Residential Master’s Program
Admissions Criteria and Process

General Principles

• Every year, the Master’s Program Admissions Subcommittee seeks an incoming class that has a balanced mix of age, sex, gender identity, race, ethnicity, and background.
• All applicants are evaluated using the admission criteria stated below, regardless of the timing of application submission.
• The Admissions Subcommittee takes a holistic approach to application evaluation. We view the standard admission criteria as guidelines, and final decisions are not limited to the admission criteria stated below.
• The Admissions Subcommittee also recognizes the importance of a diverse cohort that represents a range of experience and perspectives.

Standard Admission Criteria

• **Grade Point Average (GPA):** Preference is given to applicants who have a GPA greater than 3.0 (or equivalent on grading schemes that are not based on a 4.0 scale).
• **Work Experience:** Preference is given to applicants who have one or more years of full-time work experience.
• **Resume or CV**
• **Letters of Recommendation:** Preference is given to applicants who have strong or very strong letters of recommendation.
• **Personal Statement:** Preference is given to applicants that have strong or very strong personal statements, as determined by the Admissions Subcommittee. Writing aptitude is taken into consideration when assessing the application.

Applicants are asked to address the following questions/statements in their personal statements:

1. How will this degree program at UNC-CH contribute to your projected career goal?
2. What is your experience working in teams, and what can you contribute to a team?
3. How will you contribute to a diverse, inclusive student community at Gillings?
4. Please provide any additional information that will help us to evaluate your application.

• **Interview:** All applicants residing in the continental United States are required to participate in an on-site interview. International applicants or applicants living abroad will have a Skype or Zoom videoconference interview instead. Preference is given to applicants who are recommended for admission by the two-person team that interview the applicants. Please reference “Admissions Interview Guidelines” for more detail about the interview process.
• **Other Factors:** The Admissions Subcommittee also considers any other factors that may be relevant, such as extraordinary life experiences or academic accomplishments, and contributions to cohort diversity, defined above.
Mitigating Admissions Criteria

- **Underrepresented Minority Applicants**: The Admissions Subcommittee recognizes the substantial research that shows standardized tests are less useful in the assessment of minority applicants. Beginning with the 2020-2021 admission cycle, the GRE® is no longer a requirement for application.

- **Applicants with Less than One Year of Full-Time Work Experience**: Applicants are considered for admission if they have a very high GPA (3.50 or higher, or equivalent on grading schemes that are not based on a 4.0 scale), plus substantial volunteer experience, very strong letters of reference, very strong personal statement, relevant healthcare coursework, or extraordinary other factors.

- **International Applicants**: Applicants are considered for admission if they have high Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL®) scores (above 550 on the paper-based test; above 90 on the internet-based test), or above a 7 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS™). High proficiency in written and spoken English should be assessed by the personal statement and individual interview.

Desirable Student Characteristics and Skills

- During the 2020-2021 Master’s Program Redesign strategic planning, a student profile and characteristics, and desired skills needed to succeed in the program were identified. Consider these when assessing applications.

Slate Application System

- Reviewers will review assigned applications, and complete a rating form for each, using the Slate application system (accessible via https://applynow.unc.edu/reader).

Each applicant is rated on a scale of 1—5 (5=superior) in the following four categories:

1. Academic Qualifications
2. Relevant Work Experience
3. Personal Qualifications
4. Overall Impressions and Recommendation

- The review form automatically sums the scores from the individual categories. Interpretation guidelines of the total score are listed below. These are merely guidelines to assist with consistency among reviewers.

  - 17—20 Invite Applicant for Individual Interview
  - 15—16 Likely to Invite Applicant for Individual Interview
  - 12—14 Discuss with Admissions Subcommittee/Holding Pattern
  - 0—11 Hold for Later Review/Likely Deny Admission

- Each application will also be discussed by the entire Admissions Subcommittee during the weekly meetings. The reviewer generally leads the conversation about each applicant they review.