

URBAN EDUCATION FELLOWS PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Who should apply? Have you always wanted to be a teacher?

UEFP encourages male and female career changers from all disciplines to apply, especially those with varying cultural or ethnic backgrounds. Applicants should demonstrate leadership in the community, schools, or career; demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills, and demonstrate strong academic knowledge and skills. Applicants do need to commit to working with students from diverse backgrounds in Milwaukee area independent, private, parochial and charter schools.

2. Am I qualified?

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. We have accepted candidates with degrees in business, communications, theater, as well as academic disciplines. Applicants are considered on the basis of several factors, only one of which is their academic record. Your GPA will not automatically qualify or disqualify you. A minimal GPA of 2.5 and passing scores in the PPST/PRAXIS I are requirements for admission into the UEFPP. Exceptions per PI34.14 under par. (a) relating to the established passing scores on the PPST/PRAXIS I, or the cumulative grade point average may be granted at the discretion of the Program Director. A complete application includes the application form, two official transcripts (sealed in envelopes from the college/university from where the applicant received his/her baccalaureate degree), a writing sample / statement indicating experiences that sparked an interest in urban teaching, 3 letters of recommendation, and passing scores in the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST/PRAXIS I).

3. What are my responsibilities as a Fellow?

Fellows serve as full-time interns for two academic years, having the full responsibility of a classroom teacher. Fellows teach in disciplines such as math, language arts, science, social studies, and possibly religion. Fellows also enroll in graduate level coursework at both Alverno and Mount Mary College every semester, including summers, and must maintain good academic standing. The first semester is an unpaid, full-time, 7-week summer school program where Fellows begin teaching summer school in the mornings and take 6 credits of course work in the afternoons. Course work during the school year includes 6 credits each semester and 9 credits during the second and final summer semesters (16 courses over 7 semesters).

4. What are the benefits of learning to teach as an Urban Education Fellow?

Not only do you qualify for a teaching license after 2 years, but you also earn a Master's degree in education. You can directly implement what you are learning in your college courses into your own classroom. You will receive a salary and health benefits while you earn your credential. You may be eligible for an academic award to support a portion of tuition costs. You will have hands-on classroom experience supported by qualified mentors for the two years. The UEFPP is a cohort group, providing a peer support network.

5. Where will I teach? How does the UEFPP determine my school?

After a full-time, seven week probationary summer school period, the UEFPP will place you in one of our partner schools on the near north and south sides of downtown Milwaukee. We place the Fellows based upon matching their academic background and strengths to the needs of our schools. For example, an applicant with strong math skills from college coursework or work experience may be placed as a middle school math teacher. A bilingual applicant could be placed in a school that serves predominantly bilingual students. While the certification is for grades 1-8, applicants will be placed in grades 3 and above in order to best meet the literacy needs of their students.

6. Will I get paid? What will I have to pay?

Yes, you will receive a salary of \$27,000 - \$29,000 from your school. The salary and health benefits vary from school to school, and begin in fall. This is a tuition-based program which means that you are responsible for the tuition, but you will receive a 25% discount from the colleges. Fellows apply for federal student loans to cover the tuition while enrolled in the UEFPP. After you complete the UEFPP, the balance of your tuition is repaid through your student loan agreement.

7. What is an AmeriCorps Education Award? What can I use it for?

Fellows can become members of AmeriCorps, a federally funded program that recognizes teaching fellows' service in their communities, and may earn an Education Award voucher of \$5,550 to be used to pay off a portion of their qualified student loans. Fellows may serve two years in AmeriCorps, allowing for up to two Education Award Vouchers.