MASTER OF SCIENCE IN Analytics

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Institute for Advanced Analytics
North Carolina State University

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analytics.ncsu.edu
The Institute for Advanced Analytics has been preparing data savvy professionals for leadership in a digital world since 2007. Our mission is to produce the world’s finest practitioners of analytics — individuals who have mastered complex methods and tools for large-scale data modeling, who have a passion for solving challenging problems through teamwork, guided by intellectual curiosity, honesty and integrity, and who strive to attain the highest level of professionalism through continuous self-improvement.
Today, data is everywhere. But there’s a scarcity of talent with the skills to make sense of it and create value.

The Master of Science in Analytics (MSA) is a professional degree that focuses on the tools, methods and applications of advanced analytics. Launched in 2006, it is the nation’s first full-fledged graduate degree in Analytics.

The goal of analytics is to derive and effectively communicate actionable insights from a vast quantity and variety of data. It covers a broad spectrum of activities, including data quality and management, mathematical and statistical methods for data modeling, and data visualization.

A new interdisciplinary academic unit — the Institute for Advanced Analytics — was established at NC State in 2007 to oversee the program.
As the need of analytics becomes more widespread, there is mounting demand for—and a growing shortage of—professionals with the relevant data skills coupled with an understanding of how the techniques are applied to business and the variety of critical tasks facing decision-makers.
The Master of Science in Analytics seeks to:

- enrich students with a challenging learning experience;
- give them relevant skills valued by employers;
- with a rapid time to degree completion;
- and affordable tuition with a solid return on investment.

Most importantly...

- open doors to professional employment at graduation.
Steve ('14) and Ryan ('12) Preston, Doug, Nicole, Shannon and Pranav
Class of 2017 Practicum Team
The MSA is a comprehensive education that gives students:

- the necessary technical skills;
- while enhancing their ability to work effectively in teams;
- strengthening their communication and problem-solving capabilities;
- gaining hands-on experience with real world data using industry standard analytical tools.

Most importantly...

- prepare them to be productive analytical professionals from day one!
As the country’s first full-fledged Analytics degree, the MSA was created literally from scratch—an integrated curriculum with a unique blend of statistics, applied mathematics, computer science and business disciplines. It is a dynamic curriculum that continually evolves to meet the need.

John, Laura, Scott, Jennifer and Kelvin
Class of 2017 Practicum Team

Disney Parks & Resorts
Orlando, Florida
The MSA is designed to be...

**Intensive** – accelerating the learning curve through the intensity that comes from condensing 2-years of graduate study into the shortest possible duration;

**Interactive** – leveraging peer-to-peer learning through teamwork threaded throughout the entire curriculum;

**Immersive** – learning by doing, by engaging in practical problems from the real world, and being totally immersed in the subject.

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**Francis**
Class of 2016
B.A., Economics; Mathematics
Vanderbilt University, 2013
Senior Data & Analytics Consultant at EY

**Sarah**
Class of 2016
B.S., Clinical Laboratory Science
UNC-Chapel Hill, 2012
Senior Associate Analytical Consultant at SAS

**Ahdieh**
Class of 2015
B.S., Business Management
Babson College, 2012
Senior Consultant, Advanced Analytics Enablement at Deloitte

**Chelsi**
Class of 2016
B.S., Mathematics
Claflin College, 2014
AVP, Operations Research Analyst at Bank of America
The MSA is...

- 10-months of full-time residential study (Mon.-Fri. / 9-to-5);
- a fully integrated curriculum with its own faculty;
- limited to 120 students, split into two 60-student sections;
- taught as a cohort, with all classes restricted to students in the program;
- delivered in a modern 30,000 sq. ft. facility for the exclusive use of our students;
- a professional degree aimed at placing its students in employment upon graduation.

The MSA isn’t...

- a menu of core and elective courses;
- overly theoretical in its focus;
- a research or teaching apprenticeship;
- intended to be a prelude to a Ph.D.;
- a business, computer science or statistics degree in disguise;
- a day longer than necessary to accomplish its goals.
The MSA is a single integrated curriculum aimed at acquiring practical skills that can be applied to real world problems, drawing upon...

