North Carolina "A" level licensure and a minimum of three years of teaching experience prior to admission. The admissions process also will include an interview with a committee of Watson School of Education faculty and public school personnel. Final selection will be based upon consideration of test scores, academic record, writing samples, recommendation, and interview performance. All applications are due to the Graduate School by February 1st.
- B. The School Leaders Licensure Assessment test is required in order to be recommended for advanced licensure. UNCW must be listed as a score recipient.
- C. Students earning the M.S.A. must complete a comprehensive performance-based portfolio and defense or complete a thesis and thesis defense.
- D. Fall-Spring or Spring-Fall internships of 500 hours each are required. Students are expected to complete internships in two different levels in public school settings. All internships and county assignments are determined by the MSA Coordinator.
NOTE: Fulltime teachers are still required to meet the internship expectations.
- E. The M.S.A. program is authorized by the Principal Fellows Commission to serve students selected for the North Carolina Principal Fellows Program. The Principal Fellows Program provides two-year scholarship loans of \$30,000 annually to students who enroll in and complete a full-time program. Information may be obtained by calling (919) 962-4575.
- F. Students must meet with their advisors during the fall and spring semesters to plan program coursework and to receive their registration information. Prerequisites and corequisites for courses are listed in the *UNCW Graduate Catalogue*.
- G. Selected courses require additional field experiences.
- H. During the fall and spring semesters, graduate courses are offered in the late afternoon and evening time periods. During the summer, graduate courses may be offered during Summer Session I or II.
- I. Individuals may take up to 6 semester hours as non-degree students provided they meet the admissions requirements. These hours may be applied toward the degree upon acceptance as a degree-seeking student. A maximum of six semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred from another accredited institution in partial fulfillment of the total hours required for the master's degree.
- J. A graduate student has five calendar years to complete his or her degree program. The five-year period begins with the student's first term of work after formal admission to a degree-granting program. Work completed as a non-degree student does not initiate the five-year period for completing a degree program. Students must be enrolled in the term in which they complete their graduate work or are scheduled to receive their degree.
- K. Applications for graduation are available online at www.uncw.edu/grad.
- L. Graduate assistantships are available in the Watson School of Education. The positions provide employment for 20 hours per week working as research assistants with faculty members or as assistants in the Ed Lab, Technology Lab, or Curriculum Materials Center. For additional information, contact the Graduate Coordinator (Associate Dean for Academic Programs) in the Watson School of Education at (910) 962-4142.
- M. Students who have earned National Board status may request a waiver of three hours of elective credit by providing appropriate documentation (i.e., copy of NBPTS score report or ACE transcript) to the WSE Graduate Coordinator.

University of North Carolina at Wilmington is committed to and will provide equality of educational and employment opportunity for all persons regardless of race, sex, age, color, gender, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliation, marital status, veteran status or relationship to other university constituents – except where sex, age, or ability represent bona fide educational or occupational qualifications or where marital status is a statutorily established eligibility criterion for state-funded employee benefit programs.

Watson School of Education
University of North Carolina Wilmington

MASTER OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

The program leading to the Master of School Administration (M.S.A.) provides advanced professional training for individuals holding, or qualified to hold, North Carolina Class “A” teacher licensure in at least one area of education. The 42-semester hour program is comprised of conceptual and programmatic studies, practica and internship, and a thesis/ non-thesis option. Students selecting the thesis option will earn 45 hours.

Based upon the view of the professional as a decision-maker and reflective practitioner, the program addresses the needs for conceptual and procedural bases for decision-making and specific alternatives within the student’s anticipated area of professional practice.

