

Undergraduate Colin Powell Fellowship for Leadership and Public Service: Frequently Asked Questions

What are the qualities you look for in potential fellows?

There is no single characteristic that makes a Colin Powell Fellow, but we look for students who demonstrate the following:

- **Curiosity:** Powell Fellows see connections between their academic interests and issues of public import.
- **Leadership:** Powell Fellows want to make a difference; they look for opportunities to work with others to create change.
- **Commitment to the public good:** Powell Fellows have deep concern for issues that affect under-resourced communities at home and abroad.

I do not have a background in political science, policy, or international relations. Will I be at a disadvantage in the program?

No, you will not be at a disadvantage. The Colin Powell Fellowship is specifically designed for students in all majors, and the program provides grounding knowledge of political institutions and policy making processes to all Powell fellows.

How much time should I plan to devote to the fellowship program?

Colin Powell Fellows typically spending between 8 and 10 hours a week engaged in activities related to their fellowship. Students accepted into the program must be prepared to structure their schedules around this program of activity.

Can I receive academic credit for my participation?

Yes. In recognition of the demanding nature of the Colin Powell Program, undergraduate participants receive three credit hours a year for their participation. The credit hours are awarded in the spring semester.

Do I need to be a rising junior to apply?

Not necessarily. However, you should have between 40 and 60 credits at the end of the spring in which you apply.

I'll be transferring to CCNY next year as a junior. May I apply to the program?

Yes. Transfer students are encouraged to apply.

Can I take part in a semester abroad program while I'm a Colin Powell Fellow?

Under special circumstances, a fellow may take a leave from the program to participate in a semester abroad. Given the nature of the fellowship, however, we generally discourage fellows from participating in spring and fall semester abroad programs. Instead, many of our fellows elect to study abroad during the winter break.

If I become a Colin Powell Fellow, can I also take part in another scholarship program?

While you may apply to any scholarship program that CCNY offers, if you receive offers to join more than one program, you must choose the one that best fits your goals and needs. In the past, students who participated in more than one such program typically found themselves overcommitted. Additionally, limiting students to one scholarship program enables more CCNY students to take advantage of scholarship opportunities at CCNY.

Can I attend the fellowship seminars if I am not in the program?

Unfortunately, no. However, the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership regularly hosts policy and leadership oriented public events. To receive information about these events, please join our mailing list.

Whom should I contact for further information?

Please email Ellen Murray, Program Director of Scholarships, at emurray@ccny.cuny.edu or 212-650-7344. You may also visit the Office of Student Success, located in Shepard Hall, RM 550, to speak with fellowship staff.