

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 5219S
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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

IDC 2: Criteria for Initiating Graduate Master Degree Programs

Given funding challenges, demographic changes and the educational needs of the community, the Faculty Senate through IDC is open to receiving thoughtful applications for new Master degree programs at UNC Asheville. The Faculty Senate holds that any expansion of graduate offerings should be deliberate, incremental, and carefully considered, and that any new programs should enhance, not detract from, the undergraduate experience. Proposals for additional UNC Asheville graduate programs will be considered following the procedures set forth in The University of North Carolina Policy Manual for Academic Program Planning and adhere to the following UNC Asheville criteria:

1. Values

Masters programs should enhance the core liberal arts values and strategic plan of the University of North Carolina Asheville with its emphasis on undergraduate education, diversity and inclusion, innovation, and sustainability.

2. Distinctive

Master programs should be programs of distinction and meet measurable social and educational needs.

3. Sustainable

- Masters programs should hold promise of longevity and be self-sustaining.
- Meet defined community needs; have an identified potential student pool.
- Either require no special facilities or include a plan for the creation of those facilities.
- Capable of generating an operating budget to cover their anticipated expenses.
- Contribute to the financial well-being of UNC Asheville and its academic programs.

This document is based on two previous IDC statements ([May 3, 2018](#) and [April 13, 2006](#)).