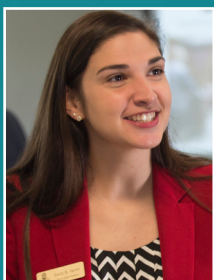# THE DYER FELLOWSHIP

Reference Guide

COASTAL CAROLINA
UNIVERSITY®

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DYER FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Dyer Institute brings together Coastal Carolina University students across disciplines to participate in the Dyer Policy Fellowship Program. This program offers students experiential learning opportunities in public policy that connect academic theories and concepts to practice.

Public problems sometimes demand public solutions, and CCU students need to have the skills to untangle, diagnose, and solve such problems when they have real and long-lasting impacts on our communities, our state, and our nation. Public policy is the study of public problems. These problems touch the disciplines of marine science, education, poverty studies, criminal justice, sustainability, and business management.

The Dyer Fellowship brings together a diverse group of Coastal Carolina University students from all areas of study to participate in an experiential exercise in public policy. The goal of the fellowship is to equip students with tools to be active learners and critical thinkers. This reference guide is meant to clarify the recruitment process for the Dyer Fellowship, explain the role of faculty mentors and increase awareness of ways to collaborate with the Dyer Institute.
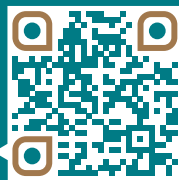
METHOD:

As Dyer Fellows, students identify areas of community need and personal interest and develop research papers through extensive policy research and polling and survey tools. Students engage in one-on-one mentorships with faculty members who oversee the academic and research-based elements of the fellowship to receive guidance and input in the chosen topic areas. Students participate in five experiential learning workshops throughout the fellowship term covering primary data collection, policy brief writing and media relations.

Students who are admitted into the program enroll in POLI 390 and POLI 397, zero-credit courses that facilitates the fellowship experiences and outcomes. The fellowship takes place between October and May.

SEE MORE, LEARN MORE.
The Dyer Fellowship

DYER FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

TRAVEL:

During the Dyer Fellowship, students will:

- visit the state capitol in Columbia, S.C., to tour the capitol building, meet with lawmakers, and observe the policy making process:

- travel to Washington, D.C., to meet with congressional representatives and learn about federal oversight and policy process; and

- meet with professionals working in the students' area of interest in Washington, D.C.

STUDENT OUTCOMES:

As Dyer Fellows, students develop robust and relevant portfolios of work on a public policy topic and acquire skills in developing supplemental research materials, including policy briefs, surveys and press releases.

STUDENT BENEFITS:

- $2,000 research stipend.

- Access to a dedicated academic mentor in the student's home department for guidance.

- All-expense paid trips.

- Opportunity to present at the Dyer Research Symposium.

FACULTY ROLE:

Students identify faculty members in their home department to serve as fellowship mentors.

Faculty mentors guide students through the application process and may submit a letter of recommendation to Jacqueline Kurlowski (**jamkurlow@coastal.edu**) by the application deadline.

Faculty whose students are admitted into the program receive a $1,000 stipend for their role as a Dyer Fellowship Faculty Mentor over the course of one semester.

A faculty member may only sponsor one student fellowship application per application cycle.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES:

CONNECT with the DYER INSTITUTE:

Eligibility:
Any full-time undergraduate CCU student is eligible to apply for a Dyer Fellowship.

Application deadline:
The online application opens on September 15 and closes on October 1. To apply, students should visit **www.coastal.edu/dyer/dyerfellows/becomeapolicyfellow**.

STUDENT APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Describe your policy analysis topic. Your response should relate to an element of U.S. public policy at the federal, state regional, local, sub-local or community-level. A good approach identifies a public problem that demands a public solution/intervention, notes existing policy actors and key issues related to the topic, and references your (the student's) conceptual solution(s) (750 words or less).

2. Why does this topic interest you? Please note your personal interest in and background knowledge of this topic. If applicable, reference relevant CCU coursework that might have piqued your interest in the topic (250 words or less).