- applied mathematics
- statistics
- computer science
- econometrics
- operations research
- marketing science
- communications

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Rocky  
Class of 2017  
B.S.B.A., Business Administration; Economics UNC–Chapel Hill, 2013  
Senior Consultant at EY

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Dustin  
Class of 2017  
B.S., Civil Engineering  
NC State University, 2013  
Data Scientist at Cognizant
Matthew, Damon, Kristy, Darin and Manaswini
Class of 2018 Practicum Team
The MSA advantage:

- students hone their skills working on gigabyte- to terabyte-scale data problems drawn from real world organizations;
- students use industry standard software tools and can obtain professional certifications while completing their degree;
- team-based learning emulates the reality of today’s workplace and provides an opportunity to develop leadership potential;
- frequent performance evaluations and individualized coaching guide continuous self-improvement.
Joshua, Lucia, Sam, Jiajing and Nikhil
Class of 2018 Practicum Team

Asurion
Nashville, Tennessee
Experiential Learning: The Practicum

- students work in teams of 4-5 individuals;
- work on real world problems and data provided by industry sponsor (under confidentiality);
- highly structured, substantive work conducted over 8-months;
- culminates in final report and presentation to the sponsor;
- projects are selected from a large pool based on learning value (there is no sponsorship fee).

Tori, Alec, Polly, Shreye and Liping
Class of 2018 Practicum Team

Museum of Fine Arts
Boston, Massachusetts
Holden, Ryan, Catherine, Cecilia, and Kosta
Class of 2017 Practicum Team

B2W
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Since its inception, the Institute’s students have taken on 156 projects from 110 sponsors representing virtually every industry sector.

- Advertising
- Agriculture
- Airlines
- Asset Management
- Banking
- Chemicals
- Consumer Products
- E-Commerce
- Energy
- Entertainment
- Financial Services
- Healthcare
- Heavy Machinery
- Hospitality
- Insurance
- Intelligence
- Manufacturing
- National Security
- Non-Profits
- Pharmaceuticals
- Publishing
- Retail
- Social Media
- Software
- Sports
- Telecommunications
- Textiles and Apparel
- Transportation
Class of 2018 Practicum Sponsors

- AMC Theatres (Leawood, Kansas)
- Asurion (Nashville Tennessee)
- Central Intelligence Agency (McLean, Virginia)
- Chick-fil-A (Atlanta, Georgia)
- Direct ChassisLink (Charlotte, North Carolina)
- Disney (Orlando, Florida)
- Duke Health (Durham, North Carolina)
- Elevate (Ft. Worth, Texas)
- General Motors (Detroit Michigan)
- M&T Bank (Buffalo, New York)
- Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (Massachusetts)
- Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (Texas)

- National Council on Compensation Insurance (Boca Raton, Florida)
- Piedmont Health (Carrboro, North Carolina)
- ProMetrics (King of Prussia, Pennsylvania)
- Putnam Investments (Boston, Massachusetts)
- Red Hat (Raleigh, North Carolina)
- Revenue Management Solutions (Tampa, Florida)
- The Home Depot (Atlanta, Georgia)
- Trillium Health (Greenville, North Carolina)
- Visionist (Columbia, Maryland)
- Volvo Trucks (Greensboro, North Carolina)
Class of 2016 students run in Krispy Kreme Challenge to raise money for the North Carolina Children’s Hospital.
MSA graduates are in high demand...

- for 11 consecutive years over 90% of the candidates have received one or more employment offers before graduation;
- in 2018, 96% had offers of employment and 95% were employed at graduation;
- candidates averaged 12 initial interviews and 3 job offers;
- many sectors of the economy are hiring;
- wide variety of employers, from new ventures to global enterprises.

Ruth, Chris, Anderson and Eliza
Class of 2018 Practicum Team
Visionist
Columbia, Maryland
LEADING EMPLOYERS OF MSA GRADUATES

- Accenture
- Ally Financial
- Amazon
- Ankura
- Bank of America
- BB&T
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC
- Boeing
- Cigna
- Citrix
- Cognizant
- Community Care of NC
- Deloitte
- eBay
- Elder Research
- Elevate
- Elicit, LLC
- EY
- Facebook
- Fifth Third Bank
- Genworth Financial
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Google
- IBM
- JP Morgan Chase
- Lash Group – AmerisourceBergen
- Liberty Mutual
- M&T Bank
- Marriott International
- Northrop Grumman
- Putnam Investments
- PwC
- Red Hat
- Rho
- RTI International
- SAS Institute
- The Home Depot
- The Walt Disney Company
- TIAA
- U.S. Government
- Visionist
- Zencos

(Top-10 employers are highlighted in RED)
Class of 2018 Intramural Soccer Team – League Champions
MSA graduates are highly valued...

