



## PREP-KC Dual Credit Adjunct Fellow Scholarship

Ensuring that ALL students have access to high-quality, engaging, and rigorous instruction prior to entering postsecondary education is a strategic focus for PREP-KC and the Kansas City bi-state region. Studies have shown that students participating in [dual-enrollment programs significantly increase their chances of earning a certificate or degree while dramatically reducing their college debt](#). Despite these findings, one of the most significant barriers facing urban school districts seeking to expand opportunities for students to earn college credit is the logistics of getting high school students to and from a college campus on a regular basis and availability of high school teachers who have the required credentials to serve as adjunct college faculty.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reported in 2011-2012, that 56% of teachers had a major field of study bachelor's or higher degree in education with less than 10% holding degrees in content areas such as math and natural sciences ([NCES, 2013](#)). While a significant number of teachers have earned graduate credit in general areas such as curriculum and instruction, school administration or technology, postsecondary institutions require at least 18 hours of graduate credit-focused in the content area (i.e. English, math, history, or science) to award adjunct status.

As a solution, PREP-KC plans to scholarship 12 teachers from our partner K-12 districts in the 2018-2019 school year, to enroll in the initial cohort of adjunct fellowships. These core content teachers will begin graduate coursework in 2019 and will earn the necessary 18 graduate credits required to serve as an adjunct instructor by May of 2021. PREP-KC will support these teachers throughout their graduate fellowships by offering tuition assistance and other coaching and support services, identified as needed. Additionally, PREP-KC will rely on the strong relationships we have developed with our regional postsecondary partners to craft graduate experiences that expedite the path to adjunct faculty members while offering a manageable course load for a full-time high school teacher.

### **Adjunct Fellowship Information**

- PREP-KC will scholarship three cohorts, 12 teachers per cohort (36 total). Fellows will earn 18 credit hours (approximately six graduate courses in an identified content area) to deepen content expertise (i.e. English, math, history, or science).
- Fellows will submit their plan of study for 18 credit hours and identify their higher education partner for approval to PREP-KC.
- Average tuition per credit is based on land grant institutions in Missouri and Kansas. If per credit hour costs exceed this guideline, PREP-KC reserves the right to cost share the credit hour costs.
- Fellows will agree to continuous enrollment until completion of 18 credit hours (approximately six courses) and remain in their current school district for three years after completing the 18 credit hours.
  - Fellows who proactively exit the cohort or their school district outside of the cohort requirements agree to reimburse PREP-KC for dispensed funds.
  - Fellows may request a Leave of Absence (up to one semester at a time, renewable upon circumstances) to be approved by PREP-KC.
- Administrative recommendation required to ensure fellow is in good standing and positioned to teach dual credit courses in the future.

### **Adjunct Fellowship Timeline**

- Cohort 1 will launch spring 2019.
- Applications available August 15, 2018; tentative submission deadline September 15, 2018.