

THE NORTH CAROLINA PRINCIPAL FELLOWS PROGRAM

Funded by the North Carolina General Assembly, the North Carolina Principal Fellows Program (PFP) provides a competitive, merit-based scholarship loan to assist individuals of exceptional academic ability to earn a master's degree in school administration (M.S.A.) in preparation for a career in school administration. Financial need is not a criterion for selection as a Principal Fellow. Fellows are required to maintain employment as a principal or assistant principal in a public school in North Carolina for four years to repay the scholarship loan or repay the debt in cash.

What are the benefits of being a Principal Fellow?

The Principal Fellows Program provides one year of full-time academic study and a one year full-time internship in a North Carolina public school. Fellows also participate in enrichment experiences designed to enhance their preparation for a career as a principal or assistant principal.

Fellows receive a scholarship loan which currently provides \$30,000 for the first year and an amount for the second year which varies according to the state salary schedule of a first year assistant principal. Funding for the second year is in the amount of 60% of the state salary of a first year assistant principal plus \$4,100 for tuition and fees sent from the NC State Education Assistance Authority (NC SEAA).

In addition, Fellows receive a stipend from the State Board of Education in the amount of 40% of the state salary of a first year assistant principal. The amount of the stipend is not considered part of the scholarship loan. The total amount second year Fellows will receive for 2013-14 is \$42,380.

Principal Fellows receive financial support while earning the MSA degree. They have the opportunity to attend university on a full-time basis for one year and to serve a full-time internship in a public school in North Carolina. Fellows also benefit from participating in enrichment activities with a focus on leadership development at both individual universities and through the PFP office.

How do I apply?

Download the application from the PFP website: ncpfp.org and submit it by January 15, the deadline date. Candidates must also complete a separate application for admittance into a Master of School Administration degree program at one of the participating institutions.

What are the eligibility requirements?

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident Immigrant Alien or a Non-Immigrant Alien with the capacity to remain indefinitely in North Carolina;
- Not be in default on any previous federal or North Carolina student loan;
- Be a domiciliary (legal resident) of North Carolina;
- Have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution;
- Have a strong academic record (at least a 3.2 grade point average on a 4.0 scale in the last 60 hours of study);
- Be unconditionally admitted as a full-time student in the MSA program at one of the participating UNC institutions;

- Have completed no more than two courses that apply toward the master's degree in school administration;
- Have at least four years of successful teaching experience or relevant experience;
- Provide evidence of effective leadership and management potential;
- Provide evidence of superior communication skills;
- Be willing to comply with the Program Regulations;
- Be willing to practice at an approved site in North Carolina as a full-time administrator for four years, within six years of completing the master's degree, or repay in cash the amount received through the Principal Fellows Program plus interest at a rate of 10%.

How are Fellows selected?

- Applications are reviewed.
- Interviews of all qualified applicants take place in February and March at several sites in the state.
- The Principal Fellows Commission selects Principal Fellows in March.
- Candidates are notified in April.

What universities participate?

Eleven universities participate in the PFP:

- Appalachian State University
- East Carolina University
- Fayetteville State University
- North Carolina A&T State University
- North Carolina Central University
- North Carolina State University
- The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- The University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- The University of North Carolina at Wilmington
- Western Carolina University

How is the program administered?

- PFP is administered by the North Carolina Principal Fellows Commission in collaboration with the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NC SEAA); both agencies are affiliated with the University of North Carolina, General Administration (UNC-GA).
- The PFP Commission determines the selection criteria for Fellows, the method of selection, the recipients and the renewal and continuation criteria.
- The NC State Education Assistance Authority determines the Program Regulations necessary to administer the financial aspects of the program. NC SEAA disburses collects and monitors loan funds; establishes and enforces the terms of the promissory notes; approves service repayment agreements; collects cash payments when service repayment is not completed.

Where can I get more information?

- Visit the PFP website at www.ncfp.org
- Contact the Principal Fellows Program office:
 UNC Center for School Leadership Development
 140 Friday Center Drive
 Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517-9495
 Telephone: 919-843-6736