

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
- Personal statement 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



“Being an Assembly Fellow is easily one of the most life-changing experiences I’ve had. I’ve learned about so much more than just the legislative process and how our state’s government functions. This fellowship also taught me a lot about how I work best and helped shape and solidify my interest in my future career.”

Alchemy Graham, Assembly Fellow, 2020-2021

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CAPITAL FELLOWS

The Jesse M. Unruh

ASSEMBLY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



THE ASSEMBLY FELLOWS EXPERIENCE

The Jesse M. Unruh Assembly Fellowship Program, founded in 1957, is one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious fellowship programs. The bipartisan program offers aspiring public servants of diverse backgrounds and experiences the unique opportunity to participate directly in the legislative process and shape public policy.

Assembly Fellows serve as full-time legislative staff in the office of an Assembly Member, working in a dynamic legislative environment. The Assembly Fellowship seeks highly motivated individuals who are passionate about the State of California, public policy, and politics. Fellowship alumni have gone on to positions of leadership in both the public and private sectors, including federal, state, and local elected office. The program successfully provides Fellows with the professional development, support, and mentorship needed to continue legislative work post-fellowship while also developing transferrable skills that can be applied to other career or academic pursuits.



“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



Academic Seminar

Assembly Fellows attend weekly seminars and receive six graduate units from Sacramento State. An academic seminar exposes Fellows to the theoretical aspects of political science with an emphasis on the experiential and practical issues they encounter in their placement offices. The Fellows also receive a graduate certificate in Applied Policy and Government from Sacramento State.

Program Benefits

- Paid full-time employee status, health, vision, and dental benefits
- Graduate Certificate in Applied Policy and Government
- Paid university enrollment and student fees for units in the Political Science Department
- Student loan deferment



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:

- Advising the Member on policy issues, making vote recommendations, and facilitating bills through the legislative process
- Preparing speeches and press releases
- Representing the Member at meetings and events
- Working with constituents, lobbyists, and other groups

csus.edu/capitalfellows