

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



“The Fellowship is an incredible opportunity to launch a professional career in public service. As a Fellow, you are surrounded by inspiration on all sides — from peers in the cohort who bring passion and fresh perspective, as well as seasoned leaders who bring expertise and a deep commitment to the public sector. The program offers an intensive immersion into the highest levels of state government operations. Fellows learn from mentors and teachers eager to train the next generation of leaders and from the hands-on experiences and meaningful contributions they are able to make in just one year.”

Meagan Tokunaga, Executive Fellow, 2015-2016

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CAPITAL FELLOWS

The EXECUTIVE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



THE EXECUTIVE FELLOWS EXPERIENCE

The Executive Fellowship Program is a 10-month experiential education curriculum that uniquely integrates high-level government work experience with academic and professional development. Executive Fellows are placed with a mentor in one of the many offices of California's executive branch, which includes the Office of the Governor, constitutional offices, Cabinet-level agencies, and departments. Executive Fellows function as full-time professional staff in these offices while meeting weekly for graduate seminars in public policy and administration.

Recent college graduates and mid-career professionals of all academic disciplines, backgrounds, and levels of experience who are interested in beginning a career in public service and policy are encouraged to apply.



“I have learned so much in the Executive Fellowship Program. In my placement, I had the opportunity to do hands-on work with direct involvement from state leaders. Even if you don't have experience in politics, the Executive Fellowship Program can teach you the skills important to a career as a public servant. The Executive Fellowship is a great opportunity for anyone who wants to become a leader in public service.”

Corbin Farias, Executive Fellow, 2023-2024

Professional Experience

The program provides Fellows the opportunity to work with their mentor to design a unique fellowship experience within the context of their placement. Fellows have gained hands-on experience and knowledge in project management, public administration, communications, budgeting, legislation, public speaking, and subject matter expertise through policy analysis and implementation.

Academic Seminar

Executive Fellows attend a weekly graduate seminar instructed by a professor from the Public Policy and Administration Department at Sacramento State. Our seminar helps provide an academic perspective on policy and administrative issues relevant to the public sector. Upon successful completion of the seminar and the Fellowship, fellows earn six graduate units in Public Policy and a Capital Fellows Graduate Certificate in Applied Policy and Government.

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 Public Policy and Administration Department
- Student loan deferment



Prior Placement Opportunities Include:

- California Air Resources Board
- California Energy Commission
- California Department of Food and Agriculture
- California High-Speed Rail Authority
- California Natural Resources Agency
- California Student Aid Commission
- Delta Stewardship Council
- Department of Finance
- Department of Healthcare Services
- Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
- Governor's Office of Planning and Research
- Office of the Governor
- Office of the Secretary of State
- Strategic Growth Council

csus.edu/capitalfellows

