



Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, & Advancement

TEACHING FELLOWS

Overview

The first-ever winner of the Dick and Tunky Riley WhatWorksSC Award for Excellence in Education, the South Carolina Teaching Fellows Program is designed to recruit high-achieving students into the teaching profession and to help them develop leadership qualities. Annual Program data can be found at <http://www.cerra.org/teaching-fellows-data.html>.

- The Program is funded annually by the General Assembly, and up to 230 awards are offered each year.
- Teaching Fellows receive up to \$24,000 in awards (up to \$6000 a year for four years) while they attend a Teaching Fellows Institution and pursue a degree that will lead to initial teacher certification.
- Teaching Fellows are provided 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.
- Teaching Fellows agree to teach in a South Carolina public school one year for every year they receive the Fellowship. Teaching Fellows loans not repaid through service in the classroom, must be repaid through financial means.

Applying for Teaching Fellows

To apply for Teaching Fellows, students must be:

- a U.S. citizen or will be an eligible non-citizen under State Residency Statutes at the time of high school graduation (Please note - students categorized as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) are not eligible for Teaching Fellows.)
- a legal resident of South Carolina (Please note - Residency will be verified by the Teaching Fellows Institution after a student has been offered an award.)

Students who wish to apply must complete an online application between October 1 and December 1 of their final year of high school. Two reference surveys; information about school/community involvement and/or work experience as well as leadership activities; a high school transcript with class rank included; and ACT and/or SAT test scores 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 with a team of three educators, deliver a short presentation on an assigned topic, and write an essay in response to a prompt.

Teaching Fellows Institutions (TFIs)

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.

Listed below are two unique aspects of each TFI's program as provided by the TFI's Campus Director. Find more information 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 a 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:

- Builds the Teaching Fellows community through professional learning opportunities, dedicated class times, social activities, and leadership development
- Supports the education community through a wide variety of classroom field experiences, service activities, and instruction designed to meet the diverse needs of learners

Winthrop University
2020 Alumni Drive, Rock Hill, SC 29733
CERRA- Withers Building
800.476.2387 | 803.323.4032 | 803.323.4044 (fax)
For more information visit www.cerra.org.
Connect with us on social media @[scteachingfellows](https://twitter.com/scteachingfellows)

CERRA is committed to making our material accessible to all users. For more information about our commitment or to report a problem, please email accessibility@cerra.org or contact us at 1-800-476-2387.

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