

# Fellows Program Overview

## Welcome to the Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP) Fellows program!

The CEEP Fellows program recruits and trains highly engaged students to lead nonpartisan electoral and civic engagement efforts at their schools. With training and support from CEEP staff, Fellows provide the energy, passion, creativity and people power to design and implement electoral engagement activities that uniquely fit their own campus environs.

Fellows are an on-the-ground focal point and energy source for engaging students to register to vote and helping them learn about issues and candidates. In doing this work, Fellows develop leadership skills as they collaborate with administrators, faculty, student leaders and volunteers to create and implement program plans.

CEEP Fellows achieve their goals by working peer to peer with the student population as well as with campus staff, administration and faculty. What they do depends on the characteristics and needs of their institution, the length of their Fellowship, and where their Fellowship falls within any given electoral cycle. Here are some of the approaches they pursue:

- Locate allies within campus administration and build on existing relationships and networks.
- Serve as student representatives on campus electoral engagement teams.
- Use online tools where appropriate like Rock the Vote and TurboVote for online registration, while still focusing on direct face-to-face outreach.
- Promote voter registration, from volunteering to register voters at first-year orientation or move-in day to assisting with National Voter Registration Day.
- Learn about and help students get the necessary ID to register and vote and meet legal requirements.
- Organize tabling and canvassing activities, from classroom presentations to residential “dorm storms”
- Create and promote events including speakers, rallies and debates. Develop creative ways to promote participation in elections.
- Distribute nonpartisan candidate guides, and foster discussion on the candidates’ stances.
- Organize campus debates, forums and debate watch parties.
- Collect pledges to vote and follow up on Election Day.
- Run phone banks to confirm student registration status and remind students to vote.
- Create and implement a “get out the vote campaign,” both for early voting dates and for Election Day.
- Promote activities through social media, video, audio and news campaigns.



SOME OF OUR CEEP FELLOWS

### ABOUT CEEP

CEEP helps colleges and universities create a campus culture that encourages students to participate in democracy as voters, educators and citizens. Powered by civic engagement teams, our program helps students navigate voting rules, register to vote, learn about candidates and issues and turn out to vote at the polls.

CEEP’s proven engagement development process “[Seven Key Ways](#)” provides step by step resources, case studies and ideas. We also create and distribute detailed nonpartisan materials such as candidate and issue guides. For more information, visit our [Campus Election Engagement Project](#) website.

## How CEEP recruits and supports Fellows

We usually find the Fellows through our existing campus contacts, such as staff, administrators or faculty as well as existing nonpartisan engagement teams. We ask our contacts to look for students who are energetic and organized self-starters, and who will collaborate well with key campus stakeholders including other students.

The Fellows often begin by recruiting volunteer teams of 15-20 other students, then together carry out our voter engagement initiatives, like those described in our [Seven Key Ways to Engage Your Campus](#) master guide. We help them find allies from other campus leaders, develop their outreach plans and recruit volunteers, building on existing relationships and networks. We encourage them to use online tools where appropriate like the Rock the Vote and TurboVote online registration widgets, while still engaging stakeholders through face-to-face communication.

### Types of CEEP Fellows contracts

A school can engage and utilize CEEP Fellows for their campus in several ways:

- **Election season:** Most Fellows programs will be focused entirely on an election season. (Generally, this runs from August through November). These Fellows are required to work about 10-15 hours per week and conduct a minimum of three activities in each of the following areas – voter registration, voter education and get out the vote (GOTV). Compensation may take the form of Federal Work-Study, campus employment funds or CEEP-based stipends as available.
- **Academic credit:** These Fellows do projects for class credit or as a service-learning component. CEEP helps faculty and students develop learning agreements that define election-related learning activities, objectives and outcomes to meet credit requirements.
- **Journalism/media:** These Fellows primarily use their writing, production and social media skills in service of electoral engagement. They emphasize coverage of existing events, covering political campaigns and student activities in the areas of electoral engagement. They write articles, create videos, develop infographics and radio programming as well as websites and social media outlets. They typically work under the supervision of a journalism school or instructor and are required to produce materials for each of the three areas (voter registration, voter education and GOTV).
- **Year-round:** Year-round Fellows typically work within their college or university's engagement center, student government or service-learning programs. These students often are funded through federal work study or campus employment programs. Year-round Fellows have the best opportunity to coordinate across the campus and community. These positions can be integrated with existing campus positions with the added advantage of receiving guidance from CEEP staff.

