

Application Cover Sheet

Mendell Graduate Fellowship in Cultural Literacy: 2023-2024

Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life
University of California, Santa Barbara

(Please type)

Name:	
SSN:	
Department:	
Perm #:	
Date Advanced to Candidacy:	
Home Address:	
If non-U.S. citizen, address in country of permanent residence:	
Phone:	
Email:	
Project Title:	
Name and Email of Chair of Ph.D. Committee:	

Are human subjects involved in this research? Yes ____ No ____

Project Abstract (100 words maximum, single-spaced; do not exceed space allowed).

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The Steve and Barbara Mendell Graduate Fellowship in Cultural Literacy was established in 2006 by a generous gift from Steven and Barbara Mendell. Mr. Mendell is a lifetime member of the UC Santa Barbara Foundation since 1983, serving as its Chair in 2003-05. Believing that it is the responsibility of liberal arts institutions to support scholarship and teaching that advance a civil society, the endowment was established to encourage discussion and debate relating to the compelling questions of ethics and values in contemporary public life, with particular attention to how these questions might be informed by knowledge of history and cultural traditions.

Consistent with the goals of the Capps Center, the endowment supports one or more fellowship stipends each year for outstanding graduate students in the College of Letters and Science at UCSB (Humanities and Fine Arts, Social Sciences, Science) whose research or programs of study advance the goals of broad-based cultural literacy and high ethical standards in our participative democracy.

Although the scope of possible research topics for funding is wide, all such topics must relate to some aspect of contemporary values and ethics in the “public sphere,” such as the importance of civility, appreciation for pluralism and human rights, understanding how public issues are framed, ways social conflict is resolved, how to improve and extend democratic practice, and the role of public humanities generally in society.

Mendell Fellows are an important part of the Capps Center community. Accordingly, Fellows are expected to participate in Capps Center events, to foster a sense of community between their students and the Capps Center community, and to present their work at quarterly gatherings.

Types of Support

Support may be provided for dissertation fellowships, supplemental fellowships, summer stipends, or for special research projects. The number of fellows and award amounts are variable; typically, there are two to six awards, ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000 per award. Fellowship recipients are allowed to hold other campus fellowships or employment during the tenure of their fellowship. Awards may not be deferred beyond the specified period of possible tenure.

Eligibility

Only doctoral students who have advanced to PhD candidacy by the application deadline are eligible to apply. Applicants must have either registered student status or approved research leave of absence (if appropriate), both at the time of application and for the duration of the fellowship.

A complete application should include:

- A cover sheet
- A project description (double-spaced, 4 pages maximum) and a bibliography (1-2 pages)
- A brief curriculum vitae (no longer than 2 pages)
- A list of three references including the applicant's dissertation director or faculty graduate advisor

Project Description Guidelines

The project description should:

- State the objectives, ideas, and methodology of the project
- Discuss the project's significance and originality with reference to current scholarship and/or arts practice
- Specify the interdisciplinary scope of the project
- Include a timetable and plan of work, indicating the status of the project and outlining project activities in the proposed award period
- Specify how the fellowship funds will be spent
- Define the project's target audience(s) and the form(s) in which the research will eventually be disseminated (e.g., book, articles, art exhibit, performance, etc.)

Deadlines

The completed application must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 1, 2023. Please email your application materials to Dusty Hoesly at hoesly@ucsb.edu.

Award Announcement

Applications will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary faculty committee and awards will be announced by June 5, 2023.

Contact / Info

For further information, please contact Dusty Hoesly, Associate Director of the Capps Center, at hoesly@ucsb.edu, or visit our website: <https://www.cappscenter.ucsb.edu/fellowships>