

Steve and Barbara Mendell Graduate Fellowship in Cultural Literacy, 2021-2022
Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion and Public Life at UCSB

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 life-time member of the U.C. 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 attention particularly 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 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.

Types of Support

Support may be provided for dissertation fellowships, supplemental fellowships, summer stipends, or for special research projects. Two or more fellowships of at least \$5,000 each or one fellowship of at least \$5000 and two or more fellowships of at least \$2,500 each will be awarded during each academic year. Fellowship recipients may hold other campus fellowships or employment during the tenure of their fellowship. Awards may not be deferred beyond the specified period of possible tenure.

Application Restrictions

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. Doctoral students must have advanced to candidacy by the application deadline.

Unsuccessful applicants, except alternates, may not reapply immediately in the following round of competition. A substantially strengthened proposal may be submitted twelve months after the initial application.

Application Requirements

A complete application should include:

- A cover sheet
- A project description (double-spaced, 6 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 work plan, indicating the status of the project and outlining project activities in the proposed award period
- Define the project's target audience(s) and the form(s) in which the research will eventually be disseminated (e.g. book, article, art exhibit, performance, etc.)

Deadlines

Four copies of the completed application must be received no later than **5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 3, 2021**. *Due to Covid, please submit your application electronically to maeve@cappscenter.ucsb.edu or via Box.*

Award Announcement

Applications will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary faculty committee and awards announced by **Friday, June 4, 2021**.

For further information, contact:
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