In addition to student engagement and leadership through the Dyer Fellowship, the Dyer Institute conducts initiatives in data analytics and in policy analysis and consulting. In these areas, the Institute serves as a resource to nonprofit, public service and governmental entities by providing consulting work across a variety of public policy fields; the Institute's data analytics initiative engages with primary data collection through polling and with secondary data analysis to address public issues of our times.

DATA ANALYTICS:
Harnessing the power of public opinion and public data is important for local leaders, nonprofits and the community at large. The data analytics initiative performs data collection and analysis to support the institute's policy consultation mission. In addition, it provides training in social science research methods for Coastal Carolina University students. The analytics section is able to leverage pre-existing data, or conduct original data collection through polling, interviews and focus groups. Key areas of focus include the collection of data, statistical analysis and data visualization.

POLICY ANALYSIS and CONSULTING:
The Dyer Institute's strong ties to the community are rooted in client-centered consultation work across multiple policy areas. The Institute provides services such as grant management, grant writing, data analysis and needs assessments; developing quasi-experimental research design methods; survey development and administration; and program evaluation to nonprofits, local governmental agencies, the county and the region.

PAST TOPICS

Sustainability and Environment
- The need for accessible public education about climate change and flood mitigation in South Carolina.
- The impact of flooding on the health of socially vulnerable regions of Horry County.
- Sandy Macrofauna Shake-Up: Anthropological Case Study and South Carolina Beach Policy Analysis.
- Sea level rise in Georgetown County.
- Powering the future sustainably through access to community-based tools.
- Risky Shores: An Analysis of Southern Flood Insurance.
- Public Trust Resources, Sustainability, and Sacrifice Zone: A Case of Georgetown, S.C.
- The problem of single-use plastics and the effectiveness of local-government in prevention of their use.
- Policies and regulations surrounding access to clean and safe drinking water for Americans.

Family, Education, and Poverty
- Causal factors of basic need insecurity among college students.
- Analysis of teacher retention in the underfunded school districts of South Carolina's "Corridor of Shame."
- Descriptive analysis of the distribution of funds in the Community Development Block Grant program within South Carolina.
- Parental leave and how it can be improved in the state of South Carolina.
- Addressing Alarming Childhood Obesity Rates in South Carolina Middle Schools: The Importance of Structured Recess, Club Sports, and Physical Education.

Health and Gender
- Analyzing opinions of abstinence-based and queer-exclusive sexual health education.
- Transgender health care policies in the United States prison system.
- Implications of Marijuana Decriminalization.
- Accessing STI prevention on college campuses.
- Opioid overdose prevention policies adopted throughout the United States.
- Questioning Attitudes: Surveying LGBTQ+ Students About Their Concerns as They Enter the Workforce.
- Improving health outcomes within rural communities in S.C. through increased literacy.
- Title IX Today: Analyzing the Policies and Regulations Regarding Transgender Athlete Participation.
- The Opioid Crisis and Crime in Chicago: A Data Analysis.

Elections, Voting, Governance
- Gerrymandering's effects on public voting and possible solutions.
- South Carolina election security reform.
- State's methods of selecting judges and creating a reform system to remove issues within the methods.
- The inefficiencies and shortfalls of the United States Postal Service – examining the institution within the bureaucracy.
- Firearm Regulations: Closing the Loopholes.
- Looking Forward – America's horizon on Energy Policy.
- Solving the problem of voter turnout.

Media, Privacy, and The Digital Age:
- United States' media bias and 'fake news' phenomenon.
- How media literacy lessons in South Carolina schools can reduce negative side effects of internet platforms.
- Privacy rights in the digital age of autonomous computing systems.
- The exploitation of and personal rights relating to digital privacy Data Privacy, Data Security, and Minimization in the United States.
- Privacy laws and their impact on the U.S. intelligence community.

Community and Policing
- Pedestrian safety and the need for school zones on college campuses.
- Investigating Public Transportation Solutions at Coastal Carolina University.
- Community engagement and resiliency through counter violent extremism programs.
- Police brutality Effects on Mental Health Various Racial and Ethnic Groups.
- Eliminating cash bail in South Carolina as a policy solution for lowering incarceration rates for individuals who have not yet been convicted of a crime.
- The inequality driven by the cash bail system.
- Seeing how literacy and creative writing can help dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline.

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