2019-20 Public Service Scholars Program: Call for Applications
Deadline: May 20, 2019 at 11:59pm PDT.

The Public Service Scholars Program (PSSP) is a program that supports a select cohort of undergraduate students, during their senior or co-term year, to complete an honors thesis or capstone project that is both academically rigorous and useful—directly or indirectly—to specific community organizations or public interest constituencies. Students from all majors and programs are encouraged to apply.

PSSP students, under the mentorship of the program director, form an interdisciplinary community of scholars who provide diverse perspectives and support while sharing the pursuit of outstanding academic research as a form of public scholarship. The PSSP complements the requirements of students’ honors or capstone programs as well as the efforts of faculty advisors, providing the support, structure, and accountability necessary for the successful completion of participants’ theses or capstone project. At the same time, the PSSP encourages students to develop public service plans by identifying audiences who might be interested in or benefit from their research. Through this process, participants are challenged to make the link between scholarly research and social justice and the public good. Knowing their research will do more than “sit on a shelf” is a powerful motivation during the thesis or capstone development process.

Students selected to participate in the PSSP are required to enroll in a weekly seminar during the autumn (3 units), winter (3 units), and spring (1 unit) quarters of their senior or co-term year. The weekly seminar is designed to explore various frameworks for understanding “social justice” and the “public good” as it relates to community-based research. Students will be exposed to critical approaches to research and be encouraged to draw from these frameworks as lenses for approaching community-engaged scholarship. Students will also have opportunities to share their writing in small groups, solve problems collaboratively, and critique thesis plans, conceptual frameworks and methodologies. Early in autumn quarter, an overnight retreat provides the foundational community-building experience for the group. In May, PSSP students present their thesis research along with its public service implications and applications during a mini-conference entitled “Research with a Public Purpose.” The presentation affords students an opportunity to share and celebrate the results of their yearlong work.

Informational sessions will be held on Monday, April 29 at 12pm at the Haas Center for Public Service (Room 212) and Friday, May 3 at 12pm at the Haas Center for Public Service (Room 212). Food and beverages will be served.

Applications for the 2019-20 Public Service Scholars Program are due on May 20, 2019. For more information please visit https://haas.stanford.edu/students/cardinal-commitment/public-service-scholars-program, or contact Joanne Tien, Senior Program Director of Engaged Scholarship at: joannetien@stanford.edu.