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Florida House of Representatives Office of Administration & Professional Development Legislative Fellows Program

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Legislative Fellows Program



The Legislative Fellows Program provides college graduates pursuing a graduate degree with an opportunity to experience the legislative process and public policy making.

MyFloridaHouse.Gov/Fellows

The Beginning

The Florida House of Representatives provides many opportunities for men and women to serve the State's vast and multifaceted citizenry.

In 1967, then Senator Lawton Chiles sponsored a bill creating an Intern Program for the Florida Legislature as a means by which young adults are introduced to the legislative process. The program's mission is the same today as it was then: to provide college graduates pursuing a graduate degree with an opportunity to experience the legislative process and public policy making.

For over 50 years, more than 900 young adults have gained immeasurable insight regarding the inner workings of government, and many have gone on to use this experience in their professional life.



The Experience

Participants are assigned to House committees, subcommittees, and leadership offices. Under the guidance of senior House staff, assignments may include research, bill drafting and analysis, oversight activities, and other tasks relating to policy or fiscal areas.

Whether a perspective fellow is interested in law, public policy or any other field, the Florida Legislature and the legislative process plays an important role. Getting to interact with the people involved in the process, learning about the issues, and improving valuable skills, such as research and writing, will benefit any future career goals.

For me, the Fellows Program provided an in-depth understanding of the of the legislative process and the mechanics of state government. As I continue to work in Tallahassee and state government, those experiences have provided a valuable foundation.

> Hannah DuShane Class of 2019-2020 Deputy General Counsel Office of the General Counsel Florida House of Representatives



How to Apply

Complete the Legislative
Fellows Program Application
Packet available for download
at MyFloridaHouse.Gov.
Materials can be emailed
to FellowsProgram@
MyFloridaHouse.Gov, faxed
to 850.487.6440, or mailed
to the Florida House of
Representatives, Office of
Administration & Professional
Development, Legislative



application packet.

Fellows Program, 1201 The Capitol, 402 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300.

Rate of Pay/Hours of Work
The rate of pay is \$15.00 per hour. Work must
be performed during regular business hours.
From October 11 through December 31, 2024,
participants work 20 hours per week. From
January 2 through May 16, 2025, participants work
30 hours per week to assist with the increased session
workload.

Tuition or Stipend Benefit

Participants receive payment of up to 18 hours of graduate tuition at Florida in-state rates during the time of the fellowship (Fall '24 and Spring '25) or receive a monthly stipend of \$500 from October 11 through December 31, 2024, and \$800 from January 2 through May 16, 2025.

The 2025 Legislative Session is from March 4 through May 2, 2025.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must be a Florida resident or be enrolled in a Florida school at the time of application. Applicants must have received their bachelor's degree and be enrolled in a graduate program prior to beginning the Legislative Fellows Program. Law school students must be a 2L or 3L to be considered for the program.



What to Submit

- √ The Florida Legislature Employment Application
- √ Legislative Fellows Application

√ Transcripts

Submit one copy of cumulative transcripts (graduate and undergraduate). Electronic or photocopies of transcripts may be submitted.

√ Test Scores

Submit a copy of Law School Admission Test (LSAT) score, Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score(s) or Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) score, if taken, with your application. These scores may be electronically submitted or photocopied and do not have to be sent from the Educational Testing Service. Graduate exam scores are not required to apply for a fellowship.

√ Résumé, if available, in pdf format

√ Faculty/Employer Recommendations

Recommendations are required from two faculty members and one employer (if available) familiar with the applicant's work and ability. Faculty/Employers may attach an additional letter of recommendation to the appropriate forms. Completed recommendation forms should be received by March 22, 2024, Noon. It is the applicant's responsibility to submit these forms by the deadline.

√ Writing Sample

Answer the following questions in essay format:

- Why are you applying to the Legislative Fellows Program and what do you expect to gain from your experience?
- Why did you choose to pursue your present course of study and what are your career plans?
- How will this experience benefit your career goals?
- What is your perception of the Florida Legislature?

Upon request, you may be asked to submit a typed, academic, unpublished paper or brief.

The Calendar

Winter - Announcement

Program announcements and application forms are sent to university faculty, staff and other interested parties. Online Applications are available at MyFloridaHouse.Gov.

March 22, 2024, Noon - Application Deadline

Spring - Interviews

Selected applicants are scheduled for interviews.

Summer - Notification

Finalists are notified of their acceptance into the Legislative Fellows Program.

October 11, 2024 - May 16, 2025 Inclusive dates of the Legislative Fellows Program.