### SEVEN WAYS TO ACT

- 1. Build a team.** No one can engage an entire campus, so create a core group to coordinate engagement efforts, divide up the work and ensure key stakeholders communicate.
- 2. Register students to vote.** It's the first step to student electoral participation. Set campus-wide goals and plan ways to implement them.
- 3. Educate students** on issues and candidates. Offer clear information on where candidates stand, so students can make informed choices.
- 4. Help students to volunteer** with partisan or nonpartisan campaigns of their choice. Early civic involvement patterns tend to stick, and this makes future participation more likely.
- 5. Build election excitement and visibility** leading up to Election Day, using every appropriate channel.
- 6. Get out the vote.** Make sure students know where to vote, when to vote and what to bring. Combine face-to-face and online technologies to engage all eligible students.
- 7. Measure your impact.** Document your work as you go so you can see what works and what doesn't, monitor your progress and build a foundation for the future.

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## Management, Support, Commitment

### CEEP Fellows management

CEEP will train and guide the Fellows at your campus, and our CEEP State Directors will manage them. This works best, however, when the school provides an [on-campus advisor](#) to help the student access appropriate campus resources, connect with other campus stakeholders and confirm that the student is functioning in a nonpartisan matter. We also appreciate any additional supervision and support this contact can provide.

### What does CEEP offer Fellows?

#### CEEP support for Fellows includes:

- Formal and informal training, advice and support. CEEP Fellows will work with their State Director to learn their state's voter registration procedures, voting rules and requirements, plan activities and set goals to stay on track.
- Clear expectations for communication, duties and responsibilities, and reporting.
- Materials for promotion and distribution such as banners, voting rule posters and nonpartisan candidate and issue guides.
- Training, planning and management materials such as the Fellows Orientation and Handbook, planning worksheets, calendars, goal management materials, ideas for activities and ongoing guidance.
- Additional resources: During a national election cycle, CEEP may provide resources (mini-grants) for additional printing, SWAG or student voting incentives.
- Monitoring and communicating Fellows' progress toward performance goals and milestones, staying on track and evaluating their work and experiences at the end of a major election cycle.

Fellows will also have the opportunity to connect with other Fellows and learn about projects and activities that are happening at other schools. CEEP gives Fellows the ideas and support to execute strong campus programs.

### What is the Fellows' commitment?

All CEEP Fellows make a basic commitment to work on their campus in three key areas: Voter registration, voter education and Get Out The Vote (GOTV). CEEP Fellows commit to taking part in CEEP's trainings and disseminating CEEP materials. All CEEP Fellows must commit to working **ONLY** in a nonpartisan fashion.

CEEP Fellows are required to provide CEEP with quantitative and qualitative data on the impact of their activities using CEEP's reporting tools and submit a final report at the end of the election cycle. They'll work closely with their CEEP State Director to learn about voting rules in their state, become familiar with local issues and candidates and understand and implement CEEP's approaches to carry out their work. Our State Directors will coach and support them in their work, set goals and review progress as they go.

CEEP Fellows who receive stipends and work during an election cycle must commit to working 10-15 hours per week on tasks such as organizing events, studying materials and local regulations, coordinating volunteers, participating in CEEP training and team calls, communicating with campus stakeholders and reporting. They are required to deliver two activities in each key area (voter registration, voter education and GOTV).

Some CEEP Fellows will work directly for their own student government or campus employment office. These trainees must still commit to taking part in CEEP trainings, implementing Seven Key Ways to plan and execute engagement activities, using reporting tools and writing a final report, but they'll also have to meet any requirements of their on-campus employers.

CEEP Fellows working for academic credit must fulfil all the above as well as any requirements of their supervising faculty.

