Get to know us!



We're on a mission to make postsecondary education a reality for more people

At Ascendium Education Group, we believe postsecondary education is the most effective opportunity maker, whether in the form of a university degree, a technical certificate, an apprenticeship or any other type of credential that leads to a fulfilling career. We're a nonprofit organization working to break down barriers that prevent too many people from achieving their educational goals. **Every Ascendium team member contributes to the same shared vision:**

A world in which everyone has the opportunity to rise to their highest potential. Everybody at Ascendium plays a critical role in support of that vision, whether they spend their days crunching numbers, assisting federal student loan borrowers, supporting grant partners or making executive decisions. We look for people who share our commitment to equity and opportunity and are ready to work hard to help people achieve their educational goals.

How do we go about pursuing our lofty goal? Through these three focus areas:

Student Loan Guaranty

Federal student loans are a critical tool for expanding access to postsecondary education. As the nation's largest student loan guarantor, we provide information, resources and counseling to help millions of borrowers nationwide manage repayment, and we help delinquent borrowers return to good standing.

Attigo Suite

Ascendium offers the Attigo[®] suite of solutions to help people reach their full potential. In partnership with colleges and universities, employers and other organizations, our comprehensive services drive higher education achievement, financial wellness and student loan repayment success.

Education Philanthropy

Everything we earn through the various services we provide gets channeled into our philanthropy program, one of the nation's largest funders of higher education initiatives. We invest in projects aimed at helping more students overcome academic, financial and social barriers to postsecondary success.

We provide grants to colleges, universities and research organizations for initiatives focusing on students who historically have the most to gain from a postsecondary credential but the least support getting there: first-generation students, incarcerated adults, rural community members, students of color, and veterans. Our philanthropic objectives are audacious. In collaboration with our grant partners, we work to identify, test and scale ideas capable of helping more students achieve their educational goals.

Our Culture



What's it like to work at Ascendium?

Ascendium is a great place for those who are driven to do more. We are a nonprofit that embraces personal growth, inside and out. We empower team members with the experiences, tools and support they need to thrive.

But we know how to have fun along the way. Helping people achieve their educational dreams is joyful work, and we like to celebrate it. We're proud of the role our company plays in making it possible for people to elevate themselves and their families. You can feel that pride in the air at Ascendium.

Our culture is also what earned Ascendium a Top Workplace designation in 2021, both regionally and nationally.





Employee Benefits

Taking care of each other as we elevate opportunity

Employees support our mission, and we support our employees with benefits that help them stay healthy, develop their skill set and prepare for their financial future.

- Health, dental and vision insurance
- 401(k) plan with employer match
- Tuition reimbursement
- Flexible spending account
- Life, accidental death and disability insurance
- Wellness Program (earn up to \$400 a year)
- Dependent scholarship program
- Employee assistance program

- Legal insurance
- Paid time off
- 10 paid holidays per year
- Paid parental leave
- Volunteer time off
- Funeral leave
- Emergency travel assistance
- "Dress for your day" policy

Employee Giving

Supporting the community is in our DNA

Our commitment to elevating opportunity doesn't stop with borrowers, customers and grantees. It extends to the communities where we live and work.

Our Ascendium Cares program makes it easy for employees to give back to their community, whether through a United Way pledge, paid volunteer time off or collection drives that benefit an adopted nonprofit chosen by each office.



Ascendium History

We've been helping people attain their educational goals for more than half a century

Ascendium, known until recently as Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation & Affiliates, was founded in 1967 to serve as a federal student loan guarantor following the creation of the Federal Family Education Loan Program, an important piece of President Lyndon B. Johnson's broad anti-poverty agenda. Over the next half-century, our name changed a couple of times and our business emphasis evolved to suit the needs of the day. In early 2018, our student loan servicing unit was acquired by another company, and as a consequence of that transaction, we changed our name to Ascendium. Throughout five decades of growth and change, our values and priorities remain constant, now and into the future.

Will you be a part of Ascendium's next chapter?



Corporate Headquarters

2501 International Lane Madison, Wisconsin 53704

866.511.0472 | ascendiumeducation.org

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