

California Pre-Doctoral (Sally Casanova) Health Professions Track

Find out more about The California Pre-Doctoral Program: <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/predoc>

The Health Professions Track (HPT) of the California Pre-Doctoral Program will award funds to approximately ten juniors, seniors, and master's students in the California State University (CSU). These funds will support students as they explore and prepare to succeed in doctoral programs in the health professions, including public health, social work, human development (with a focus on health), health psychology, kinesiology/physical therapy, nursing, and speech/language/hearing sciences. Awards are based on competitive review of applications from current upper-division or master's students who, in the judgment of the review panel, demonstrate academic excellence while having experienced economic or educational disadvantage, and have a strong interest in pursuing research-oriented careers in the health professions. Professional interests or career goals in health include (but are not limited to):

- Becoming a faculty member at a CSU or other public institution of higher education in California
- Improving health care service delivery or public health systems in a leadership role
- Influencing policies, programs, and practices through evidence-based approaches in an expert capacity

Program Details:

The California Pre-Doctoral Program is designed to increase the diversity of the pool from which the California State University draws its faculty by supporting the doctoral aspirations of CSU students who have experienced economic and educational disadvantages. The Health Professions Track aims to increase the number of students in the CSU's diverse undergraduate and graduate populations who pursue research-based health professional doctoral degrees in the California State University and University of California systems, including PhDs, DrPHs, DNP, DSWs and AuDs.

Each applicant selected will be designated a Sally Casanova Health Professions Scholar and will work closely with their CSU faculty mentor to develop a comprehensive Collaborative Mentorship Plan that leads to preparation for, and eventual enrollment in, a research-based health professional doctoral program. These plans should be tailored to the specific goals and career objectives of the student. The \$5,000 scholarship, administered through the Office of Financial Aid of the CSU campus in which the student is enrolled in Fall 2025, can be used to fund:

- Travel for the student to visit U.S. health professional doctoral-granting institutions and/or to attend professional meetings appropriate to the student's development.
- Academic and Professional Development, such as fees for student membership in professional associations, subscriptions to academic journals, preparatory classes for and fees associated with standardized tests (e.g., GRE), and cost of materials to support scholarly projects.

Sally Casanova Health Professions Scholars will be eligible to apply for the following:

- A Summer Research Experience opportunity at academic institution which confers health professional doctorates, fully funded by the California Pre-Doctoral Program, so that the Scholar can participate in doctoral-level research prior to applying to an appropriate doctoral program in the health professions.

Applying for the Health Professions Track:

An application is considered complete when the all supporting documents are uploaded:

- Three essays
- Collaborative Research Plan
- Budget Plan
- Academic Transcripts
- Letter of recommendation from CSU Faculty Mentor

For more information on application materials and samples, please use the following link:

<https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/predoc/Pages/how-to-apply.aspx>

Due Date

Applications for review are due to Graduate Excellence and Engagement Program via email (geep@csus.edu) by **11:59pm on Monday, January 12th, 2026.**

Applications are due to the Chancellor's Office via Smartsheet electronically by **5:00pm on Friday, February 13, 2026.**