CEEP Journalism/Media Fellows won't execute events, but instead will concentrate on creating news, videos, radio programming, podcasts, infographics and social media to further student education on voter registration, voter education and GOTV.

## Management, Support, Commitment

### What is the institution's commitment?

Schools that host one or more CEEP Fellows should provide at minimum a good will agreement for access to general campus resources including a designated campus contact who can help Fellows locate equipment, event spaces, printing and duplication, computers, tables, etc. within standard campus practices. They'll also help connect Fellows to any existing nonpartisan election engagement coalitions, so the Fellows can help the coalition carry out their activities. We encourage schools to tap internal resources like student government or administrative funds or Federal Work-Study positions to support Fellows. When Fellows are paid using CEEP resources, we can provide direct grants to the schools who then pay the Fellows, or pay students directly depending on circumstances.

### Ways to fund Fellows

**There are several options for how a CEEP Fellow can be funded:**

#### Campus employment or student government

Many schools have funds set aside for student employees. Schools may choose to fund one or more students to do this work using such funding. Schools often also find funding within their student government budgets, either for a new staff position or to incorporate this work within existing positions such as student legislative affairs, etc. CEEP is happy to partner to mentor students in such roles.

#### Federal Work-Study

Many schools use Federal Work-Study (FWS) positions to fund CEEP Fellows. Devoting at least one work-study position to nonpartisan election engagement efforts can make a major difference in fostering an electoral and civic engagement culture throughout the academic year.

CEEP Fellows can be funded through Federal Work Study providing election engagement efforts are strictly nonpartisan and carried out under the auspices of administrative offices or academic departments. Such Fellows must qualify through their FAFSA application.

For more information, see our document [“Supporting Electoral Engagement with Work-Study”](#)

#### Academic credit

The CEEP Fellows program will provide training and support where schools provide academic credit for students via class requirements and service-learning programs.

Many disciplines have courses that require semester or quarter-long projects with real-world components. A sociology, political science, anthropology, communications or psychology course—even an English or composition course—could easily use election engagement experience as a centerpiece for learning and reflection. If existing courses don't have sufficient service-learning requirements, faculty can grant independent study credit for a similar process of engagement and reflection.

[Learn More.](#)

#### CEEP stipends

During key election cycles, CEEP will provide stipends for as many Fellows as our resources allow to support financially. Fellows will agree to a specific number of activities performed and a minimum number of hours worked. CEEP funding may be routed through partner campuses to maintain fiscal and supervisory integrity, or directly to the student depending on institutional requirements and preferences. Stipends are generally around \$1,000 with prime activities focused August through December.

## Management, Support, Commitment

### CEEP training

CEEP will train and support campus Fellows in the art of nonpartisan campus election organizing. This includes how to discuss the importance of voting, how to carry out specific CEEP approaches to voter registration, education and GOTV, and how to work with campus groups of all persuasions. CEEP helps Fellows identify groups, coalitions and contacts with whom they can work. We train students in basic organizing skills such as producing events and activities, tabling, canvassing, etc. We help Fellows set goals and monitor their progress. CEEP State Directors will also work with Fellows to understand their state's voter registration rules, potential polling issues, voting locations and options. Depending on your location, CEEP trainings may consist of one-on-one coaching, in-person group trainings with other Fellows, or interactive online trainings via web conferencing platforms such as Zoom.

### Outcomes of the CEEP Fellows program

CEEP's Fellows program provides benefits for both the sponsoring schools and the Fellows themselves. CEEP Fellows benefit by developing leadership and organizing skills that will carry them through their lives and careers. Many have called their involvement "life changing." Fellows help campuses cultivate and integrate a culture of electoral engagement that can build each election cycle. Schools that have joined the [National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement](#) (NSLVE) will be able to track progress in getting their students to vote year to year, between election cycles.



WEST CHESTER CEEP FELLOWS

### Ready to get started?

For more information or to request a Fellow for your campus, contact your CEEP State Director, the CEEP [National Fellowship Director](#) or use the [contact form](#) on our website.

#### See also:

[Information for Campus Advisors](#)

[CEEP Fellows Student Handbook](#)