

School Leadership Programs

Masters in School Administration (MSA)



Fact Sheet

North Carolina School Executive Leadership Program

The MSA is a hybrid program in partnership with WRESA (Western Region Education Service Alliance). Our goals are to develop school leaders oriented toward equity and social justice, student centered outcomes, continuous improvement, and collaboration. We prepare P-12 school leaders throughout NC in alignment with NC Standards for School Executives and National Educational Leadership Preparation Standards.

Courses are primarily online* with the exception of four face-to-face Saturdays per semester at WCU's Biltmore Park Instructional Site in Asheville. Our courses blend theory and practice as we grow aspiring leaders with a lens for equity and social justice. Some courses taught include Shaping School Culture, Instructional Leadership, Leadership for Social Justice, School Law, Ethical School Leadership, and Leading Adult Learning. See our website for full course schedules.

WCU's MSA program is designed for full-time educators with families and other community responsibilities. We use a cohort model designed to build a strong network of professionals. Students are admitted in cohorts each fall. Students complete a competency-based internship over the

course of two semesters providing authentic leadership experiences. During their internships, students complete a Change Project in which they lead a team of educators through an improvement initiative that results in equitable and socially just outcomes for students. Core competencies throughout the program and in two semesters of internships provide students with a wide range of experiences to prepare them for the realities of school leadership.

Successful completion of the MSA program leads to recommendation for licensure as a school administrator in North Carolina.

Application Process <http://gradapply.wcu.edu>
Application Deadlines: May 1

More Information <http://principalprep.wcu.edu>
New cohorts begin each August in the Fall Semester.

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36 semester hours

Admission requirements

- Official transcripts with undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Three years of successful full-time teaching
- Hold or be eligible to hold a North Carolina Class A teaching license or comparable license from another state
- Currently teaching in a NC school
- Three online recommendations including one from your current administrator
- Completed district verification form noting years of school level experience
- Current Resume highlighting leadership experience
- Short- and long-term leadership goals (in application system)
- Candidate Evaluation Rubric to be completed by applicant's principal or district leader

Accreditations and Affiliations

Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

North Carolina Principal Fellows' Program: <http://ncfpf.northcarolina.edu/>

Graduate School Open House for Biltmore Park Instructional Site Programs (Virtual): <https://www.wcu.edu/apply/graduate-school/admissions/graduate-school-open-house.aspx>

***Our designation as a Distance Program makes us among the most affordable MSA programs in NC.**

Tuition Information: Check online at <https://www.wcu.edu/apply/tuition-and-fees/fall-spring-distance-learning-tuition-and-fees/index.aspx>

For more information: <http://principalprep.wcu.edu>

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