

THE NORTHWEST PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

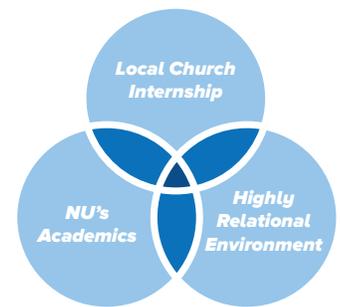
WHAT IS THE NORTHWEST PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM?

NU Comes to You – The Northwest Partnership Program (NPP) is a unique partnership between Northwest University and your church or organization. Through the NPP, Northwest University comes to you. NPP students earn college credits toward AA and BA degrees that can be completed at your NPP, at Northwest University's Kirkland campus, or even transferred to other public and private colleges or universities, all from home, while serving in their local church internship program (if they choose to).

Northwest University is a Christian university affiliated with the Assemblies of God located in Kirkland, Washington. NU was founded in 1934 and has more than 20 years of experience in non-traditional education. Our goal is to provide a quality Christian education that prepares leaders for the new horizons of this ever-changing world.

Academics, Internships, Relationships – The NPP blends the best of what Northwest does (accredited academics) with what local churches and ministries do best (practical leadership training) in the environment of life-changing relationships found in local churches and nonprofit organizations.

Why Does NU Provide the NPP? – Our goal is to help develop a new generation of leaders with accessible, low-cost, high-quality education from a faith-based perspective. More specifically, we want to help the next generation of leaders discover their call while cultivating the Christian perspective and leadership skills needed to carry out that call.



NPP Growth – The NPP started in the fall of 2014 with 10 active NPP partners and 100 students in four states. The NPP now has over 80 NPP partners with over 400 students in 19 states.

Many Kinds of Partners – Although originally designed to partner with local churches, the NPP also partners with other local ministries and non-profit organizations who have internships, leadership development, or staff development programs (such as Seattle Union Gospel Mission).

ACCREDITATION

Accreditation is what Northwest University brings to the partnership. NU is accredited by the Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities. Regional accreditation is the highest level of accreditation available and has the following benefits.

- **Courses Transfer** – All courses taken through the NPP typically transfer to other public and private colleges and universities.
- **Federal Financial Aid** – The NPP is eligible for federal financial aid.
- **No Asterisks** – All courses taken and degrees earned through the NPP are the same courses and degrees students earn on our Kirkland campus. There are no asterisks on transcripts.
- **Transfer Students Welcome** – Northwest welcomes students with previous college experience from other accredited colleges and universities. We also consider previous credits from non-accredited institutions. Previous credits earned count toward NU degrees.



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ACADEMICS AND ACADEMIC STRUCTURE

Online Program – The NPP is an online program with several unique and significant benefits.

- Students may complete any degree by taking only online classes.
- There is no minimum number of students required to start an NPP. You can start your NPP with as little as one student.
- An on-site NPP coordinator provides personal support in student orientation and academic success.
- For larger NPP's (instructional sites) there is an option of hosting live classes as part of the online experience (see below).

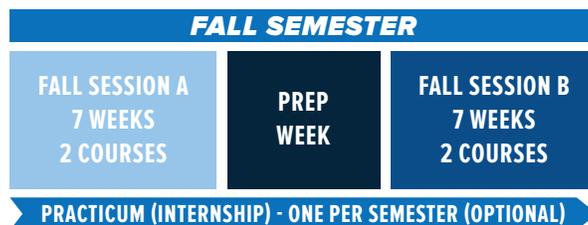
Available Degrees – NPP partners can offer any of the following degrees through their program.

- Associate in Arts
- Associate in Ministry Leadership
- Bachelor of Arts in Business Management
- Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies
- Bachelor of Arts in Ministry Leadership
- Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership
- Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Management
- Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
- Certificate in Ministry Leadership



Academic Program Structure – The NPP runs on a 15-week semester system, with each semester divided into two seven-week sessions (Session A and Session B).

