



North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

POSITION PROFILE

Morganton Campus Chair of Humanities
April 2021





About NC School of Science and Mathematics

North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (NCSSM) is a world-class public high school with statewide reach empowering students with the skills and knowledge to design their own future. Specializing in science, technology, engineering, and math, and embracing the fine arts and humanities, it challenges 680 talented high school juniors and seniors from across North Carolina through a residential program on its historic campus in Durham—and beginning in 2022, on a new second campus being built in Morganton that will serve 300 more residential students. NCSSM’s extensive online program and summer offerings extend its impact to every corner of the state and to hundreds more students annually. NCSSM embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion, and seeks to recruit employees who share these same values. The residential program intentionally admits half male and half



female students, and NCSSM opens its life-changing opportunities to students from all economic circumstances across the state from urban, rural, and suburban communities. Attending is free of cost for tuition, books, room, and board. To learn more: <https://www.ncssm.edu/>

Founded in 1980 as the first school of its kind, NCSSM has become the model for 18 such specialized schools around the globe and is a member of the 17-institution University of North Carolina System. Its 11,000-plus alumni include local and global leaders in medicine, technology, commerce, education, and the arts—a community of problem solvers who build a brighter future. The new NCSSM-Morganton campus will focus on the booming fields of data science and artificial intelligence, preparing the leaders of tomorrow to navigate a future driven by data and machine learning, with emphasis on the humanistic implications and ethical use of these tools.

Faculty at NCSSM become part of a close-knit campus community with colleagues, with students in residence alongside community coordinators, and with student life staff. The resources (including a brand-new campus), academics, and extracurricular opportunities rival those of private boarding schools—but with a public school mission. NCSSM enjoys unique curricular freedom, encouraging faculty creativity and innovation not possible at most high schools. In Morganton, students and faculty will learn alongside industry and educational leaders, with access to cutting-edge technologies and learning labs as part of NCSSM’s hallmark holistic, interdisciplinary education featuring arts and the humanities, including NCSSM’s use of the American Studies approach to teaching history and literature in tandem.



The Position - Chair of Humanities

The founding faculty of the Durham campus are regarded as iconic figures among alumni, and this position as a founding faculty leader of the brand new NCSSM-Morganton campus will help to shape the unique culture of this new learning community for decades to come.

Specific responsibilities of the Chair:

- Reporting to the Dean of Humanities, collaborate with leadership and faculty across NCSSM's two residential campuses and the online program to develop and deliver an innovative, challenging academic curriculum, with a special focus on interdisciplinary courses and experiences.
- Provide effective leadership and supervision for the humanities department at NCSSM-Morganton, supervising approximately 8-15 faculty members, chairing departmental meetings, and participating in Board of Trustees, Foundation Board of Directors, and Instructional Council meetings.
- Share responsibility for departmental budgeting and purchasing and otherwise lead and support day-to-day activities of the department. This position may require regular travel between NCSSM's Durham and Morganton campuses.
- Determine students' placement and exemptions in appropriate areas of the curriculum, submit draft schedules of course offerings; consult with faculty about their new course ideas and keep them on track to submit new course proposals.
- Handle departmental personnel oversight, including hiring, monitoring, and evaluating faculty and staff work plans, self-appraisals, and improvement plans, and ensuring class coverage, etc.
- Develop and teach innovative and engaging courses in NCSSM's residential and online programs, with an initial course load of 1 per semester, increasing to 2 per semester in year 3 when campus startup duties have lessened.

Qualifications:

- Master's degree in a related academic field (literature, history, social science, cultural studies, or other).
- Teaching experience in a related field, preferably with high-achieving secondary students or undergraduates. A proven track record of effective and inspiring teaching.
- Demonstrated preparation for teaching a diverse student population.
- Excellent organizational, communication, and interpersonal skills.

Key competencies:

- Knowledge of field and practice of the department or discipline.
- Ability to develop and deliver courses using effective and innovative practices in pedagogy, technology, and classroom management.
- Comfort with technology used for hosting virtual meetings and classes and the use of collaborative tools to create and manage documents, spreadsheets, and presentations.
- Dedication to continual growth, both as a teacher and a learner.
- Willingness to support the intellectual, cultural, emotional, and social growth of students—a responsibility that transcends a traditional high school or college teaching schedule and requires the commitment to participate actively in the multi-dimensional life of the NCSSM community.

