

Rhodes Summer Service Fellowship Program

Get ready for an intensive, nine week summer experience that *challenges you* to engage in significant community projects - either those identified by a community organization or something you *dream* about having time to accomplish. By choosing your work you will have the opportunity to use your skills and talents to *make a difference* and *pursue your passions*. Working full-time with community organizations will give you the *insider's view* about how they operate. And, you will be among a group of fifteen dedicated, passionate Summer Service Fellows who live together and participate in group programs that will help you learn even more about Memphis, service, yourself, and ways to tackle challenges you encounter.



Work on a community issue you care about

Becoming a Summer Service Fellow is a process of determining what community issues (education, health care, global warming, homelessness, etc.) you most care about right now and would like to actively address this summer. Then find out, (a) which community organizations

are currently working on those issues, (b) what projects they would like to have completed next summer that fit your interests and talents, and (c) what creative ideas or projects you have that align with the organization goals and that they would support.

The Fellowship experience should be a growing experience. How will this take you to a new level of community engagement? It should extend and build upon experiences that you have already had, but not retrace or revisit. What is the community issue that you care about? How will your work help you tackle that issue? How feasible are the projects you are proposing? Consider your skills, the level of support the community organizations are willing to contribute, time constraints, and the personal significance of your project. You do not need to be an expert on what you are proposing, but you should be well informed.

Discover the possibilities

You may already have an idea that you want to propose or you may want to discover the wealth of possibilities. To explore,

- Go to the Rhodes Office of Leadership Programs website to look at the Electronic Directory of Summer Service Opportunities. These are opportunities submitted by community organizations across Memphis describing the projects they would like accomplished this summer.
- Have a conversation with a community organization where you volunteer or want to volunteer about their needs and the types of projects they would support you accomplishing during the summer.
- Talk with Marie Lindquist in 301 Briggs, Tiffany Merritt in 310 Briggs, or a Kinney Coordinator to find community organizations that fit your interest and projects they might suggest for the summer.
- Look at the projects past Fellows have accomplished on the Office of Leadership Programs website to get ideas.

The more time you take to research opportunities that interest you and find project(s) to accomplish that fit your talents, the stronger your application is likely to be.

If you already have an idea that is not sponsored by a specific community organization, set up a time to meet with Marie Lindquist, the Fellowship Program Director, before you complete your application. The meeting will help you consider if the project can be accomplished during a nine-week summer experience, how it could be funded, and which community organizations will help support it.



“Being a summer service fellow allowed me to be a part of the city and its challenges, to meet all types of people, and to see life from their vantage point...Overall, I received an invaluable experiential education about people and poverty.”

—Daniel Webb '05

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to contact the organization(s) where I would like to work before submitting my application? You do not need to meet with them unless you are selected as a finalist during the on-campus interview process. But if you would like to learn more about an organization and their needs, it is highly recommended.

Is it necessary that I have experience at an organization in order to work there as a Fellow? It is possible to become a Fellow without prior experience at a community organization. However, if you choose to apply at a new organization, be sure to do your research to make sure it would be a good fit and the project(s) you would like to accomplish fit their needs. You will need to demonstrate in your application and interview that you are knowledgeable about the organization, the work you will be doing, and how you will implement your ideas at that site.

Who makes the strongest candidates for a Summer Service Fellowship?

Individuals who would make strong candidates have the ability to work independently on projects, have proven their ability to accomplish goals they set for themselves and their work, and are interested in learning about the larger impact of their work. Typically, we select candidates who have some past experience at the service location they propose. The Summer Fellowship allows them the time to take that experience to the next level. It often leads to a stronger application because they can take ownership of the project and more clearly articulate goals. However, this is not always the case. Individuals have been selected that have little experience and plan to use the summer to explore a new opportunity.

Details and Policies

The program begins on June 4 and ends on August 3. Fellows will be paid \$3,240 (\$9 an hour).

- Campus housing is provided in East Village and participants are required to live at Rhodes.
- The program commitment is 40 hours a week: 35 hours per week are devoted to community projects and 5 hours per week are devoted to group programming.
- Only rising sophomores, juniors and seniors are eligible.
- Fellows may not hold another job or attend summer school to allow participants time and energy to fully engage in the experience.
- Fellows must provide their own transportation to community sites.

The Selection Process

Once you have decided upon your top two choices for potential projects, complete the application for the program. Applications can be found on-line at the Office of Leadership Programs website or in 301 Briggs Student Center. After your application is submitted, there will be an on-campus interview process to select finalists for the Fellowship. Then, finalists will interview at their top choices for community organizations. If for some reason, your top choices are not a good fit for you, we cannot guarantee that you will become a Fellow even if you are selected as a finalist. For this reason, we encourage you to thoroughly research your compatibility with potential organizations and projects to enhance your likelihood of becoming a fellow.

Selection Timeline

February 5
Applications due to the Office of Leadership Programs, 301 Briggs by 5:00

February 12 and 13
On-campus interviews of applicants

February 16
Finalists notified of selection

February 19-March 2
Finalists interview with community organizations

March 7
2007 Summer Service Fellows Finalized

For More Information:

Contact:
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Fellowship*
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