

IHE Master's Performance Report

Gardner-Webb University

2009 - 2010

Overview of Master's Program

Gardner-Webb University offered its first graduate degree in 1980, a master of arts in education. Since then, the graduate offerings have grown slowly and steadily. Today GWU has a Graduate School which offers M.A., M.S./Ed.S., and Ed.D. degrees, a graduate School of Divinity which offers M.Div. and D.Min. degrees, and a graduate School of Business which offers M.B.A., I.M.B.A., and M.Acc. degrees. Within the Graduate School, licensure programs include a Master of Arts in Education in elementary education, middle grades education, English education, and school administration; a Master of Arts in school counseling; and an Ed.D. in either educational leadership or curriculum and instruction. All of these programs are part-time programs, designed for working professionals and range from 30 to 63 semester hours. All master's classes, with the exception of internship and practicum classes, meet once a week for three hours and each has a specific curriculum rotation, which facilitates program planning and registration. School administration candidates complete their degrees by successfully performing in year-long internships and passing comprehensive examinations; elementary and middle grades candidates present their capstone research projects; English education candidates present their professional portfolios; school counseling candidates complete practicum and internship experiences and pass comprehensive examinations; doctoral candidates defend their dissertations. The School of Education also offers School Administration licensure for those who already have a master's degree and North Carolina licensure. All courses for the add-on School Administration license are delivered online, which accounts for the explosive growth of this offering. Planning to offer all courses in the revised Master's program in Educational Leadership has included offering all courses online and approval by the Graduate Council was achieved in the fall of 2009. Some school systems assist graduate students who are teachers or assistant principals with payment of tuition and fees. Financial assistance in the form of graduate assistantships is also available to Boiling Springs campus graduate students. Financial assistance in the form of a per-hour tuition reduction is available to elementary education, middle grades education, and English education graduate students who are practicing teachers.

Special Features of Master's Program

The GWU School of Education has spent considerable time during the 2009-2010 school year to research the possibility of new sites to offer masters degree program. The goal is to offer masters in elementary education, middle grades education and school administration at locals that will accommodate teachers and school administrators. The Master's programs at Gardner-Webb University have two unique features – their format and their philosophy. The master's programs are all part-time programs, designed to encourage full-time teachers to return to school for

graduate education. Classes are offered once a week for three hours and each program has a specific curriculum rotation. Graduate students take one class during the fall semester, one class during the spring semester, and two classes during the summer (one each five-week session), for a total of 12 semester hours per year. Programs contain 30-36 semester hours and normally take 2 ½ years to complete. Because of this format, however, and the fact that there are different sites that offer the same program with different course rotations, students frequently take more than one class per semester, driving to various sites, and completing their programs in less time. Gardner-Webb University has its main campus in Boiling Springs, a branch campus in Statesville, and has permanently leased space in Charlotte and Winston-Salem. Philosophically, Gardner-Webb University is committed to providing quality education at sites other than the four sites previously mentioned. In addition to the four sites mentioned above, during 2008-2009 we offered our School Administration program in Burke County (Valdese) and in Davidson County. In order to determine if a cluster will begin at a new site, dialog occurs between the GWU Graduate School and school system administrators. Surveys are then conducted by GWU to determine locations of interest and curriculum areas of interest and, if at least 20 persons commit to enrolling in a graduate program, the University will be responsive and take a program where there is interest. Although we offer programs in a variety of locations, the quality remains high because the courses are primarily staffed by full-time faculty, thus ensuring cohesiveness and continuity of philosophy. All sites are supported by the university technology resources and are driven by processes that are “consumer-friendly,” such as web registration and on-line text ordering. In addition, all library services support all sites, faculty, and students. We are constantly seeking new ways to make graduate education more attractive and available.

