

Program Eligibility

All applicants must:

- Be at least 20 years of age by September 1 of the fellowship year.
- Have a bachelor's degree by September 1 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.
- Have a 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 application deadline:

- Completed online application at csus.edu/capitalfellows
- Statement of purpose and policy statement
- Resume
- College transcript(s)
- A list of three individuals who will write letters of recommendation

Applications and specific dates and deadlines can be found online at csus.edu/capitalfellows

For more information, contact

Center for California Studies, California State University,
Sacramento (916) 278-6906; capfellowsoutreach@csus.edu



"The Assembly Fellowship offered me an incredible amount of professional agency, while also providing a strong, personalized support system that was deeply invested in my success. This combination of hands-on work and mentorship led me to develop the practical and complex skills that I am grateful for everyday."

Ben Diaz, Assembly Fellow, 2024-2025



CAPITAL
FELLOWS

The Jesse M. Unruh ASSEMBLY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

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THE ASSEMBLY FELLOW EXPERIENCE

Established in 1957 and jointly sponsored by the California State Assembly and the Center for California Studies at Sacramento State, the Jesse M. Unruh Assembly Fellowship Program places Fellows as full-time legislative staff in the offices of California's 80 Assembly Members, offering a rigorous and immersive experience in the lawmaking process. Fellows directly contribute to policy research, constituent services, and the development of legislation. This hands-on role provides insight into how public policy is shaped and how elected officials serve their communities.

The program emphasizes professional growth through mentorship and hands-on experience, launching Fellows into public service careers. The Director of the Assembly Fellowship Program manages the fellowship, provides training, and serves as the direct supervisor for Fellows. The Director offers guidance through regular one-on-one meetings, helping Fellows navigate the transition into a fast-paced environment. The Director serves as a key resource for reflection, problem-solving, and professional growth. Fellows are also paired with an on-site mentor who ensures opportunities for meaningful assignments in their placement office.



"My time as an Assembly Fellow enhanced my understanding of politics, connected me with exceptional mentors and colleagues, and gave me the confidence to pursue a career in government. Furthermore, it allowed me to bring a diverse perspective to California policy while solidifying my commitment to public service. I am grateful for the growth and knowledge I gained during the fellowship."

Jerika Edwards, Assembly Fellow, 2023-2024



The Nature of Fellowship Work

The 11-month fellowship begins in October with an intensive orientation during which Fellows learn the legislative process and current policy issues from senior legislative staff and other key decision makers. Fellows are then placed directly in the office of an Assembly Member where Fellows become part of the legislative team mentored by senior staff. The program is bipartisan and places Fellows in offices of their political party. Fellows perform the duties of a legislative aide, including:

- Staffing bills through the legislative process, conducting policy analysis, and making vote recommendations
- Writing speeches, talking points, and press releases
- Staffing the Member at meetings and events and working with constituents, lobbyists, and advocacy groups

Program Benefits

- Paid full-time employment status, including health, vision, and dental benefits
- One-time moving allowance
- Student loan deferment eligibility
- Graduate Certificate in Applied Policy and Government upon program completion



Academic Seminar

Assembly Fellows participate in weekly academic seminars with their cohort, where they study Political Science. The seminar allows Fellows to apply theoretical academic concepts to real-world responsibilities in their placement offices. Upon completion of the fellowship, Fellows earn six graduate units in Political Science, at no cost for tuition or fees.

