



UNCG

Hello, my name is Julien Lefort, I'm a student in the MALS program at UNCG. I actually live in the city of New Orleans in the state of Louisiana. And I've completed an entire program, all my course work rather, as a distance student. I've been very fortunate. I've met a lot of great people online including professors and students. I'd like to tell you a few things about the curriculum, why I chose the curriculum, and some of my experiences I've had with the curriculum. About a year and a half ago, or so, I was looking for a graduate program. And my requirement was, first of all, it has to be a legitimate program. I didn't want to get one of these, you know, mail-in fifty dollars and get a degree. I wanted a legitimate program so I wanted something from a real university. And also it had to have flexibility and it had to be something that I could complete within a relatively short period of time. So I started doing actually a google search. I didn't know where to go, I searched numerous days and I came up with probably twenty or thirty various programs from throughout the country, and that's when I discovered the University of North Carolina in Greensboro.

I contacted Julee Johnson, who's the advisor of the MALS program, and she was very helpful over the phone, and I explained to Julee what I was looking for. Then she mentioned the flexibility of the online distance education, and I questioned her. I said, "Is it possible for me to get the complete degree online?" And she assured me that it would happen. And here I am about a year and a half later completing eleven courses all online, and I've really enjoyed the online work. I've met people online, my professors have been very helpful. The students actually even though we don't know each other face-to-face you take a lot of the same courses with the same people and you get to know each other from the writing, and the emails, and the postings upon the blackboard that we use. The other thing is the flexibility. This has been a major selling point for me is the flexibility of this program. I've actually taken and completed courses while sailing across the Atlantic Ocean. I took a sixteen day cruise to Europe and did course work while crossing the ocean and once I got to Europe. And as I mentioned before, I'm from the New Orleans area and we evacuated from Katrina last year for about three weeks. And good news, bad news was I was enrolled in two courses during Katrina, and because of the flexibility of the program plus the forethought of bringing my laptop and my books with me I didn't lose a step as far as the course work was going. I was able to keep up with my classmates while evacuating from Katrina.

Another advantage that actually is a surprise advantage of enrolling in this program was the cost effectiveness of the program. I had contacted numerous universities again who had programs that were possibly on par with this program but then I discovered how inexpensive it is to come to school here particularly for students such as I who live outside of the state. We were actually given a tuition break because we did not live in North Carolina as outside students.