

The Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress

PRESIDENTIAL FELLOWS PROGRAM

CALL FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST

The Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress (CSPC) and UNC Public Policy invite nominations for a student to serve as a member of the 2016-17 class of Presidential Fellows.

The UNC-CSPC Presidential Fellows Selection Committee will seek letters of interest from interested applicants. The deadline for submission is Friday, September 2, 2016 by 9 am.

Interested students should send the following information as a zip file to the Committee (c/o Mary Edwards, edwardmc@email.unc.edu):

- A letter of interest from the student nominee with a brief (no more than 500-word) description of the nominee's achievements, commitment to generating innovative solutions to current national challenges, and experience with, or a strong interest in, a career in public service;
- Unofficial transcript;
- Resume;
- Other relevant information supporting the selection of the candidate; and
- A brief letter of endorsement from a faculty member, internship supervisor, or other professional policy mentor.

Eligibility

- Fellows should have strong academic credentials. CSPC suggests that they have a minimum GPA of 3.5, typically the equivalent of an A-.
- Most Fellows are in their junior or senior year of their undergraduate studies.
- Fellows should have a demonstrated interest in an aspect of the American government and should be comfortable speaking, presenting, and writing specifically about the American Presidency or Congress.
- An essential aspect of the Fellows program is the relationship with his/her Mentor. As a result, it is important to nominate students who are responsible, open to constructive criticism and willing to engage with their mentors.

Requirements

- Upon program enrollment, Fellows must meet all deadlines or forfeit their status as a Fellow in good standing.
- Fellows must engage with their assigned Mentor
- Fellows attend two conferences in Washington, DC, during the course of the Fellowship year. For 2016-2017, the dates of Fall Conference are October 28-30, 2016 (dates for the Spring Conference in 2017 have yet to be determined).
- Presentation honors and paper prizes are eligible only to students attending both conferences.

- Each Fellow undertakes an original research project on a subject with direct relevance to the U.S. Presidency and/or the Congress. Each member is responsible for producing a 10 to 15-page paper due in May. Fellows are encouraged to draw upon and incorporate independent study or thesis work that is being undertaken by them in the 2016-2017 academic year.

About the Fellows Program

Since 1970, CSPC's Fellows have come to Washington, DC, to learn about leadership and governance, to share their outstanding research, and to explore careers in public service. This year-long program is offered to undergraduate and graduate students from both American and international universities. They are given the opportunity to study the U.S. Presidency, the public policymaking process, and our Chief Executive's relations with Congress, allies, the media, and the American public. Fellows also work closely with CSPC staff on top policy projects, such as securing the U.S. electrical grid and examining U.S. policy towards Latin America.

The Fellows participate in three-day leadership conferences in Washington, DC during the Fall and Spring semesters, in addition to completing a research paper that is eligible for publication on our website and awards. While attending the conferences, the Fellows participate in workshops where they present and receive constructive criticism on their research papers. The Fellows also have the opportunity to engage with policy experts, government officials, and leaders in the legislative process. In the past Fellows have had the opportunity to meet with speakers such as Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke; Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta; Deputy Secretary of Labor Christopher Lu; journalists James Kitfield, Ron Fournier, and Clive Crook; and defense experts Michèle Flournoy, Frank Cilluffo, and Capt. Eric Jones, USCG.