Program of Study

Full-Time Option

Fall Semester, Year One

EDN 582	Organizational Theory and Comprehensive Leadership	(3)
EDN 514	Technology for School Administrators	(3)
EDN 580	Fundamental Issues	(3)
EDN 513	Leadership for Learning	(3)

Spring Semester, Year One

EDN 568	Educational Program Design and Evaluation	(3)
EDN 515	Curriculum for School Leaders	(3)
EDN 512	Legal Issues and Policy as a Systemic Process	(3)
EDN 5XX	Elective	(3)

Fall Semester, Year Two

EDN 526	Essential Management Skills for School Leaders	(3)
EDN 570	Internship: Leadership Applications I	(6)
EDN 599	Thesis in Education (Optional)	(3)

Spring Semester, Year Two

EDN 571	Internship: Leadership Applications II	(6)
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EDN 566	Supervision & Teacher Evaluation	(3)
EDN 599	Thesis in Education (Optional)	(3)
Comprehensive Examination (for non-thesis students)		

Extended-Time Option

Fall and Spring Semesters, Year One

EDN 582	Organizational Theory and Comprehensive Leadership	(3)
EDN 514	Technology for School Administrators	(3)
EDN 515	Curriculum for School Leaders	(3)
EDN 512	Legal Issues and Policy as a Systemic Process	(3)

Fall and Spring Semesters, Year Two

EDN 580	Fundamental Issues	(3)
EDN 513	Leadership for Learning	(3)
EDN 568	Program Design	(3)
EDN 5XX	Elective	(3)

Fall and Spring Semesters, Year Three

EDN 526	Essential Management Skills for School Leaders	(3)
EDN 570	Internship: Leadership Applications I	(6)
EDN 571	Internship: Leadership Applications II	(6)
EDN 566	Supervision and Teacher Evaluation	(3)
EDN 599	Thesis in Education (Optional)	(6)

Comprehensive Examination (non-thesis students)

*Students may select the thesis or a non-thesis option. Those selecting the non-thesis option are required to take a comprehensive exam at the conclusion of the program.

NOTE: Non-thesis students are strongly discouraged from taking more than 9 hours during each semester of internship.

Watson School of Education **Add-on Licensure in School Administration**

Eligibility Criteria:

To be eligible for consideration for the add-on licensure option, candidates must have:

1. A master's degree from a regionally accredited university
2. A minimum of three years of teaching or other professional education experience
3. A current North Carolina educator's license

Application Process:

To apply for the add-on licensure program, candidates must complete the following:

1. An application for non-degree status in the UNCW Graduate School

http://www.uncw.edu/grad_info/index.htm

A written statement of interest and description of experience as an educator, and copy of current North Carolina licensure (enclose with application)

2. Interview with M.S.A. faculty

Admissions decisions are based upon review of all three components listed above.

Completed application packets must be received in the Graduate School by February 1st for summer and fall admission, October 15th for spring.

Program of Study:

Candidates must complete 12 hours of coursework beyond the initial master's degree from selected courses in School Administration. Courses will be identified in consultation with the advisor based upon the candidate's background, previous graduate work, and teaching/leadership experiences. Courses may be selected from:

EDN 582	Organizational Theory and Comprehensive Leadership	(3)
EDN 566	Supervision and Teacher Evaluation	(3)
EDN 513	Leadership for Learning	(3)
EDN 568	Educational Program Design and Evaluation	(3)
EDN 512	Legal Issues and Policy as a Systemic Process	(3)
EDN 526	Essential Management Skills for School Leaders	(3)
EDN 515	Curriculum for School Leaders	(3)
EDN 514	Technology for School Administrators	(3)

NOTE: Other courses to complete the 12 hours may be approved by the advisor.

In addition to the 12 hours of coursework, candidates must complete the M.S.A. program requirement for internship. The internship requires completion of a two-semester sequence of courses in two different county and grade level experiences in public school settings designed to complement prior teaching and/or leadership assignments. **NOTE:** Fulltime teachers are still required to meet the internship expectations.

EDN 570	Internship: Leadership Applications I	(6)
EDN 571	Internship: Leadership Applications II	(6)

Candidates also must complete and defend a comprehensive portfolio and pass the licensure examination required by the state of North Carolina: School Leaders Licensure Assessment. (UNCW must be listed as a score recipient.)

Licensure Recommendation:

Upon completion of the program of study and receipt of passing SLLA scores, candidates should schedule an appointment with Dr. Carol Chase Thomas, Associate Dean for Academic Programs (910-962-4142), to complete the paperwork for add-on licensure.