



HBCU VC Fellowship Application Guide

[HBCUvc](#) is looking for outstanding candidates to participate in its Venture Capital Fellowship program that runs during the Fall 2021 semester. This program is designed for HBCU students and alumni that have an interest in learning how investing in technology companies works and obtaining a summer internship or full-time role in venture capital. Candidates should be aligned with HBCUvc's mission of creating economically strong and sustainable Black communities through innovation and investment in innovation.

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About the Program

The HBCU VC Fellowship is a career accelerator for current HBCU students and alumni who are interested in a career in venture capital and have a strong interest in technology entrepreneurship. The program focuses on learning the fundamentals of venture capital and technology entrepreneurship through our online course, projects, and events. Participants can expect to meet and network with prominent venture capitalists and entrepreneurs throughout the program.

You can expect to learn and participate in the following modules:

- Venture Capital Fundamentals: How to Invest In Tech Startups
- Venture Capital and the University's Role and Impact In Building Wealth
- Building a Community of Tech Startups
- Afro-Futurism: Reimagining and Investing In Black Tech Ecosystem
- Creating a Professional Brand
- Professional Networking and Building Relationships
- A Look at the Day to Day Life of a Venture Capitalist Investor
- How to Land an internship in Venture Capital
- Office Hours with Entrepreneurs and Investors
- Summer Internship Interview Prep and Mock Interviews

Program Format

Fellows will have access to an online self-paced course and are required to attend weekly video panel discussions for 6 weeks in the Fall semester. Participation in the weekly discussions are mandatory. Students will be responsible for creating and presenting a venture capital investment thesis for their final project.

After successful completion of program requirements, selected Fellows are invited to participate in the HBCUvc Lab Fund as Resident Investors. This optional program takes place in the 2022 Spring semester. Resident Investors manage the HBCUvc Lab Fund and are given the responsibility of finding and supporting entrepreneurs with funding from the HBCUvc fund. The lab fund is a new type of organization that HBCUvc calls a “teaching venture capital firm.” The primary goal of the lab is to teach Resident Investors how to bridge the theory and practice of investing in early-stage technology companies. A secondary goal of the lab is to support entrepreneurs with funding. The resident investor curriculum builds on the foundation laid in the Fall semester by providing direct experience in:

- Sourcing entrepreneurs
- Interviewing founders and conducting due diligence
- Writing investment memos
- Supporting founders and portfolio companies

VC Readiness and Job/Internship Placement

The fellowship program is designed to accelerate you into a career in venture capital. Many of our fellows are often placed in Fall, Spring, and Summer internships with our partners firms. Placement is not guaranteed but likely through full participation in all events and career info sessions.

Before Applying

As much as we would like to receive plenty of applications, we hope that each candidate applies with sincerity and a commitment to fulfill the program requirements and our mission.

Before applying, we **highly recommend** reviewing the below list of self-evaluation questions and actions to see if the program is right for you.

- ☐ Watch [HBCUvc's Fellowship Program Overview Video](#)
- ☐ If you are unfamiliar with venture capital or high growth startups, watch [ALL of the videos](#) here (~ 30 minutes total watch time).
- ☐ Attend an info session
- ☐ Confirm you are available to attend all program dates September 27 - November 9th. (See program timeline below)
- ☐ Confirm you can commit 3 - 5 hours per week to the program during program dates, September 27 - November 9th

If you are currently working on a startup, this may not be the program for you. Please consider applying to our [VC Lab and Fund](#)

If you have additional questions about the program, please contact one of our senior fellows at the email below:

- <Need names of volunteer fellows>

Or ask questions on social media IG: @hbcu.vc, Twitter: @hbcuvc

Eligibility and Requirements

As part of our mission to increase racial diversity, equity, and inclusion, we are intentional in our outreach to candidates who self-identify as Black, Indigenous, Latinx People of Color. Successful applicants should possess a demonstrated commitment to helping entrepreneurs succeed. There are no prerequisites or major requirements for becoming an HBCU VC Fellow, however, successful applicants should possess the following qualities:

- Interest in technology entrepreneurship
- Preference for collaboration
- High levels of self-awareness
- Strong work ethic
- Commitment to principles of inclusion
- Ability to build trust with others
- **Application Scoring Rubric Is Included**

Rising sophomores, juniors, seniors, and graduate students attending HBCUs and alumni of HBCUs. In addition, current students should have a minimum GPA of 3.2 (not a hard requirement). All majors are welcome to apply.

Use the eligibility checklist below:

- ☐ I have completed at least one academic year at a university/college
- ☐ I am currently enrolled or have graduated from an HBCU

Application and Program Timeline

Application and Program Timeline	
July 19	Applications Open
July 27	Online Info Session 1
August 5	@HBCU.vc IG Live Info Session 2 @ 7 PM ET
September 6	Applications Close @ 11:59 PM EST
September 17	Fellows Announced
September 27 - 30	New Fellows Retreat (Daily 7PM - 9PM EST)

October 5	Module 1 (7PM - 9PM EST)
October 12	Module 2 (7PM - PM EST)
October 19	Module 3 (7PM - 9PM EST)
October 26	Module 4 (7PM - 9PM EST)
November 2	Module 5 (7PM - PM EST)
November 9	Program Completion Module (7PM - 9PM EST)

Application Requirements

- Personal contact information
- Resumé
- Link to social media presence (LinkedIn or personal blog)
- Four required short answer essays
- Two video essays (<1 minute)
- Contact information to 2 References (Should include an academic professor and/or professional contact. Name, Email and Phone number is required for each reference)
- Optional demographic information

Short Essay Questions (600 character maximum)

1. Fellowship Interest Short Essay: Why are you interested in the HBCUvc Fellowship? Please explain your interest, including how you would benefit from the Fellowship.
2. Persuasive Communication Short Essay: Slauson & Co is a venture capital firm started by a Morehouse alum. Please visit their website (<https://www.slauson.co/>) and look at their current portfolio companies. After conducting brief research on each portfolio company, which of their companies looks most promising and why?
3. HBCUvc Mission Alignment Short Essay: Why does the HBCUvc mission resonate with you?
4. Ability to Build Relationships Short Essay: Describe a time when you were instrumental in building a community or improving one. Include steps that you took and the result of your steps in your response. Note: community is defined here as a group of people with similar interests.
5. Strong Work Ethic Video Essay: Please describe an accomplishment you are most proud of that is a result of a strong work ethic. What is the accomplishment and what did you do to achieve it? Why is this an example of your strong work ethic?

