Some students pursue graduate degrees at North Carolina Central University’s H. M. Michaux Jr. School of Education to advance their careers, while others do so to launch an entirely new career. Whatever your motivation may be, the School of Education is here to help you pursue your dreams.

The Master of School Administration (MSA) Program at NCCU is designed to develop culturally responsive school leaders who promote social justice and who dedicate themselves to the well-being of marginalized communities. The course of study for the MSA degree prepares leaders academically and professionally to advance the consciousness of social responsibility in a diverse and global society. Coursework emphasizes core functions of high-achieving schools and the importance of challenging assumptions that are socio-culturally, cognitively, ethically, economically and politically adverse to students. MSA candidates are able to rebuild those assumptions into positive educational experiences and outcomes for students. The program provides the contextual experiences needed to bridge the gap between research, theory, development and practice. The MSA Program is aligned with the mission of NCCU, the goals of UNC Tomorrow, North Carolina Standards for School Executives, the Educational Leadership Constituent Council and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education — all of which serve as the template for the program’s design. The MSA Program offers a variety of tracks to accommodate the diverse needs of all candidates:

- Principal Fellows (full-time, 24 months)
- Traditional MSA/1st Master’s Degree (full or part-time)
- 2nd Master’s Degree Fast-Track (full-time, 18 months, DPI Stipend)
- 2nd Master’s Degree, Traditional Track (part-time, 24-36 months)
- School Administration—Licensure Only

UNCONDITIONAL ADMISSION

A student holding a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution is eligible for unconditional admission under the following provisions:

- 2.5 GPA overall at the undergraduate level (3.0 GPA required in the undergraduate major)
- 3.0 GPA at the graduate level (for 2nd degree-seeking candidates)
- Successful GRE scores (for degree-seeking candidates)
- Three years successful public school teaching experience (or other educator role) and a Class A teaching license.
- Two letters of recommendation from persons qualified to assess professional performance and comment on potential leadership abilities. One letter of recommendation should be from the current principal or supervisor.

Applications are available at http://www.nccu.edu/admissionsandaid/applynow.cfm

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http://web.nccu.edu/soe/about/graduate_office/GradOffice_index.htm
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MSA Graduate Program Track Descriptions

The Principal Fellows MSA Track: is a competitive, merit-based scholarship loan program that is funded by the North Carolina General Assembly. The NC Principal Fellows Program assists selected individuals to prepare for a career in school administration (i.e., assistant principal or principal). Each scholarship loan will provide funding for two years to support students who enroll in and complete a full-time, two-year master’s degree program in school administration at one of the participating institutions of the University of North Carolina. Recipients of the scholarship loan must be willing to practice at an approved site in North Carolina as a full-time administrator for four years (two years for each year of funding) or repay in cash. The Principal Fellow Track is 45 credit hours, which requires 30 hours in the major (eight content courses and two research courses), three elective hours, and 12 hours in a field-based, full-time internship and seminar that is completed in 24 months. The year-long field-based internship must be completed during the fall and spring semesters. For additional information, contact the NC Principal Fellows Program at 919-962-4575.

Traditional MSA Track (1st Master’s Degree): is designed for individuals seeking their first master’s degree. It is 45 credit hours, which requires 30 hours in the major (eight content courses and two research courses), three elective hours and 12 hours in a field-based, full-time or part-time internship and seminar. The year-long field-based internship must be completed during the fall and spring semesters. Candidates can transfer up to six hours (two classes) into the program toward the required credit hours. This track is typically completed in 24 to 36 months, depending on semester enrollment. Candidates who enroll in full-time study (nine credit hours during each semester enrolled) are eligible for the DPI stipend during the internship.

2nd MSA Degree Fast Track: is designed for individuals who currently hold a master's degree. It is a 33 credit-hour track that requires 24 hours in the major (six content courses; two research courses) and nine hours in a field-based, full time internship and seminar. Candidates can transfer up to six hours (two classes) into the program toward the required credit hours. This track must be completed in 18 months with full-time enrollment during the fall and spring (and possibly summer) semesters (nine credit hours per semester). Candidates who complete this track begin their coursework in January and graduate in May of the following year, and are eligible for the DPI stipend during the internship.

2nd Degree Traditional Track: is designed for individuals who currently hold a master’s degree. It is a 33 credit-hour track that requires 24 hours in the major (six content courses; two research courses) and nine hours in a field-based, full time or part-time internship and seminar. Candidates can transfer up to six hours (two classes) into the program toward the required credit hours. This track differs from the 2nd Degree Fast Track in that the candidates are not required to enroll in full-time study. This track is typically completed in 24 to 36 months, depending on semester enrollment. Courses can be taken during the fall, spring, and summer semesters. Candidates who are interested in full-time enrollment should review the course sequence for the 2nd Degree Fast Track.

Programs for the preparation of elementary and secondary teachers at the master’s level and for the preparation of school counselors, school administrators, supervisors, special education teachers, and media coordinators at the master’s level are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Teacher licensure programs are accredited by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. The program in Communication Disorders is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. Programs in Counselor Education are accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The Orientation and Mobility Program in Special Education is accredited by the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP).