

What is the Master's Degree in Education with an emphasis on Early Childhood Leadership and Management?

As part of the Race to the Top Early Learning Grant, North Carolina identified the need for the development of an advanced degree in early childhood leadership and management. Directors of programs serving young children as well as community agency leaders who work on behalf of young children have long expressed a desire to learn more about leading and managing early childhood programs. It was also clear that the need was statewide and that offerings had to meet the need for flexibility of program leaders.

Two online master's degree programs have been developed to help meet this need. The University of North Carolina Wilmington is offering a Master's Degree in Education Leadership, Policy and Advocacy in Early Childhood, please review the university website: <https://uncw.edu/academics/majors-programs/wce/leadership-policy-advocacy-early-childhood-specialization-med/>. The University of North Carolina at Greensboro is offering a Master's Degree in Education, the Birth-Kindergarten: Interdisciplinary Studies in Education and Development (BK:ISED), with a emphasis in Early Childhood Leadership & Program Administration, please review the university website: <https://www.uncg.edu/degrees/birth-kindergarten-interdisciplinary-studies-in-education-and-development-m-ed-early-childhood-leadership-and-program-administration>.

What courses are being offered in these programs?

At both universities, to receive a TEACH scholarship, you will be required to take courses in leadership, diversity/inclusion, research, public policy, financial management and human resources management. Additional courses are required at each university, with each institution having a slightly different emphasis. The Master's Degree offered at UNCG is grounded in early childhood education with an emphasis on leadership, program administration, and policy. If you work in a community-based setting supporting programs and systems, you might want to consider UNC-W, where the emphasis is more on early childhood systems, policy and advocacy. The decision is yours, but to receive a TEACH scholarship you will have to agree to take the required courses as part of your course of study for the Master's degree.

How do I get admitted into one of these degree programs?

You should immediately contact either or both programs to learn how to apply. The contact information for UNCW is: Dr. Sara Movahedazarhouligh, movahedazarhoulighs@uncw.edu 910-962-0613.

The contact information for UNCG is: Catherine Scott-Little Catherine_Scott-Little@uncg.edu, 336-334-5307 or Dr. Heather Coleman hmcolem2@uncg.edu

Each university can explain their process for admission. UNC-W does not require that you take the GRE for admission. UNC-G also does not require the GRE for this emphasis in their M.Ed. program; however, students will complete an interview and short writing sample as part of the admission process.

Who is eligible to participate?

This scholarship is designed to support the development of current and future leaders and/or managers in the early care and education field in North Carolina. You are eligible for a scholarship if you meet the following criteria:

1. You are a teacher, director or family child care provider working in a licensed ECE setting in NC or you work on behalf of young children in early care and education programs supporting their growth and development, their families and/or their teachers.
2. You have successfully completed your bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field, or have a bachelor's degree in a non-related field but have at least 12 credit hours in early childhood education.

How do I apply for a scholarship?

An application for this scholarship can be found at <https://www.earlyyearsnc.org/programs/teach-north-carolina/apply/> or by calling Early Years, Inc. at 919-967-3272 and asking for Kimberly Bynum or Amy Duffy. You will need to fully complete the application. You must also include with your application a transcript

documenting that you have earned a bachelor’s degree in ECE or a related field. Please be sure to include documentation of your income as described on the application form and a copy of your admission letter.

Because this scholarship is designed to encourage leadership and management skills in the early care and education field, it is important that you spend time on your application documenting your prior leadership and management experience and your ECE leadership and/or management goals in the field. There are a limited number of scholarships available. Your essays are an important part of the application process. In addition, it is important to include 3 references that you have obtained from colleagues, parents of children you have served and/or supervisors that attest to your capabilities and commitment.

When is the scholarship effective?

The scholarship becomes effective when you have been admitted to one of the two master’s degree programs and are awarded a scholarship.

What is my responsibility as a scholarship recipient?

As a recipient of this Master’s Degree in ECE Leadership and Management, you must

1. Fully complete a scholarship application.
2. Sign an annual scholarship agreement.
3. Successfully complete required courses for the degree with a 3.0 GPA.
4. Submit grades to your TEACH scholarship specialist within 4 weeks of the end of semester.
5. Pay for all book costs associated with required courses.
6. Participate in any evaluation surveys of the scholarship.
7. Remain in the ECE field for at least one year after completion of scholarship contract, including at least six months with your sponsoring employer.

What is my employer’s responsibility?

Your employer must agree to support you on this educational journey by providing you with a flexible work schedule. You and your employer can work out a schedule that works best for your schoolwork and their needs.

What is TEACH Early Childhood®

TEACH Early Childhood® is an umbrella for a diverse array of scholarship opportunities for the early childhood workforce in North Carolina and in 23 other states. To learn more about TEACH Early Childhood® North Carolina, visit <https://www.earlyyearsnc.org/programs/teach-north-carolina/>

What support and commitments can be expected with a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship?

	Scholarship	Education	Compensation		Commitment
Recipient	100% books	Recipient completes 9-18 credit hours/year toward a regionally accredited graduate degree in Early Childhood Education Leadership and Management and maintains a 3.0 GPA	9-12 credit hours	13-18 credit hours	Recipient agrees to work one year in the early childhood field, which includes at least 6 months with sponsoring employer, upon completion of 9-18 credit hours and bonus award
TEACH	100% In-state tuition		\$250 Bonus	\$500 Bonus	

For more information, contact:
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