

# Program Details

## How long is the program?

The program is a twelve-month program that begins January 2026 and concludes December 2026.

## Can current NP business owners apply for the program?

Applicants should be **aspiring** NP entrepreneurs looking to start their own healthcare enterprises; however, we will consider accepting a limited number of applicants who are current NP business owners needing **critical support** to make their businesses viable.

## Will there be an orientation before the leadership retreat in February 2026?

Yes, there will be a general online orientation session scheduled in January and an online orientation scheduled with our collaborative partner at NPBO™.

## What are the key dates and locations for the 2025-2026 program year events?

Applications must be submitted by **December 19, 2025**

Application decisions will be announced on a rolling basis by late December 2025.

*Before applying, individuals interested in the program should make sure that their schedule allows for them to fully participate on the mandatory dates below:*

Feb 22-25, 2026: Leadership Retreat 1 in Durham, NC

Jun 6-7, 2026: Web-conference 1 via Zoom

Aug 22-23 or Aug 29-30, 2026: Consultative Business Panels via Zoom

Oct 3-4, 2026: Web-conference 2 via Zoom

Dec 11-13, 2026: Leadership Retreat 2 in Durham, NC

*NPBO sessions listed below (held at 7 pm CT via Zoom):*

*March 5 and 19, 2026*

*April 2, 16, and 30, 2026*

*May 14 and 28, 2026*

*June 11, 2026*

## **Is live/synchronous participation required for the weekend web-conferences? May participants join by telephone or review the recorded sessions at a later date?**

Live, synchronous participation via webcam is required to ensure full participation in these interactive sessions.

## **Is live/synchronous participation required for the consultative panels? May program participants join by telephone or review the recorded sessions at a later date?**

Each participant must join live via webcam for TWO of the online consultative panel dates, which is expected to be 3 hours in length. All participants should reserve the consultative panel dates on their calendars now and release unneeded time once their presentation time slot has been assigned to them.

## **To participate fully, what is the time commitment required for work outside of the virtual weekend web-conferences?**

Participants should expect to spend an average of 2-3 hours per week on distance-based learning and business plan development activities using some or all the following modalities: video-streamed lectures, video clips, audio components, guided readings, discussion boards, interactive web-activities, threaded discussions, on-line modules and conference calls. The amount of time devoted to program activities also depends on the business plan development needs of each participant.

## **Who are the program instructors?**

The program's faculty/facilitators are interdisciplinary experts from Duke University, NPBO™ and other local and national institutions and organizations in the fields of health care, business, entrepreneurship, education, policy and advocacy. Our collaborators bring a first-hand understanding of strategies and solutions to address issues within the evolving and challenging healthcare environment.

## **Will participants be required to participate in classes and be graded on work in the program?**

Although no grades will be issued, participants are expected to participate fully in program activities, as outlined in the **participant LOC**. This rigorous and engaging program employs a number of pedagogical methods, including independent learning activities, group engagement, and seminars. There will be opportunities for on-site leadership retreats, discussion, idea networking, distance-based learning interaction, and suggested learning activities. Specifically, participation in on-site leadership retreats and virtual weekend web-conferences, as well as the development and

implementation of a health enterprise business plan, are a part of the requirements for successful program completion.

## Are there any technology requirements for participation in the program?

Participants must utilize a personal computer or Mac that meets or exceeds the following minimum standards:

- **Operating System (OS):**
  - **Windows:** Windows 10 or Windows 11 (must be the latest supported version).
  - **macOS:** A current version of macOS (e.g., macOS Sonoma or newer) that still receives security updates.
- **Processor:** A modern multi-core processor (e.g., Intel Core i3 10th Gen or newer, AMD Ryzen 3 3000 series or newer, or Apple M-series Silicon).
- **Memory (RAM):** A minimum of **8 GB of RAM** is required for stable performance, with **16 GB** highly recommended.
- **Storage:** Sufficient Solid State Drive (SSD) space available to install and run the required software (e.g., Zoom) and a current internet browser.

Participants must also have the following equipment for uninterrupted program access:

- **Internet Connection:** A stable **broadband connection** (DSL, cable, fiber-optic) with a minimum download and upload speed of **5 Mbps** (10 Mbps or higher is strongly recommended for HD video conferencing).
- **Audio Equipment:** A computer headphone or headset equipped with a **mutable microphone** to ensure clear audio quality and minimize background noise.
- **Video:** An external or integrated **webcam** (HD resolution preferred) that is fully compatible with the computer's operating system and the required video conferencing software (e.g., Zoom).
- **Software:** A current, up-to-date internet browser (e.g., Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Mozilla Firefox, or Safari).