

2020-2021 Autry Fellowship Application Overview

This document is intended only as a guide. No PDF or Word submissions will be accepted. We recommend reading the essay and short answer questions below, preparing and editing your responses in a separate document, and copying into the [online application found here](#) once you are ready to submit. Please note that the online application does not save progress. We hope this overview document is a useful tool in your application process!

Instructions and Guidelines

TO THE APPLICANT: Greetings and welcome! This information will assist the selection committee in choosing one person to serve as a Fellow for one year to work at MDC in Durham, North Carolina. Applicants must either be in their final year of undergraduate studies or have graduated within two years from any four-year college or university. **THIS APPLICATION CLOSSES AT 11:59 PM EST ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2020.** MDC staff will notify all candidates of their status within four weeks, and choose the Fellow immediately following an interview day in mid-February. The Fellowship will begin in the summer of 2020, with the start date to be negotiated.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING YOUR APPLICATION: The application consists of two sections: an essay portion that includes two prompts (up to 500 words each) and a short answer section with three prompts (up to 150 words each). There is also a brief biographical section.

You cannot save progress within the online application. We recommend preparing and editing responses beforehand and pasting into the online application only once you are ready to submit. **IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT** Katie Toles, 2019-2020 Autry Fellow, at AutryFellowship@mdcinc.org.

Eligibility

If you answer no to any of the following, you unfortunately do not qualify for the 2020-2021 Autry fellowship and should not continue with this application. We appreciate your interest.

1. Are you a student/graduate of a four-year, bachelor-granting college or university?
2. Did/will you graduate no earlier than May 2018 and no later than May 2020?
3. Can you commit to one full year as an Autry Fellow beginning between June and August 2020?

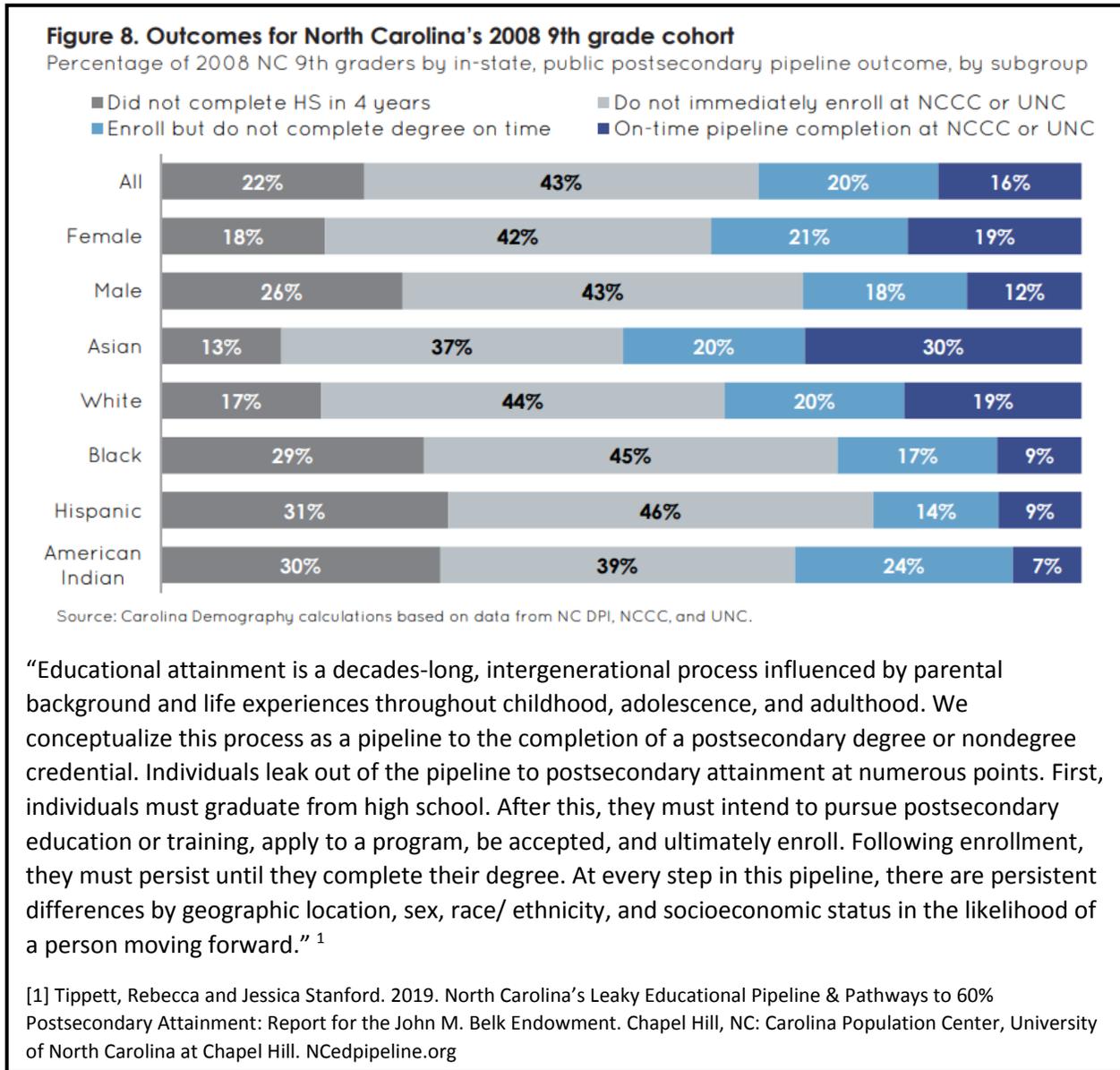
Biographical & Contact Information

This section will collect your legal and preferred names, gender pronouns, mailing address, telephone number, email address, and high school information. You will also be able to list where you attended college, what you studied, the degrees you earned, and the year you graduated for up to three institutions.

Essay Questions

Each essay is limited to 500 words. You are welcome to provide somewhat shorter responses that are thorough and meaningful. We recommend that you prepare your responses in a word processor and then paste your completed responses in the online form. As a reminder, you cannot save progress on the form.

Essay 1



Considering the above, briefly describe what, in your opinion, drives disparate drop-out rates among the subgroups in Figure 8. What factors do you believe keep these disparities in place? Then briefly discuss the implications of these disparities on the economic security OR health and wellbeing of these subgroups. (500 word limit)

Essay 2

MDC equips Southern leaders, institutions, and communities to improve economic mobility and advance equity. To do this MDC works in partnership with leaders and community institutions to change the conditions that perpetuate inequity. Tell us about an experience that shaped or affirmed your understanding of how to engage in social change. Briefly explain the experience, your course of action, and the implications of your actions. (500 word limit)

Short Answer Questions

All short answers are limited to 150 words.

1. Over the past 20 years, Autry Fellows have come from various regions across the country. Throughout their time with MDC, Fellows have established or reaffirmed a commitment to addressing issues across the South. Why is it important for you to work in the South? In your response consider your experience with a Southern identity OR your interest in place-based work.
2. Through the Autry Fellowship, MDC aims to train future southern leaders. What knowledge, skills, or experiences do you hope to gain during your Autry year? How will your Autry experience move you forward in your professional journey beyond the fellowship?
3. Please use this space to elaborate on anything else that you think we should know about you. This is an opportunity to share your unique attributes or experiences.