



Wake Forest College LAUNCH for Leadership

Develop as a Leader.
Discover Your Future.

February 2021



Telling Our Story

The College LAUNCH for Leadership Program is a free, nine-month college preparatory program designed for college-bound, diverse students from high schools in Charlotte and Winston-Salem, as well as the surrounding communities. Our program includes interactive workshops and fun career exploration sessions at events that we call “Saturday Summits”. Saturday Summits take place one Saturday per month, September – May.

Our program guides 100 Scholars (50 per cohort) through a comprehensive curriculum including: college readiness, social justice awareness and advocacy, professional development and leadership. Scholars learn from community leaders, higher education experts, LAUNCH Alumni, and one another!

Our 3 pillars for college-readiness



DISCOVER.
IMPACT



PREPARE.

Discover connections between your career aspirations and passion for social change through immersive career and college exploration opportunities.

Prepare for the college application process with near-peer mentorship, college admissions and financial aid workshops, essay writing, interview coaching, and more!.

Impact social change in your schools and communities through Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR), mentoring and engagement as LAUNCH Alumni, and post-secondary goals.

College LAUNCH Impact

- As of this May, College LAUNCH will have over 400 Alumni!
- 100% of the 2019-2020 LAUNCH cohort stated that they would recommend College LAUNCH to others.
- Last year's graduating class received over 428 college acceptances and received over \$10.7 million in scholarships including the Stamps Scholarship (Wake Forest), Morehead-Cain (UNC), Park Scholarship (NC State), Cheatham-White Scholarship (NC A&T and NCCU), Gates Foundation, and more!
- 100% of Scholars who successfully complete LAUNCH have the opportunity to receive scholarship support to attend the Wake Forest Summer Immersion Program

College LAUNCH Model

- Monthly Saturday Summits (dates are on our website)
 - Each month includes particular college prep, social justice, and leadership focuses
 - As of right now, we anticipate at least a portion of Saturday Summits being conducted virtually, pending public health guidelines. For planning purposes, please plan on 9 am - 2 pm for each Saturday Summit date listed.
- Monthly Journal Prompts
- Quarterly Report Card Submissions
- Opportunities Blast & Scholarship Database
- Mentorship & Networking Opportunities
- Quarterly Workshops
- Alumni Advising and Support

College LAUNCH Expectations

- Attendance
 - Scholars must attend 8 out of 9 Saturday Summits
- Transportation (for in-person programming)
 - Scholars are to be dropped off at 9am, and picked up at 2pm for all in-person events
 - *Unless schedule requires early arrival for travel (typically 7:00 am)*
- Monthly Newsletters
 - Contains announcements, information, resources, and assignments
- Journals
 - Journal prompts are selected from Common App Essay Questions and current admissions essay prompts
 - Journal prompts are stated in monthly newsletters and uploaded through Google Classroom
 - Each Scholar receives individual feedback to help fine-tune their essay in order to prepare for college application essays

College LAUNCH Expectations

- Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR)
 - YPAR is an innovative approach to positive youth and community development based in social justice principles in which young people are trained to conduct systematic research to improve their lives, their communities, and the institutions intended to serve them.
 - Get Started
 - Define Issue
 - Investigate
 - Take Action
 - Scholars work in groups on their community based project.
 - Benefits - increased social consciousness, sharpened leadership skills, enhanced understanding of complex issues, and impressive research experience.

College LAUNCH Expectations

- Commitment and accountability
- Check your email and be responsive
- Respect
- Open-mindedness
- Consistent engagement in content

For successful completion of the program, Scholars must:

- Attend at least 8 out of 9 Saturday Summits
- Respond to all journal prompts (regardless of attendance)
- Complete, submit, and present YPAR project

Apply Today & Invite Others to Apply!

The College LAUNCH application is currently live on our website!

Application includes: general information, academic transcript (does not need to be an official transcript), two essays, and a recommendation (tip: list multiple recommenders!)

How to stand out in your application?

- No GPA requirement (average weighted GPA for 2020-2021 was 3.9)
- Thoughtfully present your own perspective and thoughts on essays
- Choose a recommender who knows you well

Admissions decisions are made on a rolling basis. **While there is no deadline, we encourage you to apply ASAP!**

* We do institute a wait list.



“One key thing that I can take away from College LAUNCH is that in the face of adversity, it is easy to run and take shelter from the storm, but eventually we learn that there are many ways to address an issue. Even though we may get discouraged, it is imperative to realize that there are individuals we can rely on for growth towards a goal. WFU College LAUNCH showed me that sometimes you will need others, and while being self-sufficient is a good trait to have, networking and creating relationships is an even better one!”

Donavan, College LAUNCH class of 2019-2020

“What I’ve learned about leadership through the WFU College LAUNCH Program is that before you can lead, you have to serve and understand service. You also have to stand up for yourself and advocate for yourself as a student and lead by example. LAUNCH has taught me how to come together with my peers and take the initiative in order to have a solution to the problems that we may experience.”

Peyton, College LAUNCH

class of 2019-2020





Questions?

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