[Click here](#) to see formal job announcement for additional details.

Why you should consider the opportunity

- **Public school, public service values:** As a public school, NCSSM extends opportunities to students in every corner of North Carolina for the betterment of the state.
- **Commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion:** Since the school's inception, NCSSM Humanities has played a critical role in fulfilling our institutional mission to cultivate informed, empathetic, engaged, and ethical citizens and leaders. NCSSM alumni, who have gone forth to make significant contributions in education, research across disciplines, medicine and healthcare, law and social justice, politics, the environment, business, and the arts, frequently cite the transformative effect that Humanities faculty, courses and experiences have had on their commitment to serve their communities—on local, state, national, and global levels—and, through that service, make those communities more diverse, equitable, inclusive, and just.
- **Salary:** To recruit top educators, NCSSM is in a multi-year process of raising its faculty salaries to be competitive with the highest paying public high school systems in the state.
- **Resources:** In addition to generous public funding, NCSSM raises millions in private gifts each year through its NCSSM Foundation to further the mission of the school, with funding and endowment earnings supporting each academic department, students with financial needs, participation in academic competitions, and more.
- **Professional opportunities:** The school offers funding for conference and other professional travel and professional development opportunities, including taking free courses in the UNC System.
- **Academic freedom:** Curricular freedom, no state standardized testing, and the support for faculty to publish original research (only if desired).
- **Interdisciplinary innovation:** Many courses integrate more than one disciplinary approach, inviting students to make meaningful connections across academic disciplines—history, literature, languages, law, the social sciences, archaeology, music, the visual arts, and popular culture, as well as with disciplines in the sciences, engineering, and mathematics.
- **Leadership role:** The Chair will organize and lead the colleagues in its discipline in Morganton and work closely with the dean based in Durham.
- **Motivated, talented students:** Academically talented students have competed for the opportunity to attend and have persuaded their families they are ready to leave home and live independently as high school juniors and as a rule are engaged, curious learners.
- **Collaborative student body:** NCSSM eschews class ranks and valedictorians and encourages students to collaborate and support one another rather than compete.
- **Small class size:** Typical humanities courses contain 15-20 students per section.
- **Quality of life:** Close professional and school community, low cost of living, friendly community atmosphere, outdoor recreational opportunities, and accessible travel destinations.





Procedure for candidacy

Confidential review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled; **parties who apply before or by May 31, 2021 will be given first consideration.** Interested candidates should submit a resume and letter of interest.

To apply online, go to: <https://theapplicantmanager.com/jobs?pos=su247>

For more information or to offer recommendations or nominations:

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NCSSM is an EEO/eVerify/VEVRAA Employer

NCSSM invites and welcomes all applications for employment within the institution. NCSSM is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, status as an individual with a disability, or status as a protected veteran. If you are an individual with disabilities requiring accommodations in the application and interview process, please contact NCSSM at (919) 416-2662.



Summit Search Solutions, Inc. is a boutique executive search firm dedicated to serving education and nonprofit communities nationwide. Summit has a team of experienced recruiting consultants in strategic locations across the country including California, Colorado, Kansas, New York, and North Carolina.



About Morganton, North Carolina

NCSSM-Morganton is located in the foothills of Western North Carolina which features mountain views, historic town squares, locally-owned shops, restaurants, and craft breweries. The area is billed as “nature’s playground” and boasts unmatched opportunities for outdoor recreation, adventure, and renewal—from walking and hiking to mountain biking, boating, birding, and more. Burke County is home to South Mountains State Park—North Carolina’s largest—as well as outdoor assets including Pisgah National Forest, Lake James, and Linville Gorge. Morganton is within easy driving distance of vibrant metro areas such as Asheville, Charlotte, and Winston-Salem.

Morganton is a small city with a population of about 17,000. Compared to the rest of the country, Morganton's cost of living is 11.4% lower than the U.S. average. The median home cost in Morganton is \$167,600. Data compiler [Niche](#) ranked Burke County Schools in the top 20% of North Carolina’s school districts for the 2019-2020 school year.



Explore Morganton

<https://morganton.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=5982a2bc4c874e1e8f11d97b230f5a2d>
<https://burkecountychamber.org/>