

CAPITAL FELLOWS PROGRAMS



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CapitalFellowsPrograms

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The Capital Fellows Programs are nationally recognized public policy fellowships offering 64 college graduates unique experiences in policy-making and development with California state government. These 10-11 month fellowships are an outstanding opportunity to engage in public service, gain experience, and prepare for a future career.

- Capital Fellows are placed at some of the highest levels of California state government and assist state legislators, senior-level executive staff, and court administrators with a broad range of public policy issues and projects. All fellowship assignments are in the Sacramento area, with the exception of the Judicial Fellowship, which has placements throughout California.
- 2,000 alumni have participated in the Capital Fellows Programs, and the ranks of former fellows include judges; members of the United States Congress and the State Legislature; state and local government officials; corporate executives; community and non-profit leaders; and university professors, administration and staff.
- Fellows earn 6 graduate credits in Political Science or Public Policy and Administration from Sacramento State and upon successful completion of their fellowships, receive a graduate certificate in Applied Policy and Government.
- Fellows receive a monthly stipend of \$2,964/month; and medical, dental and vision benefits.
- Applications for the Capital Fellows Programs will be available October 2021 and the 2022-23 deadline is **February 7th, 2022 by 5:00 p.m. PST**. Each program's application can be obtained online at: <https://www.csus.edu/center/center-california-studies/>. No previous legislative or political experience is required, but applicants must have a bachelor's degree in *any major* by Sept. 1, 2022.

Each fellowship year, 64 Capital Fellows are selected to work in California state government in one of the following programs:

✦ **Jesse M. Unruh Assembly Fellowship Program (18 selected each program year)**

Created in 1957, the Jesse M. Unruh Assembly Fellowship Program is one of the oldest and most prestigious fellowship programs in the nation. The program provides aspiring public servants of all ages and backgrounds the opportunity to directly participate in the legislative process as full-time professional staff in the Assembly. Fellows gain valuable insight into California politics and public policy while working in offices that reflect the diversity of Assembly Members serving in the Legislature.

✦ **Executive Fellowship Program (18 selected each program year)**

Created in 1986, the program provides an opportunity to work as full-time professional staff in high levels of government throughout the Executive branch. Placements include offices of the Governor, constitutional offices and cabinet level staff, as well as agencies, departments, boards and commissions. The broad range of issues that the executive branch deals with provides fellows with valuable insight and experiences in state policy implementation, public administration, and politics. The size and scope of the Executive branch offers a fellow the flexibility to work on a variety of issues and develop new skills and passions.

✦ **Judicial Fellowship Program (10 selected each program year)**

Since 1997, Judicial Fellows have worked in Superior Courts and Judicial Council offices throughout California and gain experience in the executive level management of California's judicial branch. Courts do more than adjudicate cases. Judicial Fellows are tasked with a variety of work assignments during the fellowship such as legislative analysis and leading research projects related to court programs and public policy initiatives. Judicial fellows demonstrate a commitment to public service, access to justice and an interest in the administration of justice in the California court system. Key components to the program are the cohort model of the fellowship class, the strength of the mentorship opportunities that exist for fellows in each of the placements, and the opportunity to visit courts throughout California for monthly field and academic seminars.

✦ **California Senate Fellows (18 selected each program year)**

Established in 1973, 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. At all levels of the fellowship process, fellows draft legislation, analyze bills, draft speeches and talking points for Senators, all while serving as full-time professional legislative staff. The program welcomes people with diverse life experiences and backgrounds who have a track record of civic engagement and a commitment to serve the state of California.