6. Authenticity and Vulnerability Video Essay: Tell us something about yourself that no one would know from looking you up online. Your response can be serious or fun. Responses can range from overcoming a childhood illness and how it's impacted you or something silly like holding the world record for longest time dancing.

Application Scoring Rubric

Each major component of the application will be rated on a scale from 1 - 4.

1 = unacceptable, 2 = Somewhat meets expectations, 3 = Meets expectations, 4 = Exceeds expectations

Characteristics of unacceptable expectations (score = 1) and when expectations are exceeded (score = 4) are outlined below

Resume	
1 - Unacceptable	Resume has multiple typos and misspellings
3 - Meets expectations	- Resume is free from typos and misspellings - Resume shows professional experience or internship experience or coursework project relating to business, finance, technology, entrepreneurship, or university major
4 - Exceeds Expectations	- Demonstrates direct or transferable skills that could be valuable in the Fellowship - Results or impact are communicated for each role or project - Leadership in extracurricular or community activities - Participation in activities across more than one discipline (ie member of STEM club, and member of Accounting club) - Participation in entrepreneurial activities and communities - Highlights awards received for achievements
Social Media Profile / Online Presence	
1 - Unacceptable	- Engaging in or creation of content that celebrates or promotes illegal activity - Engaging in or creation of hate speech or other content that harasses or alienates a person based on race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and/or ability - No online presence available
3 - Meets expectations	Has an updated and publicly available online professional

	presence (For example: Has an updated LinkedIn public profile)
4 - Exceeds Expectations	- Engaging in or creation of content that demonstrates intellectual curiosity - Engaging in or creation of content that serves to create community
Short Essay 1 - Fellowship Interest	
1 - Unacceptable	- Essay has multiple typos and misspellings - Candidate does not answer the question and/or seems to not understand the question - Candidate does not state why they are interested in the fellowship
2 - Somewhat Meets Expectations	- Candidate's response is general and does not provide a personal perspective on why they are interested. - For example: "I want to learn how to invest" or "I want to work in venture capital" does not provide personal insight on who the candidate's reason
3 - Meets Expectations	- Essay is free of typos, misspellings, grammar errors, and has complete sentences - Essay includes why they are interested in the fellowship in their response - Candidate communicates interest in the fellowship and includes a personal perspective on why they are interested.
4 - Exceeds Expectations	- Candidate shows a strong interest in venture capital and/or startups - Candidate communicates how that this opportunity will serve as a springboard in their career
Short Essay 2 - Persuasive Communication	
1 - Unacceptable	- Essay has multiple typos and misspellings - Candidate does not answer the question and/or seems to not understand the question
3 - Meets Expectations	- Essay is free of typos, misspellings, grammar errors, and has complete sentences - The response demonstrates that candidate has conducted basic research on the chosen company - Essay includes why the company was chosen
4 - Exceeds Expectations	Response includes trend or industry analysis as supporting evidence
Short Essay 3 - HBCUvc Mission Alignment	

1 - Unacceptable	• Essay has multiple typos and misspellings • Candidate does not answer the question and/or seems to not understand the question
3 - Meets Expectations	• Essay is free of typos, misspellings, grammar errors, and has complete sentences • Candidate communicates how the mission resonates with them in their response.
4 - Exceeds Expectations	• Candidate communicates how the mission resonates with them in their response and includes a personal perspective • Candidate communicates how they've demonstrated a similar mission in their personal or professional life.
Short Essay 4 - Ability to Build Relationships	
1 - Unacceptable	• Essay has multiple typos and misspellings • Candidate does not answer the question and/or seems to not understand the question
3 - Meets Expectations	• Essay is free of typos, misspellings, grammar errors, and has complete sentences • Response includes action steps to build or improve community and the result of those actions
4 - Exceeds Expectations	• Response includes a statement on why building or improving the community is important
Video Response: Accomplishments (Strong Work Ethic)	
1 - Unacceptable	• Story is fragmented and the candidate goes on a tangent • Candidate does not answer the question and/or seems to not understand the question
3 - Meets Expectations	• Candidate's story is concise with an intelligently flow and answers question
4 - Exceeds Expectations	• Candidate speaks passionately and authentically • Response communicates a high level of self-awareness
Video Response: Authenticity and Vulnerability	
1 - Unacceptable	• Story is fragmented and the candidate goes on a tangent • Candidate does not answer the question and/or seems to not understand the question
3 - Meets Expectations	• Candidate's story is concise with an intelligently flow and answers question
4 - Exceeds Expectations	• Candidate speaks authentically • Response communicates a level of vulnerability and/or

	passion
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FAQ

Do I have to be a technical or business major?

No. All majors are encouraged to apply.

Is there a cost to participate in the program?

No. The program, including training, is covered for selected students.

Other Questions?

If you have additional questions about the program, please email the fellows at the email below:

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Where do I apply?

Complete the online application at

<https://hbcuvc.submittable.com/submit/199165/hbcu-fellowship-application>