

## Fact Sheet

### North Carolina School Executive Leadership Program

WCU's MSA program is a 36-semester-hour program designed for full-time educators with families and other community responsibilities. We use a cohort model to build a strong network of professionals as we prepare P-12 school leaders throughout NC in alignment with NC Standards for School Executives and National Educational Leadership Preparation Standards. Two key pillars of our program are 1) developing formal school leaders with a lens for equity and social justice and, 2) teaching scholar-practitioners to use Improvement Science to analyze the root causes of problems and lead teams to address problems in schools and school systems.

Our MSA is among the most affordable pathways to principal licensure in NC (\*see tuition link for Distance Programs below). We are a Distance/Online Program which substantially lowers tuition for students. However, we bring students together for four Saturdays per semester (once a month) for in-person classes at WCU's Instructional Site in Asheville, NC. Our in-person learning and relationships then transfer into our online learning environment, allowing students to grow and support one another within their cohort.

Students complete a year-long (two semesters) competency-based internship with the option to complete internships while remaining in current teaching roles or participate in fully paid, full-time, 10-month Asst. Principal internships. During their internships, students complete a Change Project in which they lead a team of educators through an improvement initiative that results in more equitable and socially just outcomes for students. We blend theory and practice as students complete core competencies throughout their program, providing aspiring leaders with a wide range of experiences to prepare them for the realities of school leadership.

Our relationships with WRESA (Western Region Education Service Alliance), local, and partnering school districts are priorities as we collaborate to tap and grow aspiring leaders in our region and in NC. Successful completion of the MSA program leads to recommendation for licensure as a school administrator in North Carolina.

**NCSELP (MSA) Program Website**  
<http://principalprep.wcu.edu>

### 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
- Current resume highlighting leadership experience
- Three online recommendations including one from your current administrator
- Completed district verification form noting years of school level experience
- Short- and long-term leadership goals centered on leadership for equity (in application system)
- Candidate Evaluation Rubric to be completed by applicant's principal or district leader

### Additional Information

**Application Process** <http://gradapply.wcu.edu>    **Application Deadline: May 1 (New cohorts begin each August)**

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

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

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

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

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