



TEACHING FELLOWS

GROWING TEACHERS FOR SOUTH CAROLINA

OVERVIEW

In 1999, the SC General Assembly, recognizing the shortage of teachers in South Carolina, funded the Teaching Fellows Program. The South Carolina Teaching Fellows Program is designed to recruit talented high school seniors into the teaching profession and equip them to become effective and successful educators. Each year, the Program provides Fellowships for up to 175 high school seniors who have exhibited high academic achievement, a history of service to their schools and community, and a desire to teach in South Carolina. Students who receive a Teaching Fellows award go through a rigorous selection process, which includes an online application, an interview and presentation in front of a team of three educators, and a scored response. Following the rigorous selection process, applicants who are awarded a Fellowship receive up to \$24,000 in yearly scholarships (up to \$6000 a year for four years) to attend a Teaching Fellows Institution in South Carolina. Additionally, Fellows are offered numerous professional development opportunities and are involved with communities and businesses through various service projects and partnerships with local schools. While completing a degree leading to teacher certification, Teaching Fellows must successfully complete 120 credit hours and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.8 during their undergraduate careers. A Fellow agrees to teach in South Carolina one year for every year he or she receives the Fellowship. Should a Fellow decide not to repay the fund through service in the classroom, he or she is obligated to repay the state through financial means.

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. Teaching Fellows have agreed to teach in a South Carolina public school one year for every year they have accepted the fellowship funds. Most Teaching Fellows are therefore indebted for four years of service to the state. Current data show that almost 79% 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). Teaching Fellows participate in advanced professional development from their first year in the Program. The professional development includes diversity education, leadership development, advocacy, and the use of technology to improve student achievement. The Teaching Fellows Program helps prepare these novice teachers to lead from the beginning of their careers.

TEACHING FELLOWS INSTITUTIONS

The Teaching Fellows Program is available at the following institutions:

Anderson University, Charleston Southern University, Coastal Carolina University, College of Charleston, Columbia College, Francis Marion University, Lander University, USC-Aiken, USC-Columbia, USC-Upstate, & Winthrop University

Teaching Fellows Application

Each fall the South Carolina Teaching Fellows Program begins accepting applications for our next cohort.

To apply for Teaching Fellows, you must be:

- a United States citizen or permanent resident alien legally authorized to be in the United States (Please note - students categorized as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) are not eligible for Teaching Fellows)
- a legal resident of South Carolina
- a high school senior

Step 1: What is Teaching Fellows?

Get to know more about the program by visiting our website at teachingfellowsc.com. Make sure you understand the requirements of the program before applying.

Step 2: Study the Application

A PDF of the application is available on our website. Download and study it so that you know exactly what information you will need to collect before officially applying online.

Step 3: Complete the Application

All applications must be submitted online. The deadline to complete the application is December 1st. You must complete your application in one sitting to ensure all information is properly submitted. Incomplete applications will not be scored and will therefore be ineligible to receive a Teaching Fellows award.

Step 4: Gather References

Download and print the reference form. You will need to collect and submit three sealed references. One reference form must be completed by a current teacher, one must be completed by a current or former high school teacher/coach, and one must be completed by another individual who is not an immediate family member.

Step 5: Guidance Counselor Form

Download and print the Transcript Request Form. Complete this and give it to your guidance counselor. He/she will prepare your transcripts and send them to us as part of your application.

Step 6: Mail references

Mail all completed references and transcripts to:
CERRA
Attention: Teaching Fellows Program
Stewart House at Winthrop University
525 Eden Terrace
Rock Hill, SC 29733

Step 7: Prepare for Interview Day

Qualifying applicants are invited to a regional interview, and all applicants are notified as to whether they have been selected for this second phase of the process. The purpose of the interview is to assess the following: communication skills, commitment to education as career, leadership potential, problem solving ability, originality and knowledge of educational issues.

Step 8: Contact Us

If you have any questions about the application process for the South Carolina Teaching Fellows Program, e-mail us at teachingfellows@cerra.org or call us at 803.323.4032.

Visit teachingfellowsc.com for more info.

Stewart House at Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC 29733
Physical Address: 525 Eden Terrace, Rock Hill, SC 29733
800.476.2387 | 803.323.4032 | 803.323.4044 (fax)



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