



2008-09 Senate Fellows

Who Can Apply?

Mid-career and recent graduates of all academic disciplines, backgrounds and levels of experience are encouraged to apply.

All applicants must:

- Be at least 20 years of age by September 1, 2010.
- Have a four-year bachelor's degree by September 1, 2010, and a demonstrated interest in state government and public policy.
- Be authorized to work in the United States for the duration of the program.

Important Dates

February 24, 2010.....Applications due
 Early May 2010.....Finalist interviews*
 May 2010.....Candidates notified
 October 2010Fellowship begins
 September 2011.....Fellowship ends

* All interviews must be conducted in person.

For more information, contact:

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SACRAMENTO STATE

WWW.CSUS.EDU/CALST/SENATE

CALIFORNIA SENATE FELLOWS 2010 - 2011



CALIFORNIA SENATE FELLOWS

Established in 1973, the California Senate Fellows program is one of the oldest and most distinguished service learning programs in the country. The program grew out of a desire to provide people with insight into the legislative process through experiential learning. It offers college graduates a paid, full-time legislative staff position in the State Capitol for 11 months. The program is jointly sponsored by the California State Senate and the Center for California Studies at California State University, Sacramento.

The **Center for California Studies** is a public education, public service and applied research unit of California State University, Sacramento devoted to promoting the understanding of California's history, cultures and public policies. Founded in 1984 and located on the capital campus of the California State University, the Center possesses a unique trust: to bring the resources of the state's largest university system to the service of public discourse, civic education and state government.



2008-09 SENATE FELLOWS

Teresa Acuña

Home: Rialto, CA
CSU San Diego
B.A. Political Science/
Chicana & Chicano Studies
Placement: Senator Cedillo

Gary Bell

Home: Auburn, CA
UC Santa Cruz
B.A. Psychology
Placement: Senator Benoit

Estella Cisneros

Home: Planada, CA
Stanford University
B.A. Political Science/
Comparative Studies in
Race and Ethnicity
Placement: Senator Pavely

Christy Cozby

Home: Arroyo Grande, CA
CSU Monterey Bay
B.A. Communications
Placement: Senator Wyland

Jerad Ferguson

Home: San Jose, CA
UC Santa Barbara
B.A. Political Science/
History and Government
Placement: Senator Dutton

Nicolina Hernández

Home: Del Rey, CA
Carleton College
B.A. Latin American Studies
Placement: Senator Corbett

Helen Ho

Home: Huntington Beach, CA
Rice University
B.S. Health Science
Placement: Senate Local
Government Committee

Bernice Jimenez

Home: Salinas, CA
Sacramento State
B.A. Government
Placement: Senator Denham

Andrea Lane

Home: Pleasant Hill, CA
UCLA
B.A. Psychology
Pepperdine
M.A. Psychology
Placement: Senator Liu

Melissa Macias

Home: Pico Rivera, CA
Pitzer College
B.A. Criminal & Legal Studies
Placement: Senator Padilla/
Energy

Matthew Ortiz

Home: Parlier, CA
CSU Fresno
B.A. Political Science/
Criminology
Placement: Senator Oropeza

Anand Parikh

Home: Troy, MI
University of Michigan
B.A. Political Science
Placement: Senator Simitian

Angelo Sandoval

Home: San Francisco, CA
UCLA
B.A. Political Science
Placement: Senator Ducheny

Amber Simmons

Home: Santa Maria, CA
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
B.S. Agribusiness
Placement: Senator
Maldonado

Megan Stineman

Home: Wheatland, CA
Chico State
B.A. Political Science
Placement: Senator Harman

Sue Vang

Home: Sacramento, CA
UC Berkeley
B.A. Ethnic Studies/Psychology
Placement: Senator Hancock

Danielle Williams

Home: Pittsburg, CA
UC Berkeley
B.A. Political Science
Placement: Senator Ashburn

Yuliya Zeynalova

Home: Reseda, CA
UCLA
B.A. Political Science/
Russian Studies
Placement: Business and
Professions

Selection Criteria

The Selection Committee, comprised of University and Legislative Branch representatives, selects the most qualified applicants for the program based on a written application and subsequent interview.