- In 2018, the average base starting salary was $98,200
- $106,700 for candidates for 3 or more years of professional experience prior to entry
- $93,700 for candidates with little or no work experience prior to entry
- Base salary range: $72,500 to $145,000
- Median signing bonus: $11,250
- ROI payback period: 20 months

Ned, Kyle, Kimberly, Veer and Carrie
Class of 2018 Practicum Team
Putnam Investments
Boston, Massachusetts
Class of 2018 by Major Employment Category and Average Base Salary

- **35%** Data Scientist
  - **$108,450**
  - Julia
    - Class of 2016
    - B.S.P.H., Environmental Health Sciences, UNC Chapel Hill, 2015
    - Advanced Analytics Data Scientist at IBM

- **32%** Analyst
  - **$92,400**
  - Taylor
    - Class of 2016
    - M.A., B.S.B.A., Economics; Finance University of Alabama, 2014
    - Senior Business Intelligence Analyst at The Home Depot

- **30%** Consultant
  - **$92,300**
  - Ryan
    - Class of 2016
    - B.S., Mechanical Engineering NC State University, 2015
    - Analytics Professional at General Motors

- **3%** Manager
  - Jason
    - Class of 2016
    - M.S., Chemical Engineering, Stanford, 2000
    - B.S., Chemical Engineering, Washington University in St. Louis, 1998
    - Data Scientist at BCBS of North Carolina
Sean, Keona, Deborah, Jared and Craig
Class of 2016 Practicum Team
VF Corporation (The North Face)
Greensboro, North Carolina
Student Enrollment by Country of Origin

57 countries of origin since the Class of 2008.
Geographic Distribution of Alumni (n=710)
Student Satisfaction Ratings


- Satisfaction with learning experience: 4.5/5.0
- Satisfaction with employment: 4.6/5.0
- Likelihood to recommend MSA to prospective students: 4.7/5.0

n=507
89% response rate
Most peer programs in analytics and data science provide little or no data on admission and student outcomes needed to make benchmark comparisons. Instead we rely on MBA programs, which provide data publicly as part of the ranking process, for benchmarking our performance.

- The MSA compares favorably to the top-5 highest ranked MBA programs with similar cohort sizes:
  - the MSA out-performed the selected MBA programs on 11 of 13 key performance metrics;
  - when ranked alongside MBA programs, the analysis suggests the MSA would fall in a range between 21 and 29;
  - 5th consecutive year the MSA performed favorably to MBA programs of similar cohort size in the 20-30 range of the U.S. News annual ranking.

Ashley, Jared, Tom, Haani and Caroline
Class of 2018 Practicum Team
The Home Depot
Atlanta, Georgia
The Master of Science in Analytics
by the numbers...

Annual Benchmark Report
http://go.ncsu.edu/msa-benchmarks

Annual Employment Report
http://go.ncsu.edu/msa-employment

Annual Admissions Report
http://go.ncsu.edu/msa-admissions

Annual Alumni Report
http://go.ncsu.edu/msa-alumni

Elizabeth, Sarah, Daniel, Lindsay,
Matias and Adam
Class of 2018 Practicum Team
DCLI
Charlotte, North Carolina
Michael Rappa is the founding director of the Institute for Advanced Analytics and a member of the faculty in the Department of Computer Science at North Carolina State University. As head of the Institute, he leads the nation’s first Master of Science in Analytics as its principal architect. Before joining NC State as Distinguished University Professor in 1998, for nine years he was a professor at MIT. Appointed the inaugural Goodnight Director in 2015, his current position is endowed and named in honor of the University’s distinguished alumnus and prominent American business leader Dr. James Goodnight.

About the Director

Jeremy
Class of 2015
B.S., Economics, University of South Dakota–Vermillion, 2014
Predictive Modeler at Great West Casualty Company
South Sioux City, Nebraska
THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED ANALYTICS

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