

Fact Sheet

Principal Fellows Program at WCU

WCU's Principal Fellows Program (PFP) is a 39-semester-hour program aligned with our MSA. However, Principal Fellows are "tapped" as aspiring leaders by their school districts. We use a cohort model to build a strong network of professionals as we prepare P-12 school leaders throughout NC in alignment with NC Standards for School Executives and National Educational Leadership Preparation Standards. Principal Fellow candidates are 1) motivated to be trained as formal school leaders to challenge inequities in schools for historically marginalized students and families and to create improved educational outcomes and, 2) invested in using Improvement Science to lead teams as they analyze the root causes of problems to address inequitable systems in schools.

The NC Principal Fellows Program is a competitive, merit-based scholarship loan program funded by the North Carolina General Assembly. PFP at WCU is a two-year Master's program that includes graduate classes, travel to conferences, a 10-month full-time, paid assistant principal internship during which Fellows take a leave of absence from their districts, and executive coaching during the internship year. Students' tuition, textbooks, salaries, and other expenses are paid in full. The grant is in the form of a forgivable loan. The loan must be repaid

through service within 7 years of program completion; or cash payment must be complete within 10 years of program completion.

Self-paying MSA students and PFs take courses together (see MSA Fact Sheet). However, there are additional requirements for Principal Fellows throughout their program of study such as required NC PFP trainings, summer coursework between years 1 and 2, research presentations at conferences, and travel to national conferences.

Students do not self-select for the PFP program; they need to be nominated by their districts. Talk with your principal and superintendent to discuss being nominated for our next cohort. We will start cohorts of 15 Principal Fellows each fall for the academic years beginning 2022-2028. With your district's support, you would apply for our MSA program at the same time you are being recommended by your school district.

Principal Fellows Program

https://youtu.be/Xyg8D_oJ8NI

NCSELP (MSA) Program Website

<http://principalprep.wcu.edu>

Admission Requirements

- Official transcripts with undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Three years of successful full-time teaching
- Hold or be eligible to hold a North Carolina Class A teaching license or comparable license from another state
- Currently teaching in a NC school
- Current resume highlighting leadership experience
- Three online recommendations including one from your current administrator
- Completed district verification form noting years of school level experience
- Short- and long-term leadership goals centered on leadership for equity (in application system)
- Candidate Evaluation Rubric to be completed by applicant's principal or district leader
- Letter of support from superintendent or superintendent designee
- Participation in PF Interview Day/Processes

Additional Information

Application Process <http://gradapply.wcu.edu> **Application Deadline for Principal Fellows: April 1 (New cohorts begin each August)**

North Carolina Principal Fellows Program: <http://ncfp.northcarolina.edu/>

Virtual Graduate School Open House Schedule for Biltmore Park Instructional Site Programs: <https://www.wcu.edu/apply/graduate-school/admissions/graduate-school-open-house.aspx>

Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation; North Carolina Department of Public Instruction