



MSI HUMANITIES LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Application Close Date
March 6, 2026, 11:59 PM ET

Selection Announcement
April 20, 2026

Program Dates
August 4 at 6 PM -
August 7 at 3 PM, 2026

APPLICATION TIMELINE

- Applicants should aspire to serve as a dean or provost at a federally-designated Minority Serving Institution.
- Applicants should be currently serving or have served as a department chair in a humanities-based discipline.

Supported by a grant from the Mellon Foundation, the MSI Humanities Leadership Academy is a program developed by the Rutgers Center for Minority Serving Institutions (CMSI), which brings together prominent academic leaders from Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to engage with department chairs within the humanities.

MSI Humanities Leadership Academy includes both a leadership forum and mentoring program. The program will bridge that gap by equipping humanities department chairs with the critical leadership skills, executive experience, and mentoring needed to take on academic leadership positions. Through intensive shadowing, one-on-one mentoring, and in-person and professional development, participants will gain a nuanced understanding of academic leadership while deepening their capacity to embed humanities perspectives in institutional governance.

After the forum, mentors and their mentees will participate in a one-on-one mentoring relationship over 1 year. Each participant will be paired with a current or recent provost or dean. They will engage in a comprehensive shadowing experience that includes observing key decision-making processes, attending executive meetings, and gaining first-hand exposure to the challenges and responsibilities of institutional leadership. CMSI will facilitate these relationships and provide benchmarks to be completed at various points throughout the year.

The MSI Humanities Leadership Academy starts with a dinner at 6PM on August 4th and ends on August 7th at 3:00 PM. All meals, lodging for 3 nights, and materials will be provided by CMSI. Participants must cover the cost of their personal travel.

APPLY NOW!

PROGRAM OUTLINE AND BENEFITS

- 1 year program including a forum that brings together a cohort of MSI Humanities Leadership Academy fellows with provosts and deans.
- Forum workshops focus on topics including but not limited to:
 - Managing Faculty
 - Enrollment Management
 - Student Success
 - Fundraising and Alumni Engagement
 - Working with Search Firms
 - Budgeting and Financial Management
 - Managing Up
- One-on-one mentoring from a dean or provost
- A CV Review Service
- Academic Executive Job Bank
- A Nominating Letter Service
- Individual Coaching Provided by Search Firms
- Interview Preparation provided by Mentors and Search Firms
- Program Interviews, Career Surveys, Program Evaluations

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Application will be available beginning February 9, 2026 [here](#).
- Components of a Completed Online Application:
 - Personal Information
 - 3-minute Personal Narrative Video
 - Contact Information for 3 individuals serving as recommenders
 - Recommendation survey completed from 3 individual recommenders
- Ideal Applicants Are:
 - Someone who envisions a dean or provost position in 3-6 years
 - Someone who see themselves in a dean or provost position at a Minority Serving Institution

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION

Below we have included a few guiding tips on things to consider when working on the various portions of the MSI Humanities Leadership Academy application. Following these guiding tips does not guarantee selection into the program but will ensure you put forth a strong application for consideration.

- Personal Narrative Video
 - Use Hi-definition video for best quality
 - Use bright lighting
 - Ensure good sound quality
 - Maintain professionalism
 - Provide a response to all the questions in the prompt
 - Do not go over the 3-minute limit for the video
 - Avoid having a script that is visible to the viewer and/or from which you are clearly reading
- Recommenders
 - Follow instructions when providing full information for three recommenders. We require one recommendation from each of these categories:
 - A current/past supervisor
 - A current/past supervisee
 - A mentor who can comment on your leadership potential
- Inform recommenders in advance of your intent to apply to this program
 - Provide sufficient time for recommenders to submit their portion of your application
- Recommenders will not receive the link to submit their materials about the applicant until an applicant submits their completed application. Strong applicants should not apply for this opportunity at the last minute as recommenders will not have enough time to complete and submit their materials.
- Applications are only considered complete when an applicant and their three recommenders have successfully completed all relevant materials.
- Timely Submission
 - Under no circumstances will late applications be accepted. Please do not call or email about late submissions. This application will not be extended beyond the March 6, 2026 deadline.
 - **Selected applicants will be required to attend the MSI Humanities Leadership Academy from Tuesday, August 4th at 6PM - Friday, August 7, 2026. The program starts with a dinner at 6PM on April 4th and ends on April 7th at 3:00 PM. Please make sure you will be available during these dates before submitting an application.**