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDENTS

A. Headcount of students formally admitted to and enrolled in programs leading to licensure.

Full Time				
	Male		Female	
Graduate	American Indian/Alaskan Native		American Indian/Alaskan Native	
	Asian/Pacific Islander		Asian/Pacific Islander	
	Black, Not Hispanic Origin		Black, Not Hispanic Origin	
	Hispanic		Hispanic	
	White, Not Hispanic Origin		White, Not Hispanic Origin	
	Other		Other	
	Total	0	Total	0
Licensure-Only	American Indian/Alaskan Native		American Indian/Alaskan Native	
	Asian/Pacific Islander		Asian/Pacific Islander	
	Black, Not Hispanic Origin		Black, Not Hispanic Origin	
	Hispanic		Hispanic	
	White, Not Hispanic Origin		White, Not Hispanic Origin	
	Other		Other	
	Total	0	Total	0
Part Time				
	Male		Female	
Graduate	American Indian/Alaskan Native	1	American Indian/Alaskan Native	
	Asian/Pacific Islander	1	Asian/Pacific Islander	
	Black, Not Hispanic Origin	13	Black, Not Hispanic Origin	42
	Hispanic	2	Hispanic	
	White, Not Hispanic Origin	45	White, Not Hispanic Origin	137
	Other		Other	1
	Total	62	Total	180
Licensure-Only	American Indian/Alaskan Native		American Indian/Alaskan Native	
	Asian/Pacific Islander		Asian/Pacific Islander	
	Black, Not Hispanic Origin		Black, Not Hispanic Origin	
	Hispanic		Hispanic	
	White, Not Hispanic Origin		White, Not Hispanic Origin	
	Other		Other	
	Total	0	Total	0

B. Lateral Entry/Provisionally Licensed Teachers Refers to individuals employed by public schools on lateral entry or provisional licenses.

Program Area	Number of Issued Program of Study Leading to Licensure	Number Enrolled in One or More Courses Leading to Licensure
Prekindergarten (B-K)		
Elementary (K-6)		
Middle Grades (6-9)		
Secondary (9-12)		
Special Subject Areas (K-12)		
Exceptional Children (K-12)		
Vocational Education (K-12)		
Special Service Personnel (K-12)		
Other		
Total	0	0
Comment or Explanation		

C. Quality of students admitted to programs during report year.

Masters	
MEAN GPA	3.53
MEAN MAT New Rubric	414
MEAN MAT Traditional	N/A
MEAN GRE New Rubric	N/A
MEAN GRE Traditional	962
MEAN NUMBER OF YEARS TEACHING EXPERIENCE	N/A
NUMBER EMPLOYED IN NC SCHOOLS	N/A
* To protect confidentiality of student records, mean scores based on fewer than five test takers were not printed.	
Comment or Explanation	

D. Program Completers (reported by IHE).

Program Area	Graduate		Graduate Licensure Only	
	PC	LC	PC	LC
PC Completed program but has not applied for or is not eligible to apply for a license				
LC Completed program and applied for license				
Prekindergarten (B-K)				
Elementary (K-6)	10	1		
Middle Grades (6-9)	3			
Secondary (9-12)	1			
Special Subject Areas (K-12)				
Exceptional Children (K-12)				
Vocational Education (7-12)				
Special Service Personnel	19	5		
Total	33	6	0	0
Comment or Explanation				

E. Scores of program completers on professional and content area examinations.

	2008 - 2009 Program Completers Licensure Pass Rate	
Specialty Area/Professional Knowledge	Number Taking Test	Percent Passing
Counselor	4	*
Institution Summary	4	*
* To protect confidentiality of student records, pass rates based on fewer than five test takers were not printed.		

F. Time from admission into professional education program until program completion.

Full Time						
	3 or fewer semesters	4 semesters	5 semesters	6 semesters	7 semesters	8 semesters
Masters-Upgrade/Add-On						
Masters-First Awarded						
G Licensure Only						
Part Time						
	3 or fewer semesters	4 semesters	5 semesters	6 semesters	7 semesters	8 semesters
Masters-Upgrade/Add-On	1	2	8	14	21	68
Masters-First Awarded						
G Licensure Only						
Comment or Explanation						

G. Satisfaction of program completers/employers with the program in general and with specific aspects of the program, as rated on a 1 (lowest) to 4 (highest) scale.

Due to several factors affecting survey responses, survey results will not be reported at the institutional level this year.