Full-Time Students – Full-time students take two three-credit courses per session (four courses per semester) – plus an optional three internship credits—for a total of 15 credits per semester. The typical associate degree takes two years for a full-time student (60 credits). The typical bachelor's degree takes four full years (120 credits).



NPP COURSES

NU Online – All NPP courses are hosted by NU Online, a web-based learning management system. NU Online courses include NPP students, online NU students, and some traditional NU students. The benefits of NU Online include:

- **Accessible 24/7** – Anywhere the student can access the internet.
- **Flexible** – Since there are no set class times, students have the freedom to fit their academics into their internship and personal schedules.



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- **Consistent Schedule** – Every NPP course follows the same weekly assignment schedule. With each new class, students are free to focus on learning new content, not a new class structure. Here is the assignment schedule for the typical NPP course (weeks 1–6):

- Monday through Wednesday – Reading and Viewing Assignments
- Wednesday – Reading and Viewing Practice Quiz
- Thursday – Reading and Viewing Quiz
- Thursday – Discussion Post
- Saturday – Replies to Discussion Posts from Other Students
- Sunday – Applied Learning Activity (ALA – usually an essay)
- Week Seven – Summative Project

Typical NU Online Classes (Section) – An individual NU Online class is called a “section.” A typical NU Online class is made up of 15–20 students from across the United States. For students who register prior to July 15, we’ll do our best to put them into the same section with those from the same NPP Partnership.

Course Progression – First-year students may take the following:

Fall – Session A

- Jesus the Messiah
- Life Calling
- Internship/Practicum

Fall – Session B

- Composition I
- New Testament
- Internship/Practicum

Spring – Session A

- Old Testament
- Composition II
- Internship/Practicum

Spring – Session B

- Christian Thought
- General Psychology
- Internship/Practicum



NPP INSTRUCTORS

Preview NU Online – To view the “Intro to NU Online” video, click [here](#).

NPP Instructors must have an accredited master’s degree in the area in which they teach. Adjunct instructors use NU’s pre-approved learning outcomes, textbooks, and assignments. Northwest will consider qualified adjunct instructors from your local church or nonprofit organization. (Keep in mind we have a high volume of potential adjuncts and a limited number of classes to teach.)



PERSONAL ELEMENTS

Personal Elements of the NPP – Although the NPP is an online program, it has several significant personal elements that make a huge difference for the student experience.

- **NPP Coordinator** – The NPP Coordinator typically leads weekly study halls, helps students use the academic support tools (see below), and provides the personal, face-to-face support lacking in most online programs.
- **Internship Training** – Most NPP Partners have weekly leadership training and intern meetings included in their NPP Programs. These meetings often provide a great debrief and application of NU courses. Students find they are applying what they learn in class through focused and guided internship service.
- **Discussion Groups** – Because some NPPs have multiple students taking the same course at the same time, weekly discussion groups led by on-site staff are always a good option.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT TOOLS

Academic Support Tools – Our primary goal at NU is the academic success of your NPP students. Academic support—both on-site and online—is key to this academic success. NU staff advises students on which courses to take and monitors students’ grades. NU staff partners with the NPP coordinator, who provides personal support for students through accountability and help in using NU’s many academic success tools, which are always available online. These tools include:

- **Online Writing Center** – Students are able to submit rough drafts of essays online for editing and suggestions.
- **Online Tutoring** – Students have 24/7 access to online tutoring in every subject through Smarthinking (both live chat and via email).
- **NU Library Online** – Students have 24/7 access to the NU library’s extensive collection of eBooks.
- **NU Reference Librarians** – Students have 24/7 access to online reference librarians for research and essay writing help.



INTERSHIPS AND PRACTICUM

College Credit for Internships – NPP Practicums are an important and distinctive aspect of the NPP, allowing students the option of earning three college credits for each semester of training in the local NPP partner’s internship program for free. (Internship refers to the local leadership development program; practicum refers to the mechanism NU uses to award credit).

Click [here](#) for examples of NPP internship applications.



