

Frequently Asked Questions

What's happening in the nonprofit sector? I heard you can't make any money working for a nonprofit.

First, the nonprofit sector continues to grow rapidly. From 1994 to 2004, nonprofit revenue growth was 62%, far outpacing inflation-adjusted GDP growth during this period of 37%. The number of public charities (the most common type of nonprofit) grew by 70% from 1996 to 2006. Generally speaking, yes, nonprofit compensation is less than the for profit sector. However, the national average for a Executive Director/CEO of a nonprofit is \$119,553 while Directors of Development made \$73,724, according to a Nonprofit Times salary survey.

Of course, salaries differ based on important organizational variables: budget size, region, and sector/sub-sector. An Executive Director of a small youth organization with a budget of \$200,000 might expect to make only \$38,000 a year while an Executive Director of a mid-sized local United Way could draw a six-figure salary.

I'm a UNC student already. Do I have to apply?

Graduate students at UNC are granted automatic admission to the Certificate program, yet we need to receive an application so we know that you are working toward the Certificate. Once you have completed Certificate requirements, we will send you a certificate and have the university record the certificate on your official transcripts.

I'm not a UNC student. Can I complete the Certificate?

Yes. The Certificate is open to non-UNC students who have an undergraduate degree, sufficient nonprofit experience (paid or unpaid) and demonstrated ability to complete graduate-level study, including written assignments. An interview is strongly encouraged to determine your interest and readiness. You must be enrolled in the Part-Time Classroom Studies program (Please see the main Certificate web page for information about how to apply).

When are classes offered?

The Schools of Social Work, Law, Government, Business and Public Health all participate in the Certificate program. Most, but not all, courses are offered in the evening to accommodate the schedules of graduate students in various degree programs and community participants.

About what types of nonprofits do you teach?

The nonprofit sector is incredibly diverse. For example, there is a huge difference between a nonprofit health system and a small neighborhood clinic, yet both may be recognized under Section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code. For the most part, our point of reference is local mid-sized nonprofits in the health, human services, and community development sectors and to a lesser degree, arts and cultural organizations.

What's the difference between the UNC and Duke nonprofit certificate programs?

The UNC Nonprofit Leadership Certificate is offered through a traditional academic program of semester-length, graduate-level courses intended to offer students depth in nonprofit leadership knowledge and skills that are evaluated through written assignments. Programs like Duke's Nonprofit Management Certificate offer a short course format (i.e. one-time trainings) across a wide variety of specific topics that may be of greater interest to persons currently working in nonprofits.