

Graduate Public Service Internship – Doctoral Fellowship Program

The University's Graduate Public Service Internship (GPSI) Doctoral Fellowship Program, involving joint relationships between Illinois State Government Agencies, Nonprofit Organizations, and the University of Illinois Springfield, provides selected Doctoral students with structured opportunities for professional and academic growth.

The University is committed to identifying qualified doctoral students for participation in the fellowship program who are interested in the application of high-level analytical and management skills to the design and implementation of public policy. In consultation with the Director of the Doctor of Public Administration (DPA) program, the GPSI Office makes an effort to cultivate fellowship opportunities that will match the research interests of selected students. However, there are more students than openings and, as such, selection for the program is highly competitive. Selected students receive tuition assistance, a stipend or salary, and funding for professional development.

Application Process

1. A fellowship goals statement of at least 600 words written by the applicant that outlines specific research interests, provides a description of analytical skills, and describes how such an opportunity would contribute to the applicant's professional and academic growth;
2. Three letters of recommendation; and,
3. A resume or vita with evidence of significant professional achievement or promise of achievement in a public affairs field.

Annual Application Deadline

July 1. Applications will remain on file and will be reevaluated for eligibility prior to the start of each academic term based on Fellowship availability.

Students can apply for the Doctoral Fellowship Program at any time or concurrently with their application for admission to the DPA program.

Review and Selection Process

Every year the DPA Program Committee appoints an admissions and Doctoral Fellowship selection committee to review applicants. Upon review and recommendation of the admissions and selection committee, the Director of the DPA Program will present the GPSI office with the portfolio of materials for selected students. The GPSI office will then share the portfolio of materials for each selected student with Illinois State Government Agencies or Non-Profit Organizations who have indicated interest in hosting a Doctoral fellow for consideration. Agencies may select students for a formal interview if they deem them as a potential match for their needs. Due to the limited number of Doctoral Fellowships, students who are selected by the DPA Program admission and selection committee are not guaranteed an interview or placement.

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