

ACE FELLOWS PROGRAM INFORMATION

The ACE Fellows Program offers a unique and transformative opportunity for aspiring leaders in higher education. As an ACE Fellow, you will dive deep into a dynamic curriculum, engage in hands-on learning, and collaborate on impactful activities. You will learn from renowned American Council on Education (ACE) experts, national and local leaders in higher education, and seasoned mentors both within and outside the Program.

Throughout your fellowship year, you will set specific learning goals and tackle a chosen topic or challenge in postsecondary education policy, allowing you to make a meaningful impact in your discipline or the higher education sector at large.

The ACE Fellows Program is thrilled to support those who are eager to explore pathways to senior leadership in higher education. Join us in shaping the future of higher education and taking your leadership journey to the next level!

EXPERIENCE OVERVIEW

During the fellowship year, you will:

Lead Institutional Transformation: Hone your leadership skills by learning from subject matter experts, codesigning and exploring evidence-based practices, and emerging as a well-rounded changemaker who is ready to drive meaningful institutional transformation.

Develop Your Leadership Competencies: Delve into various aspects of leadership development, such as refining your leadership competencies and crafting and owning your unique leadership narrative.

Engage with Policy Experts: Deepen your understanding of the intersection between state and federal public policies and postsecondary education by working closely with seasoned policy experts.

Learn from Mentors: Gain invaluable insights from internal Program mentors to better understand yourself as a leader and expand your influence within higher education.

Expand Your Network: Build a powerful, far-reaching network of higher education leaders across the U.S. and beyond by collaborating with visionary minds to shape the future of global education.

PROGRAM MEETINGS

The ACE Fellows Program includes three immersive, interactive, multiday retreats held in Washington, DC in August, January, and June. Each retreat explores diverse topics such as public policy and federal relations, leadership competencies, and personal leadership narratives. You will explore targeted topics such as shifting demographics, effective fundraising for higher education, student mobility trends, executive presence and leadership skills, and the complex challenges and rewards of senior leadership.

FELLOWSHIP PROJECT

You will explore a critical topic, issue, or challenge in postsecondary education policy and practice that aligns with your interests. Through the fellowship project and experience, you will have the opportunity to not only sharpen your leadership skills but also expand your expertise in a way that directly contributes to the advancement of the higher education landscape. The goal of this project is to empower you to make meaningful, lasting contributions that benefit your institution and the broader education community.

FELLOWSHIP PLACEMENT

The optional fellowship placement offers you the unique opportunity to immerse yourself in targeted learning by delving deeply into the functional and academic areas of another higher education institution. This experience allows you to build valuable connections on a host campus while being guided by a team of exemplary senior mentors.

Upon selection to the ACE Fellows Program, the Program team will work closely with you and your sponsor (or designee) to customize your fellowship project and placement option and ensure that they align with your specific learning goals for the year.

Placement options include a full academic year, a fall or spring semester, or a flexible schedule of periodic visits, allowing you to tailor your experience to best suit your professional development needs.

FELLOWSHIP TIMELINE

Candidate Interviews: Conducted virtually during the last two weeks of January

Fellows Selection: Announced mid-February

Orientation: Conducted in person in late March

Opening Retreat: Conducted in person in early August

Mid-year Retreat: Conducted in person in early January

Closing Retreat: Concluded in person in early June

FINANCIAL INVESTMENT

Regardless of the placement selection, the sponsoring institution is responsible for providing the Fellow's full salary and benefits for the entire duration of the fellowship.

Year-Long Off-Campus Placement: The host institution pays ACE a \$16,000 Program fee and provides the Fellow with a professional development budget of at least \$10,000, making the total investment for the nominating institution at least \$26,000.

Semester-Long Off-Campus Placement: The sponsoring and host institutions each contribute \$8,000 toward the \$16,000 Program fee to ACE. Each institution provides the Fellow with half of a modest professional development budget—at least \$5,000 from each—making the total investment for each institution at least \$13,000.

Flexible Schedule of Periodic Visits: The sponsoring institution pays the \$16,000 Program fee to ACE and provides the Fellow with a professional development budget of at least \$10,000, making the total investment for the nominating institution at least \$26,000.