Basic Principles – NPP Partner Internship Programs

- **Freedom** – NPP partners are free to design and run their internship programs. That is your part of the partnership.
- **Support** – Of our over 80 NPP partners, most already run internship programs. We will put you in contact with partners already running the kind of program you are dreaming of or designing.
- **Balance** between the academics and the internship. NPP partner internship programs are vigorous, but still provide time for students to invest in their academic work. The typical NPP internship takes 8–12 hours a week. The typical NU Online course takes 15–17 hours per week.
- **Self-Discovery** – The NU academics and local internship are designed to work together, helping the student discover their gifts and God’s call through study, service, and reflection.
 - First-year interns rotate through different ministries.
 - Second-year interns typically focus on the area of ministry to which they feel drawn in their first year.
 - Third- and fourth-year interns lead areas of interest.

Basic Requirements for Practicum Credit

- 8–12 total hours in internship per week (including intern meetings, chapels, leadership training, and internship service).
 - Four hours (of the 8–12 total) serving in ministry area per week (including prep).
- An opportunity for weekly reflection on internship in an intern meeting, an internship journal, or both.
 - Reflection paper at the end of each semester.

Typical Elements of NPP Partner Internship Programs include:

- Leadership Training Classes
- Weekly Chapels and Prayer Times
- “Adulting” Classes for Life After Graduation

Typical Internship Weekly Schedule

	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
MONDAY	Day Off – Work Study Rest		
TUESDAY	Chapel	Internship Training Classes	Free Time or Study Hall
WEDNESDAY	Internship Training Classes	Study Time	Class or Study Hall Practice Quiz Due
THURSDAY	Church Staff Meeting	Intern Mtg and Prep Intern Family Dinner	Internship Service Quiz & Discussion Post
FRIDAY	Day Off – Work Study Rest		
SATURDAY	Day Off – Work Study Rest		
SUNDAY	Serve One Service Attend One Service	Break Work Study Rest	Weekly ALA (Essay) Due



NPP ON-SITE STAFF (COORDINATOR, DIRECTOR, AND ACADEMIC COACH)

The NPP Coordinator is an on-site staff person (paid or volunteer) from the local church or ministry. The coordinator is NU's primary on-site contact and provides direct student support in the enrollment process and their academic pursuits. The coordinator typically has a bachelor's degree as well as experience working with young adults.

The NPP Director – Some NPP partners have a director who oversees the internship, represents the program to the church, and recruits students. Often, one person can fill both coordinator and director roles.

The NPP Academic Coach – Some NPP partners have a separate academic coach who provides face-to-face academic accountability and support in using the online academic success tools. Most NPP partners have the coordinator fill this role.

NU Kirkland Staff – NU staff take care of the enrollment process (admissions, financial aid, advising students on what classes to take, and getting them registered in their classes) as well as academic and administrative support throughout the year. That leaves our partners free to build supportive relationships and focus on internship training.

TYPES OF STUDENTS

Who Can Be an NPP Student – Although designed for student-interns in their 20s, your NPP is a benefit you can offer many types of potential students in your local church or nonprofit organization.

- Full-Time Students/Interns – The typical NPP student is a 20-something serving and taking NU courses on a full-time basis.
- Flex Students – Flex students are adult learners who may or may not be receiving practicum credit. Students with families and jobs find the NPP enables them to finish their degrees and still fulfill these other responsibilities. Flex students pay the program fee.
- Church Staff – Many NPP partners offer the NPP as a staff benefit, allowing staff to finish a degree and maintain other responsibilities.
- Non-Student Interns – Some interns will not be NU students, and that is fine with us. Our goal is to be a useful part of your internship program, not to take it over. We do not require all interns from NPP partners to be NPP students in order to become an NPP partner.

NPP HUBS

Formal or Informal NPP Hubs – An NPP hub is a group of churches or non-profit organizations combining resources to better serve students. A formal NPP hub is comprised of a group of NPP partners joining together to host classes, combined student orientations, and other events. An informal NPP hub has only one NPP partner that serves as the academic host for students from other (non-NPP) churches in the hub. In an informal NPP hub, students do internships through their own church or ministry; the NPP partner provides academic support.



