





Teaching Fellows

About the College of Education

The Clemson University College of Education is home to:

-  South Carolina's first university-based teacher residency program
-  #1 online graduate education in the nation
-  South Carolina's collaborative professional education doctorate
-  First STEAM endorsement in South Carolina

Clemson University is a proud participant in the **South Carolina Teaching Fellows Program**, designed to recruit **high-achieving, talented high school seniors into the teaching profession** and equip them to become effective and successful educators. Each year, the program provides state-funded fellowships for South Carolina students who wish to pursue an education degree and a career in South Carolina's public schools.

Fellows receive up to \$6,000 per year for four years in forgivable student loans while they complete coursework that leads to S.C. teacher licensure. Fellows **agree to teach in South Carolina public schools one year for every year they are fellows**. Teaching Fellows awards can be combined with other state scholarships and loans.

Clemson's fellows will study in the University's nationally-ranked College of Education, majoring in one of our signature programs. Eligible majors include:

- Agricultural Education
- Early Childhood Education
- Elementary Education
- Middle Level Education (Mathematics/Science or Language Arts/Social Studies)
- Modern Languages Education (American Sign Language, French or Spanish)
- Secondary Education (Biology, Chemistry, English, Mathematics, Physics or Social Studies)
- Special Education

Freshmen in the Teaching Fellows program are **strongly encouraged** to live in the **Teaching Fellows Living Learning Community (LLC)** located in Holmes Hall, which will provide additional support and help students build relationships with other Fellows outside of the academic environment of the program. Additional experiences exclusive to Teaching Fellows will include professional development seminars, service learning experiences, additional field placements, advocacy experiences, field trips, and social gatherings.

Clemson is one of only 11 institutions in the state identified as a South Carolina Teaching Fellows institution. The Teaching Fellows Program is administered through the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA). More information can be found at cerra.org/teaching-fellows.



MORE INFORMATION

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Application Process

The selection process for Teaching Fellows emphasizes academic accomplishment, school and community involvement, and leadership skills. To apply for the Teaching Fellows Program, a student must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or will be an eligible non-citizen under State Residency Statutes at the time of high school graduation.
- Be a legal resident of South Carolina.
- Be a high school senior or junior graduating early.
- Complete an online application for the program at cerra.org/teaching-fellows-application. The application window is open from October 1-December 1.

Once you have applied to the Teaching Fellows Program on the CERRA website (cerra.org/teaching-fellows-application), your application will be reviewed. Qualifying applicants will receive an invitation in early January to attend an interview day in February where they interview in front of a team of educators, deliver a short presentation on an assigned topic, and write an essay in response to a prompt. During the interview, applicants will be able to select Clemson University as their institution of choice. **Applicants will also need to apply for admission to Clemson University.** Award notifications will be made in early spring.

Complete information on the Teaching Fellows application process can be found at cerra.org/teaching-fellows-application.

Being a Fellow

While enrolled in the Teaching Fellows Program, students must:

- Maintain successful progress toward S.C. teacher licensure.
- Successfully complete 30 semester hours per academic year.
- Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.8.
- Attend Clemson University College of Education and Teaching Fellows events and activities as assigned.
- Participate actively in Teaching Fellows initiatives, including involvement in program committees, recruitment and evaluation.

Why Teaching Fellows

The Teaching Fellows Program prepares future teachers to positively impact education in South Carolina. Because Teaching Fellows have agreed to teach in a South Carolina public school one year for every year they have accepted the fellowship funds, most fellows are indebted for four years of service to the state.

Current data shows that two-thirds of Teaching Fellows graduates who have taught for the required number of years to satisfy their loan through service are still employed in districts across the state. This retention rate is remarkable when compared to the attrition rate among teachers in the first five years of their career. Several studies have found that as many as 50% of new teachers leave within the first five years of entry into the profession (Smith & Ingersoll, 2004).

Teaching Fellows participate in advanced professional development from their first year in the program. The professional development includes **diversity education, leadership development, advocacy, and effective and innovative teaching strategies** to improve student achievement. The Teaching Fellows Program helps prepare these novice teachers to lead from the beginning of their careers.