

## Program Eligibility

### All applicants must:

- » Be at least 20 years of age by September 1st of the fellowship year.
- » Have a bachelor's degree by September 1st of the fellowship year and either a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.5 or higher or a GPA of 2.5 or higher in the last 60 (semester) or 90 (quarter) units.
- » Demonstrated interest in state government and public policy.
- » Be authorized to work in the United States for the duration of the fellowship program.

## How to Apply

Applicants must submit the following by the February deadline:

- Completed online application at [www.csus.edu/calst/senate](http://www.csus.edu/calst/senate)
- College transcript(s)
- Personal statement
- Three current, original letters of recommendation

## Timeline

February ..... Applications due\*  
Last week of April ..... Sacramento interviews\*\*  
First week of May ..... Los Angeles interviews\*\*  
End of May ..... Candidates notified  
End of October ..... Fellowship begins  
Beginning of September ..... Fellowship ends

\* Applications and specific dates and deadlines can be found online at [csus.edu/calst/senate](http://csus.edu/calst/senate)

\*\* All interviews must be conducted in person.

## For more information, contact:

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# CALIFORNIA SENATE FELLOWS PROGRAM





## The Senate Fellowship Experience

Jointly sponsored by the California State Senate and the Center for California Studies at Sacramento State, the California Senate Fellows Program is one of the most distinguished experiential learning programs in the nation. Senate Fellows work full-time as policy staff in a Senator's Capitol office or in a Senate policy committee.

Many Senate fellows continue their career as Senate staff upon completion of their fellowships. Elected officials at the federal, state and local level of government, senior legislative staff, and leaders in the executive branch trace their political beginnings to their time as Senate fellows. The program provides the professional development, mentorship, and support necessary to continue in legislative work, but also teaches transferrable skills of benefit in other career or academic pursuits.

The Senate Fellowship is highly competitive and seeks applicants who are passionate about California, the world's fifth largest economy and a global leader in public-policy making. Recent college graduates and mid-career professionals from every academic discipline or professional background, interested in a career in public policy-making, may apply.

### Academic Seminar

Senate fellows attend weekly seminars at the Capitol during the fall and spring semester, earning six graduate units from the Political Science Department at Sacramento State. Upon successful completion of the fellowship, Fellows earn a graduate certificate in Applied Policy and Government. The seminars provide an academic perspective to the experience gained in fellows' office placements.

[CSUS.EDU/CALST/SENATE](http://CSUS.EDU/CALST/SENATE)

## The Nature of Fellowship Work

18 fellows are selected each year. The 11-month program begins in October with a six-week intensive orientation. Senate fellows interview with multiple Senate offices in an effort to find the right match for them and for the Senate office in which they will be placed.

Fellows work full time in the Senate, learn about legislative process and hear from noted policy experts and senior legislative staff about current policy issues. Senate fellows perform all the duties of a legislative aide or committee consultant, which may include:

- Advise and staff the Senator on vote recommendations on bills.
- Write speeches, talking points and press releases related to fellow's assigned policy areas.
- Work with district office to address constituent concerns.
- Analyze bills referred to the Committee for legislative hearing.

## Program Stipend and Benefits

- **Monthly stipend of \$2,698** and health, dental and vision benefits
- Paid university enrollment and student fees for units in the Political Science department
- **Graduate Certificate** in Applied Policy and Government
- Student loan deferment



*Domonique Jones*  
2016-17 Senate Fellow

"The Senate Fellows program has provided me with profound insight within the legislative process to see how one can use their passions to create intersectionality and influence policy. As someone who comes from humble beginnings, I felt an immeasurable amount of gratitude as I was often invited to have a seat at the table to aid in the development of legislative strategy and serve as a key point person on crucial pieces of legislation. The network of mentors and colleagues fostered throughout the fellowship has formed a firm platform that we can use in our steadfast pursuit of public service to elevate California."