NPP COSTS

Student Costs – The NPP costs \$316 per credit, with an optional NPP program fee of \$1,300 per student per semester, for a total cost of \$10,184 per academic year (\$7,584 without the NPP program fee).

Program Fee – The NPP program fee is an optional fee of \$1,300 per student per semester. The fee is collected by NU, then sent via check to the local church to offset the costs involved in operating and developing an NPP. This fee is optional. This fee is eligible for federal financial aid.

Church Costs – The NPP program is paid for by students, without direct cost to the church. Students pay for their education and the program fee helps pay for the costs associated with offering the NPP.

Financial Aid – NPP students are eligible to receive federal financial aid (grants and loans) for tuition costs. Once students fill out a FASFA, NU will determine the level of financial aid for which they qualify.

The NPP Scholarship – NPP partners earn a scholarship based on the number of students (full-time equivalent or FTE) taking NU courses through their program each year. This “scholarship” is a discount for one or more students toward any online NU bachelor’s program or NU master’s program. Here is the breakdown:

NPP STUDENTS (FTE)	PERCENT DISCOUNT ON ONE ONLINE TUITION
3.0–8.9	25%
9.0–15.9	50%
16.0–21.9	75%
22.0–25.9	100%
26.0–32.4	100% + 25%
32.5–38.9	100% + 50%
39.0–45.4	100% + 75%
45.5–51.9	100% + 100%
52.0–58.4	100% + 100% + 25%

INSTRUCTIONAL SITES

Instructional Sites – An NPP partner averaging 20 or more students (FTE) on a regular basis may be approved as an NPP instructional site. Instructional sites enjoy many benefits, including greater freedom in offering live classes and in their promotional language.

Hosting a Class With a Live Instructor – NPP instructional sites may host classes with a live instructor if ten or more students are enrolled in a specific course. NPP partners can also combine students to host a class. These courses are still supported by NU Online.

Instructional Site Coordinator – Once an instructional site averages 40 or more students, Northwest will hire (and pay for) your coordinator as a half-time NU staff person.



NPP PARTNERSHIP – NEXT STEPS

HOW DO WE GET APPROVED?

Submit an Interest Form – Upon initial contact, we will send you a basic info packet on the NPP (including this FAQ). Read through this material and make a list of questions to ask at the NPP informational meeting.

Informational Meeting – This meeting allows to us get to know each other. Potential partners have a chance to ask questions about the NPP. We are able to learn more about your church or ministry. This meeting can be done face-to-face or via video conference (we use Zoom).

Recommendation Meeting – This meeting allows the potential partner an opportunity to ask more questions that arise after digesting the info from the informational meeting. We will work through the official accreditation checklist and seek to involve the senior pastor so he or she can discuss the program and its possibilities with the NPP director.

Provost Recommendation – Our team then recommends you as a NPP partner. Upon approval as an NPP partner, the provost issues a memorandum of understanding outlining the NPP agreement.

Return the Memorandum – Once you return the memorandum, signed by your senior pastor and a board member, the partnership is official. It's time to set up your program and get potential students applying to NU.

Have Potential Students Apply – Have potential students apply as soon as possible at northwestu.edu/partnership/apply. Remember: get transcripts and fill out a FAFSA immediately.

NPP Basic Training – Once a new partner is approved, they take self-directed new NPP partner training. Areas of training include:

1. NPP New Partner Training
2. How to Promote Your Program
3. How to Recruit Students
4. Setting up Your Internship and Student Orientation
5. Setting up Your Academic Support System

Attend Annual NPP Conference – Every January, NU hosts an NPP Leadership Conference in Kirkland. It is a great place to get basic training, ideas to take your program to the next level, and connect with NU staff and other NPP coordinators and directors.

STATES WITH ACTIVE PARTNERS	
Alaska	Nevada
Arizona	Ohio
California	Oregon
Florida	South Carolina
Georgia	South Dakota
Hawaii	Texas
Idaho	Washington
Illinois	Wisconsin
Michigan	Wyoming
Montana	

Thank you for considering the Northwest University Northwest Partnership Program. If you have any further questions or would like to start a conversation, contact Dr. Cary Petersen.

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