

UNC Charlotte's Graduate Programs Recognized by U.S. News

Several UNC Charlotte graduate programs are ranked among the top in the nation in the 2012 edition of U.S. News and World Report's Best Graduate Schools.

The latest rankings are further recognition of the emerging prowess of UNC Charlotte's graduate programs. Counseling, special education and nursing anesthesia all ranked in the top 25 in their specialty fields, with the Belk College of Business's part-time MBA program ranked at No. 59.

The College of Education ranked as one of the Best Education Schools, further reflecting its commitment to serving education professionals. Other ranked programs include civil electrical, and mechanical engineering; computer science; math; social work; public affairs; nursing, healthcare management; and the biological sciences.

Prospective students frequently use the U.S. News rankings when deciding where to pursue their graduate education. Applicants also seek out programs that fit their needs regarding curricula opportunities, advising, research, service, mentoring and career development.

"Quality mentoring is the distinguishing factor in a graduate student's education," said Tom Reynolds, associate provost for graduate programs and dean of the graduate school. "Graduate students learn best in settings where they can develop personal relationships with professors and fellow students."

The University currently offers 19 doctoral programs, 61 master's programs, and more than 90 bachelor's degree programs.

Some highlights include:

- The College of Education garnering the highest rankings on this year's list is recognition not only to the faculty and but the many working teachers and principals in the Charlotte area. The college is currently celebrating its 40th anniversary. Dean Mary Lynne Calhoun has led the growth of the college since 1999.
- The Belk College of Business enrolls nearly 300 students in their part-time MBA program. With the numerous companies located in Charlotte and vicinity, business professionals seek a way to further their career while still working. This program allows them to do that. This is the first time the part-time MBA program has appeared on the list. "National ranking for the MBA program is a goal that the Belk College has been working toward for a long time," said Dean Steven Ott. "This accomplishment is a credit to the hard work of our faculty and staff, and ultimately to the talent of our students. We look forward to continuing to move up the list in the future."
- UNC Charlotte's School of Nursing received two mentions on this year's list. Overall Nursing Schools with a ranking of No. 127, and a ranking of No. 22 for the Nursing-Anesthesia program. The program is offered in conjunction with the Carolinas Medical Center. In this program, CMC provides clinical instruction to the UNC Charlotte graduate students enrolled in the program. Receiving their educational experience in a real-world setting is a great way to help them pass their certifications. The program has a 94 percent passage rate on first attempt.

“UNC Charlotte goes beyond the course work in all that we offer our graduate students,” said Provost Joan Lorden. “No longer is it just which university offers the best program. Students are looking for programs that provide excellent research resources, committed faculty, breadth of training and support for professional development.”

Reynolds added: “Graduate students want to have their network developed before they graduate. Being located in a major city with numerous employment outlets allows UNC Charlotte students to weave their network together. Whether it is in business, with Bank of America, Duke Energy and Lowe’s nearby, or in research at nearby North Carolina Research Center in Kannapolis and Carolinas Medical Center, both experience and contacts are plentiful.”

For more information about Best Graduate Schools, visit www.usnews.com/grad. To learn more about the methodology and data research, visit www.usnews.com/gradmeth.