

Are you searching for an opportunity to apply your data analysis and research skills to philanthropy? Our Education Philanthropy team is looking for an Associate Learning and Impact Officer to help sharpen our grantmaking strategy and practice through research and evaluation. If you share Ascendium's commitment to ensuring learners from low-income backgrounds experience upward mobility through higher education and workforce training, and if you love research, this is the position for you.

This hybrid position is based in Madison, Wisconsin, at our state-of-the-art headquarters. To support our employees, we offer generous benefits, including a flexible schedule, student loan repayment assistance, paid training and career development, and paid parental leave.

### ***Job Responsibilities***

On a day-to-day basis, you may do the following.

- Provide support for the Learning and Impact team.
- Serve as project manager for multiyear evaluations and research projects to strengthen Ascendium's programs and grantmaking.
- Lead the collection and analysis of survey data from our grantee and applicants and support the Education Philanthropy team's reflections on these data to ensure our continuous improvement.
- Leverage primary data sources (e.g., grant applications and grant reports) to make data-informed improvements to philanthropic practices, policies, and strategies.
- Support grants that increase secondary data analysis and reporting on national trends in postsecondary outcomes, labor market success, and upward mobility.
- Support advisory councils convened by Ascendium to provide guidance on research and evaluation initiatives.
- Generate intuitive, informative, and visually appealing tables and charts for dashboards, data placemats, data walks, and PowerPoint presentations using analysis from primary and secondary data sources.
- Understand and communicate findings to internal staff and, in collaboration with the Strategic Communications team, to external stakeholders.
- Design and execute learning events (e.g., learning sessions, site visits, and convenings) to turn lessons learned into improved decisions.
- Assist with the review, design, sourcing, and monitoring of third-party evaluations of grants, grant clusters, grant initiatives, and philanthropic strategy.
- Co-author blogs, articles, and papers about our philanthropic practice in learning and impact.
- Use project management tools to effectively steward multiple projects.
- Learn about and stay abreast of performance measurement, evaluation, and research in the philanthropic field and in postsecondary education and workforce systems.
- Travel to conferences and other partner convenings, as well as grantee partners' events, when appropriate.
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

## ***Knowledge and Skill Requirements***

A highly qualified candidate will possess the following.

- **Education and Professional Experience**
- Knowledge equivalent to a master's degree in higher education, education, education policy, economics, public policy, sociology, or a related social field of study.
- Three to five years of full-time work experience in postsecondary education, workforce development, philanthropy, and/or nonprofit organizations.

## **Technical Knowledge and Skills**

- Demonstrated commitment to Ascendium's mission and diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Familiarity with basic evaluation principles and research methods, and a willingness to grow knowledge and skills in evaluation.
- Skills in quantitative and qualitative methods, with a particular focus on survey design and survey data analysis. Experience using survey programs (e.g. Qualtrics) to create, administer, and monitor surveys highly desired.
- Familiarity with or willingness to learn different data sources related to postsecondary, workforce and social mobility, including traditional data sources (e.g., National Student Clearinghouse, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, NCES surveys, Unemployment Insurance Data) and contemporary data sources (e.g., Burning Glass, LinkedIn, EMSI).
- Advanced Excel skills, including formula functions, pivot tables, charts, and graphs.
- Familiarity with data visualization techniques, including dashboard creations in Excel and Tableau.
- Willingness to learn and use statistical software, such as Stata.
- Capacity to skillfully and accurately communicate data to multiple stakeholders.
- Demonstrated ability to execute and follow through on project management to achieve intended results by honoring commitments, prioritizing work, and managing time and resources well.
- Attention to detail.
- Ability to work cooperatively and inclusively with others to achieve shared goals.
- Willingness to learn and adapt to a fast-paced, continually evolving work environment.
- Ability to develop and maintain strong working relationships with a diverse group of stakeholders.
- Interest in creating and building new systems, practices, and cultures.
- Comfort with ambiguity and evolution, including in the position's roles and responsibilities, in an emerging unit.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.

## ***About Ascendium***

Ascendium Education Group has helped millions of learners pursue postsecondary education since 1967, when it was formed to help fulfill the promise of the landmark Higher Education Act of 1965. Over the years, Ascendium has grown to become the nation's largest federal student loan

guarantor, providing information, tools, and counseling to help millions of borrowers nationwide avoid default and keep the door to re-enrollment open. We guarantee federal student loans, conceive and develop innovative products and services that support student success and loan repayment, and invest in studying and improving postsecondary education practices through our philanthropy.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Ascendium uses net proceeds from its guaranty and other operations to fund [Ascendium's philanthropy](#). The philanthropy team comprises program, grants management, and learning and impact staff who all have a shared commitment to advancing our mission. As a national funder, our mission is to elevate opportunities for learners from low-income backgrounds so they can achieve postsecondary educational and career success. Our funding supports innovative ideas, the creation of an evidence base, and the expansion and replication of effective practices.

### ***Other Information***

Ascendium offers an [outstanding benefits package](#) designed to provide employees and their families with a high degree of security. These benefits include, but are not limited to:

- Comprehensive medical, dental, and vision insurance.
- Generous time off, including up to eight weeks of paid parental leave.
- Student loan repayment assistance and tuition reimbursement up to \$5,250 annually.
- Flexible schedule.

Ascendium provides equal employment opportunity to all individuals regardless of their race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, creed, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by state or federal law.

H-1B sponsorship (initiation or transfer) is not available for this position.

If you would like assistance with the application process, please email [Ascendium Human Resources](#). We invite all applicants to complete the Voluntary Affirmative Action questions when submitting application materials. The questions are found at the end of the online application process. To learn more about our commitment to Equal Employment Opportunity, please visit the [Ascendium Careers webpage](#).

Ascendium requires criminal, employment, and education background investigations before hiring.

Click here to apply: [Create an Opportunity \(ultipro.com\)](#)