



TEACHING FELLOWS

GROWING TEACHERS FOR SOUTH CAROLINA

OVERVIEW

Winner of the 2011 Dick and Tunky Riley WhatWorksSC Award for Excellence in Education, the South Carolina Teaching Fellows Program is designed to recruit high-achieving high school seniors into the teaching profession and equip them to become effective and successful educators. The Program is funded by annual allocation from the General Assembly. Each year, up to 200 Teaching Fellows are identified. These students receive up to \$24,000 in yearly awards (up to \$6000 a year for four years) while they attend a Teaching Fellows Institution (TFI) and pursue a degree that will lead to initial teacher certification. Additionally, Fellows are offered numerous professional development and leadership opportunities above those offered through the institution's teacher preparation program. Teaching Fellows also are involved with communities and businesses through various service projects and partnerships with local schools. Fellows agree to teach in a South Carolina public school one year for every year they receive the Fellowship. Should a Fellow decide not to repay the loan through service in the classroom, he or she is obligated to repay through financial means.

TEACHING FELLOWS APPLICATION

The selection process for Teaching Fellows is rigorous, with an emphasis on academic accomplishment, school/community service and/or work experience, and leadership skills. Students who wish to apply for a fellowship must complete an online application in the fall of their senior year of high school. Two reference surveys, high school transcripts, and ACT and/or SAT test scores also are collected through the application process. All complete applications are scored by an initial screening committee. Up to 500 qualifying applicants are invited to participate in the Teaching Fellows regional interviews where they interview in front of a team of three educators, deliver a short presentation on an assigned topic, and write an essay in response to a prompt.

TEACHING FELLOWS MAKE GREAT HIRES

This Program not only recruits the best of the best, it prepares these future teachers to positively impact education in South Carolina. Since Teaching Fellows have agreed to teach in a South Carolina public school one year for every year they have accepted the fellowship funds, most are therefore indebted for four years of service to the state. Program data consistently show that a majority of Teaching Fellows who have taught for the required number of years to satisfy their loan through service are still employed in districts across the state. This retention rate is remarkable when compared to the attrition rate among teachers in the first five years of their career. Several studies have found that as many as 50% of new teachers leave within the first five years of entry into the profession (Smith & Ingersoll, 2004). Annual Program data can be found at <https://www.cerra.org/teaching-fellows-data.html>. Teaching Fellows engage in diversity education, leadership development, and advocacy training beginning their first year in the Program. The experiences provided through the Teaching Fellows Program help prepare these novice teachers to be leaders from the beginning of their careers.

TEACHING FELLOWS INSTITUTIONS

Teaching Fellows must attend one of eleven TFIs. Each TFI offers a unique program and varies in size and organization. Incoming Teaching Fellows are encouraged to research and select the program, not just the college or university that best fits their needs. Teaching Fellows is available at the following institutions: Anderson University, Charleston Southern University, Clemson University, Coastal Carolina University, College of Charleston, Francis Marion University, Lander University, USC-Aiken, USC-Columbia, USC-Upstate, & Winthrop University.

Listed below are two unique aspects of each TFI's program as provided by the TFI's Campus Director. More information can be found at <https://www.cerra.org/teaching-fellows-institutions.html>.

Anderson University:

- Offers opportunities to tutor homeless students and AVID students
- Provides a "Planning Leadership Conference" annually wherein Fellows evaluate all aspects of the program

Charleston Southern:

- Provides pre-semester Fellows Fun days, focused on team building and professional development, for all Teaching Fellows
- Provides exclusive seminar courses for Teaching Fellows during freshman, sophomore, and junior years

Clemson University:

- Provides practicum placements during freshman year
- Provides residential housing in the Teaching Fellows Living Learning Community

College of Charleston:

- Offers Fellows unique experiences working with young children through the Early Childhood Development Center, which is an onsite demonstration program and laboratory school
- Offers a year-long practicum, through the Center for Partnerships to Improve Education, to Fellows who wish to teach in a Title I school

Coastal Carolina University:

- Provides opportunities for freshman Teaching Fellows to live together in the TEACH community
- Engages all Fellows in field experiences, beginning freshman year, with a mentor trained teacher in their program of study

Francis Marion University:

- Provides mentor/mentee experiences for freshman Teaching Fellows
- Provides a dedicated room for Teaching Fellows to study, collaborate, eat, work, and talk

Lander University:

- Provides Teaching Fellows with choice about how they want to grow as a teacher leader
- Follows the Lander Teaching Fellows mission of being "Open, Informed, Invested, and Influential"

USC Aiken:

- Provides a familial, collegial experience where all Fellows learn and grow together
- Provides sustained, action-based leadership opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom

USC Columbia:

- Offers an ability to pursue experiential learning opportunities specific to Teaching Fellows and inclusive of all content and grade level areas
- Plans and facilitates yearly cohort experiences unique to the needs of each cohort

USC Upstate:

- Adopts Teacher Cadet classes in partner high schools, providing leadership opportunities for Teaching Fellows
- Provides junior Teaching Fellows mentors to incoming freshmen

Winthrop University:

- Provides service opportunities with English as a Second Language (ESL) students and their families
- Centers the majority of the Teaching Fellows seminars around issues of cultural responsiveness

Visit teachingfellowsc.com for more info.

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