Committee members look for:

- Demonstrated interest in California politics and public policy
- Effective written and oral communication skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Characteristics for collaborative learning and problem-solving including flexibility, initiative, adaptability and maturity
- Academic and professional achievement
- Interest in and knowledge of the California Legislative Branch

How to Apply

Applicants must submit by February 24, 2010:

- **Completed on-line version of the application ***
Complete your application online at www.csus.edu/calst/senate
- **College transcripts**
Enclose a transcript of record from each college or university attended.
- **Letters of recommendation**
Enclose at least three letters of recommendation. At least two of the letters must be from persons who are not present members or employees of the California Legislature.
- **Personal statement**
Submit a personal statement, not to exceed three pages. A policy statement is not required to apply for the Senate Fellowship program.

****WWW.CSUS.EDU/CALST/SENATE***

The Work of a Senate Fellow

Fellows are assigned to the offices of a senator or policy committee and work as part of the public policy staff team in the Capitol. Responsibilities for fellows assigned to the Capitol offices of senators include helping develop legislative proposals, researching and analyzing bills, responding to constituent inquiries, and writing press releases and speeches among other things. Fellows assigned to policy committees specialize and develop expertise with respect to the subject-matter jurisdiction of the committee. Additional committee staff responsibilities include research assignments and assisting the chairperson with committee-related legislation that she or he is moving through the Legislature. Many of the California Senate Fellows participants continue their post-fellowship careers as staff to the California Senate.

Experience and Insight

The Senate Fellows Program is a highly competitive, graduate level, full-time paid fellowship that introduces individuals to the legislative process by providing research and other professional staff assistance to the Senate. Fellows are placed with top-ranking policy makers, providing firsthand experience in the development and advancement of public policy and legislation. Fellows participate in weekly seminars and earn 12 units of graduate credit for the academic portion of the program. The experience gained through the Senate Fellows Program allows fellows the opportunity to pursue very successful careers in academia, public service and the private sector.

Senate Fellows often continue working in the public policy arena after completing the program. Many hold senior staff positions with the Legislature, and others hold high-level positions in the executive branch. Some former fellows now serve as elected officials in local government or as members of the Legislature or the United States Congress. Alumni move back and forth between the public and private sectors during the course of their careers and are found in virtually every profession and vocation.



2008-2009 Senate Fellows participate in a mock hearing

The Academic Component

Fellows are registered as Sacramento State graduate students during the Spring 2011 semester and earn units of graduate credit paid for by the program. Fellows attend weekly seminars held at the Capitol and are required to do oral presentations and written assignments. The seminars provide an academic perspective to complement the experience gained through the office placements.

Compensation & Benefits

The California State University provides the fellows with a unique position of having dual status as a CSU employee and graduate student. This combined status offers a unique combination of benefits.

- Monthly stipend of \$1,972
- Health, dental and vision benefits
- Paid university enrollment and student fees
- Student loan deferment
- Earn graduate units from Sacramento State in Government
- Student and staff campus privileges

"The academic component of the fellowship allowed for diverse and engaging debates as well as intriguing and thoughtful policy discussions about a variety of topics. I have never experienced a more intellectual and compassionate group of people willing to share their experiences and learn from each other. It is a great way to learn about the processes of the Legislature, not only from the readings and coursework, but also from the fellows."



Melissa Macias
2008-09 Senate Fellow



Matthew Ortiz
2008-09 Senate Fellow

"Working in the corridors of the State Capitol helped me grow professionally and personally. I knew I wanted to work in policy, but the avenues available to me did not become apparent until I was immersed in the daily happenings of a legislative process. One cannot appreciate it until they run through it firsthand. The resources of former fellows willing and eager to help made the days ever more pleasant and made me even more confident I could accomplish my tasks successfully."

"As a fellow, I helped move several bills through the legislative process and staffed my senator on multiple committees. I was responsible for a wide array of issues, and no two days were ever the same. I'm confident that the fellowship has prepared me for a career in the public policy arena."



Gary Bell
2008-09 Senate Fellow