A History of the
Department of Public Administration

The Department of Public Administration traces its origin to the establishment of an undergraduate Public Administration concentration. This concentration, created within the Department of Political Science, started in 1973 and grew to produce an impressive array of public sector professionals, including current city and county officials. The Master of Public Administration program was established in 1985. The program continues to experience very positive growth. During 2007-2008, total MPA degree student enrollment was 230.

The NCCU BA and MPA, in recent history, have been night programs. The BA program, started by Dr. Tyrone Baines, has grown to approximately one hundred students. The MPA program was created under the leadership of Dr. Clarence Brown. This program now enrolls some 190 students. In 2005, under the leadership of Ronald G. Penny, Esq., the Department of Public Administration created the Executive or Mid-Career MPA track. This program, which is a track within the MPA program, enrolls 40 in-service MPA students.

As a result of its configuration, the MPA program has historically attracted a large percentage of in-service students. In recent years, students in the MPA program are both in-service and pre-service. The in-service students are older (30 and up), have professional careers, and have family commitments. Pre-service students generally have minimal professional level work experience and are recent graduates. The student population is now an estimated 60% in-service students and 40% pre-service students. Thus our classes prove to be an interesting combination of recent undergraduates, government employees seeking to improve their professional skills and qualifications, mid-career employees seeking to advance to upper administrative and management roles in their organizations, international students, and students who have made career changes and are pursuing new career directions.

MPA graduates from North Carolina Central University have a wide variety of employment opportunities that include city, county, state, and federal governments, international assignments, and nonprofit and private corporations. Students have successfully competed for prestigious programs such as the Presidential Management Internship, the Capital City Fellows, the Prince George County Public Policy Fellows Program, the HUD Intern Program, and the Government-wide Acquisition Management Intern Program, as well as other nonprofit and local government management programs.

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Sources: Department of Public Administration Records
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