MISSION

The Leonard D. Schaeffer Fellows in Government Service program exposes undergraduate students to government work and its impact through 10-week, full-time, high-level internship placements with elected officials and agencies at the federal, state, and local levels. The program creates the opportunity for participants to become engaged citizens and develop an informed view of government service and operations.

“OUR GOAL IS TO EXPOSE SCHAEFFER FELLOWS TO GOVERNMENT WORK THAT HAS IMPORTANT, REAL LIFE IMPACT.”

Leonard Schaeffer
As an undergraduate at Princeton University, Leonard D. Schaeffer spent a summer interning in Washington, D.C. for former U.S. Senator Paul Douglas (IL). The mentors he learned from and networks he built helped begin a career in public service at both the state and federal level.

He later worked in both for-profit and not-for-profit organizations and founded the Schaeffer Fellows in Government Service program to expose undergraduates to government operations and encourage their continued civic engagement. Now in its sixth year, the program has supported nearly 200 Schaeffer Fellows.
Presented in collaboration with the Partnership for Public Service, the Schaeffer Fellows professional development curriculum provides tools for early-career undergraduate students to foster camaraderie, cooperation, and networking around four key themes:

▪ Reflecting on core values
▪ Exploring leadership lessons
▪ Collaborating and networking
▪ Developing transferable skills

A non-profit, non-partisan organization that works to revitalize the federal government by inspiring a new generation to serve and by transforming the way government works.

NATIONAL COHORT

Five partner universities each select 10 Schaeffer Fellows annually. Fellows represent a diversity of backgrounds, political perspectives, and academic disciplines. Common among them is an interest in learning more about public service and the role of government.
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FEDERAL
- CIA
- Federal Trade Commission
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- House Foreign Affairs Committee

STATE
- Attorneys General of California, Massachusetts & New York
- California Department of Corrections
- California Department of Public Health
- Covered California Government Affairs
- Governor of Massachusetts
- Offices of State Senators & Assemblymembers
- Virgina Department of State Police, Criminal Intelligence Division

LOCAL
- Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services
- Cities of Homestead, FL, Richmond, CA & Palo Alto, CA
- Los Angeles County Supervisor
- Mayors of Boston, Detroit, Richmond, VA, Long Beach & Los Angeles
- Public Defenders Service for D.C.
- San Francisco Department of Public Health

Examples of Previous Internships

A 10-week internship is the core of the Schaeffer Fellows program. University partners assist Fellows in identifying high level, full-time internships at the local, state, and federal level.

175 Schaeffer Fellows in 5 years
90+ Unique Internship Sites

schaefferfellows.org/internships
My time as a Fellow taught me the importance of finding mentors with all levels of experience. Each can provide unique and valuable insight at various points of personal and professional development.

Jamie Kwong
2016 Schaeffer Fellow
U. of Southern California

Schaeffer Fellow alumni are invited to serve as panelists, mentors, and attend program events. Alumni provide valuable insight into early career exploration and the internship experience.

**Fellowship Stipend** supports cost of living and travel.

**Resource Guide** offers tailored activities for internship preparation and reflection.

**Virtual Orientation** introduces Fellows to the LDSF program and how to maximize their government internship experience.

**Schaeffer Fellows Online Portal** offers Fellows, alumni, and affiliates a platform for networking, collaboration, and mentorship.

**Alumni Mentors** are paired with each Fellow to assist with navigating the internship experience and reflection on career goals.

**Fall Recognition Events** are hosted at each university to recognize Fellows for their contributions to public service.

**ANNUAL SCHAEFFER FELLOWS SUMMIT**

Held in Washington, D.C. each summer, the Summit brings together the national cohort of 50 Fellows to participate in reflection, team-building, and career exploration through:

- **Interactive workshops**
- **Site visits** with nonpartisan organizations in D.C.
- **Guest speakers** including public service professionals and alumni Fellows
- **Time to explore D.C.** and a cohort dinner hosted in Mr. Schaeffer’s home
“My time as a Fellow taught me the importance of finding mentors with all levels of experience. Each can provide unique and valuable insight at various points of personal and professional development.”

Jamie Kwong
2016 Schaeffer Fellow
U. of Southern California

“It has been amazing to see such passionate and driven people work so hard to do the right thing in government service and it has given me so much hope for the future.”

Itcelia Segoviano-Ramirez
2018 Schaeffer Fellow
U.C. Berkeley

“This experience was beyond enriching. I saw all sides of humanity, their views, and why they hold those views. I was so close to where real change is being made, and seeing the gears turn was truly educational.”

Jaren McKinnie
2019 Schaeffer Fellow
Princeton University

Internship:
House Foreign Affairs Committee
Washington, D.C.
Marshall Scholar & Ph.D. Candidate,
War Studies, King’s College London

Internship:
Congressman Raul Ruiz (CA)
Coachella Valley, CA
Director of Community Services,
Stiles Hall

Internship:
U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown
Washington, D.C.
Junior, Woodrow Wilson School of Public & International Affairs