

## 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/center-california-studies/capital-fellows](http://www.csus.edu/center-california-studies/capital-fellows)
- College transcript(s)
- Personal statement
- Three current, original letters of recommendation

## Timeline

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Early February  | Applications due*      |
| End of April    | Sacramento interviews  |
| Early May       | Los Angeles interviews |
| Mid to late May | Candidates notified    |
| Mid October     | Fellowship begins      |
| Early September | Fellowship ends        |

\* Applications and specific dates and deadlines can be found online at [csus.edu/center-california-studies/capital-fellows](http://csus.edu/center-california-studies/capital-fellows)

## 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 Government and Policy. The seminars provide an academic perspective to the experience gained in fellows' office placements.

[csus.edu/center/center-california-studies/capitol-fellows](https://csus.edu/center/center-california-studies/capitol-fellows)

## 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 \$2,964** 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



*Odette Overton, 2019-20 Senate Fellow*

"The Senate Fellows program has been a genuinely life-changing experience. Not only has the program challenged me to grow as a professional, but it has also provided me with a vast network of colleagues and mentors who will continue to provide support throughout my career in public service. Most significantly, I've gained incredible insight into how the policy process actually works through hands-on engagement that is virtually unmatched for a new staffer. I feel extraordinarily fortunate to be able to influence policy that affects nearly 40 million of my fellow Californians and to have the opportunity to contribute my lived experiences to the policymaking process."