

# 2023-2024

## EPP Master's Performance Report

UNC-Charlotte

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### North Carolina Department of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

#### **Overview of Master's Program**

The Cato College of Education at UNC Charlotte offers an array of master's degree programs and has a long-standing commitment to increase access to graduate education for education professionals through campus programs and through both online and site-based distance education initiatives. The following Master of Education (M.Ed.) degrees in teaching fields affiliated with advanced licensure are offered: Curriculum and Instruction with concentrations in Middle/Secondary and TESL; Elementary Education; Special Education and Child Development with concentrations in Birth-Kindergarten, General Curriculum, Adapted Curriculum, and Academically-Intellectually Gifted; Reading Education; and Learning, Design, and Technology. In addition to the M.Ed. programs, the university has two Master of Arts degrees affiliated with advanced licensure: English Education and School Counseling; and one Master of Science degree with advanced licensure in Mathematics Education. The M.A. and M.S. programs in Secondary English and Mathematics are offered collaboratively with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The Cato College of Education partners with the College of Health and Human Services to offer an M.S.W. with School Social Work licensure. We also offer Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) programs. These programs are offered in two phases, providing a streamlined alternative pathway to the initial teaching license in Phase One (Graduate Certificate) followed by Phase Two, which allows (through an application/admission process) practicing teachers to move forward into the advanced competencies work that leads to advanced licensure. The M.A.T. currently offers licensure programs for candidates in Child and Family Studies (B-K), Elementary Education, Middle Grades Education, Secondary Education, Special Education, Foreign Language Education, Teaching English as a Second Language, and Career and Technical Education. In its separate report, the Master of School

Administration is described fully. Master's program coursework is offered in a variety of formats, including on-campus face-to-face instruction, hybrid courses that blend on-campus face-to-face instruction with online instruction, fully online courses, and distance education face-to-face instruction in various locations to serve school systems. There are two post-masters Graduate Certificate programs associated with licensure for School Counseling and School Administration. Licensure "Add-On" Graduate Certificate programs are currently offered for candidates in Elementary Mathematics Education, Instructional Systems Technology, and Special Education Academically/ Intellectually Gifted. Non-licensure degree programs in Educational Leadership (M.Ed.) and non-licensure Graduate Certificate programs in the following areas are offered: Advanced Literacy Instruction and Intervention, Anti-Racism, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Applied Behavior Analysis, Quantitative Research, Qualitative Analyses, University and College Teaching (post-masters certificate), Addiction Counseling, and Play Therapy Counseling.

### **Special Features of Master's Program**

The Master's degree programs provide leadership and research experiences for teachers, counselors, and school leaders. As part of the performance-based assessment program, Graduate Program Learner Outcomes have been identified and assessed in categories aligned with the College's Conceptual Framework, CAEP standards, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) standards, and the expectations of specialized professional associations: (1) development of field-specific advanced content knowledge, (2) development of research skills; (3) development of leadership skills and advocacy on behalf of P12 students, and (4) development of appropriate use of technology to inform P12 student learning and assessment. Assessment data during the program, at program completion, and in follow-up surveys demonstrate strong candidate performance in all areas. The M.A. in English Education and the M.S. in Mathematics Education involve collaborative design and implementation between the Cato College of Education and the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. The M.Ed. and M.A.T. programs in Middle Grades Education and Secondary Education fields rely heavily on collaboration with departments and faculty in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. For Elementary, Middle, Secondary, Foreign Language, Special Education, ESL, and CTE teachers in the M.A.T., the professional education courses in Phase One and Two are available online. The Cato College of Education has an ongoing mission of offering graduate programs through distance education, including off-campus, site-based cohorts when strategically possible. This format both increases convenience and reduces costs for working professional educators seeking graduate-level training.