

BOARD FELLOWS PROGRAM



NONPROFIT INFORMATION

NONPROFIT APPLICATION
OPENS IN DECEMBER!

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Board Fellows Program provides a unique opportunity for Foster MBA and Evans MPA students to contribute to local non-profit organizations as non-voting board members. With this program, Board Fellows become an essential part of boards that impact the lives of over 2.5 million people every year since 1999.

Board Fellows serve as non-voting board members for an academic cycle (from September through May), and complete a board-level project over the course of their placement. Students work closely with the board and executive director of their assigned organization, attend board meetings, serve on committees, and engage with the issues facing the organization. In other words, they serve in the same capacity as any other board member.



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PROGRAM BENEFITS

- **Fresh Perspective:** Engage with talented Foster MBA and Evans MPA students bringing innovative ideas and skills.
- **Leadership Development:** Nurture the next generation of board leaders and benefit from their diverse perspectives.
- **Strategic Project Support:** Leverage student expertise to propel a crucial board project forward.
- **Recruitment Experience:** Gain insights into recruiting and collaborating with emerging young leaders.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

- Nonprofit must have an established board of directors
- Nonprofit must have at least **one** full-time paid staff member
- Board must hold monthly or bimonthly meetings*
- Board should have at least **one** standing committee
- Organizational stability – nonprofits who have not been in operation for at least a year will not be considered
- Capacity to support the Board Fellows project
- Nonprofits agree to host two selected student Board Fellows
- Nonprofits must appoint a board mentor to guide and coach Board Fellows



Program Timeline

NONPROFIT APPLICATION

December - February

- Nonprofit application deadline: [February 24, 2025](#)

NONPROFIT APPLICATION REVIEW & INTERVIEW

December - March

- Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis and individual calls are scheduled within two weeks of submission to discuss the application and proposed project.
- Last day to interview: [February 28, 2025](#)

NONPROFIT ACCEPTANCE ANNOUNCEMENT

March

- Nonprofits selection announcement: [March 7, 2025](#)

STUDENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

February

- Information sessions are available in-person and Zoom

STUDENT APPLICATION

March - April

- Student application deadline: [April 18, 2025](#)
- Application includes resume & cover letter

STUDENT APPLICATION REVIEW & SELECT

April

- Board Fellows application sent to nonprofits: [April 21, 2025](#)
- Nonprofits review & select top 6 students to interview: [April 28, 2024](#)

INTERVIEW ANNOUNCEMENT

May

- Student selection announcement: [May 2, 2025](#)
- Interview schedule available: [May 5, 2025](#)

MATCHING & PLACEMENT

May

- Matching Day: [May 9, 2025](#)
- Last day to turn in your ranking: [May 16, 2025](#)
- Matching announcement: [May 26, 2025](#)
- Last day to accept placement: [May 30, 2025](#)



SAMPLE PROJECTS

FINANCIAL STRATEGY & ANALYSIS

- BUSINESS PLANNING
- FUNDING EVALUATION
- BENCHMARKING
- PRICING ANALYSIS/ STRATEGIES

FUNDRAISING ANALYSIS

- ANNUAL FUND TRENDS
- PLANNED GIVING BEST PRACTICES
- FUNDRAISING INNOVATION

GOVERNANCE & STRATEGY

- DASHBOARD DEVELOPMENT
- JUNIOR/ADVISORY BOARD DEVELOPMENT
- BOARD EVALUATION
- STRATEGIC PLANNING
- ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT
- REVISE AND CONSTRUCT UP-TO-DATE OPERATING BYLAWS OR MEETING REGULATIONS

MARKETING & INSIGHTS

- BRAND AUDIT
- WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY
- DATA ANALYSIS
- CUSTOMER EVALUATION AND DATA ANALYSIS
- MARKET RESEARCH
- HIRING PRACTICE EVALUATION
- SUCCESSION PLANNING

TALENT MANAGEMENT/ HUMAN RESOURCES

- COMPENSATION ANALYSIS
- ONBOARDING NEW BOARD MEMBERS
- OFFBOARDING CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

FAQ

WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM THE NONPROFITS?

For an effective partnership, nonprofits must:

1. Assign a board member as the primary mentor.
2. Designate an executive staff member as the main contact.
3. Provide a formal introduction and set expectations.
4. Enable Board Fellow(s) in meaningful projects.
5. Conduct mid-year and final evaluations.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL BOARD FELLOWS COMMIT TO NONPROFITS?

Board Fellows commit up to 10 hours/month, attending board and committee meetings while completing projects.

We strongly encourage the Board Fellow(s) and their mentor(s) to set a regular meeting and communication schedule at the beginning of their engagement.

TRAINING & SUPPORT

- At the start of the fellowship, an orientation introduces both students and nonprofits to the Board Fellowship Program.
- Invitation to workshops and networking events
- Ongoing support from UW

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Please contact the CBDC staff:

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More details, including current partners and student profiles, are located online at <https://foster.uw.edu/centers/consulting-and-business-development-center/board-fellows-for-nonprofits/>