



RESEARCH & INNOVATION

FELLOW SHIP

Timeline:

APPLICATION CLOSES
October 28, 2024

**SELECTION
ANNOUNCEMENT**
November 2024

PROGRAM DATES
December 2024 - June 2025

ELIGIBILITY DETAILS

- Conducts research and innovation in any discipline, including STEM, social sciences, and the humanities.
- Undergraduate or graduate students currently enrolled at a Minority Serving Institution (MSI)
- Interest in enacting positive change and changing inequitable policies.

**Learn More
Here:**



csmi.gse.rutgers.edu/research-fellowship

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

Funded by a grant from **VentureWell**, the Research and Innovation Fellowship seeks to engage students in innovative problem-solving strategies on issues vital to their communities, such as, but not limited to, public health, access to new technologies, climate change, educational equity, voting access, or income inequality.

The Research and Innovation Fellowship is a virtual program open to undergraduate and graduate students currently enrolled at any Minority Serving Institution (MSI) in the United States.

Participants will learn techniques for framing a problem from an asset-based perspective; collecting data in partnership with people who are directly affected by the problem; creating a prototype solution; evaluating the impact of their work; and disseminating their findings in a way that promotes public understanding, engagement, and action.

Professors from a diverse group of institutions and academic disciplines will join the program leaders, sharing how they have used these strategies in their practice. Students who complete the program and submit a Capstone project (a short policy/research brief, op-ed, or a mini-TED Talk) by June 15, 2025, will be eligible to receive a Rutgers University Digital Badge.



APPLICATION DETAILS:

Application will be available beginning September 24, 2024.

Components of a Completed Online Application:

- Personal Information
- Uploaded CV/Resume in PDF Format
- Open ended questions

An Ideal Applicant is:

- Someone whose interests and/or academic focus is on enacting positive change and changing inequitable policies.
- Undergraduate or graduate students currently enrolled at a Minority Serving Institution (MSI)
- An interest in conducting research in any discipline, including STEM, social sciences, and the humanities.

Applications are only considered complete when an applicant has successfully completed all relevant materials.

Timely Submission:

- No late applications will be accepted.
- Selected applicants will be required to attend all sessions from December 2024 - June 2025. The program sessions are hosted once a month at 7pm ET via Zoom. Please note that the time is in Eastern Time. Since we will be meeting virtually and fellows are welcome from across the U.S., it is vital to adjust the time to your time zone.

The program course dates are:

- Tuesday, December 3rd, 2024 at 7pm ET
- Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 7pm ET
- Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 7pm ET
- Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 7pm ET
- Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 7pm ET
- Capstone Projects due/reviewed in June 2025.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I apply for the Research and Innovation Fellowship?

You can submit your application online by clicking [this link](#). To be considered for this opportunity, you must submit a completed application by October 28, 2024 at 11:59 PM.

May I begin the application and finish at a later date, or must it be completed and submitted in one sitting?

Yes, you are able to begin the application, save it, then finish it at a later date. While there is no save button on the application itself, if you go to the link in the same browser, it should bring you to where you left off. We do recommend that you draft your questions in a separate document and then paste them into the application once they are finalized.

Are only currently enrolled MSI students eligible for this program?

Yes, you must be a currently enrolled MSI student at any level. You can view our [MSI Directory HERE](#).

What is a Rutgers University Digital Badge?

A digital badge is a virtual icon that represents a particular set of skills and achievements. Digital badges allow recipients to verify and showcase their achievements. They can be added to resumes, LinkedIn pages and other social media sites. Digital badges can also be added to digital wallets, wherein you can stack and share badges across different competencies. A digital badge from Rutgers University carries the distinction that comes with any Rutgers program or certification. You can learn more about the Rutgers [Digital Badge here](#).

What do I have to do to be eligible to earn the Rutgers Digital Badge through this Fellowship?

In order to earn the Rutgers Digital Badge, you need to attend the virtual program Orientation, and the five sessions. At the end of the program, you will need to submit a Capstone Project in the form of a short policy brief, series of Op-Eds, or mini "TED Talk." The Capstone is required in order to earn the Badge.

Is there a fee to participate?

No, the program is free to those whose applications are accepted, and the Digital Badge is free to those who complete all the program requirements.

Is the program applicable to students in any discipline?

Yes, the focus is on innovative problem solving across the disciplines, including the humanities, social sciences, sciences, and arts.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are examples of problems/challenges that I might choose to focus on during the program?

Participants are free to choose a problem or challenge that most interest them. Some examples may be around climate change, income inequality, voting rights, educational equity, racial and social justice, free speech, or public health care, to name but a few.

Will there be any pre-work before the sessions?

Yes. Most of the sessions will require pre-work in the form of short readings, assignments, and or reflections. Pre-work should not take more than an hour per session, but participants are expected to have completed the pre-work prior to the session.

Will there be letter grades?

No. While we will review and provide constructive commentary on the Capstone Projects, there will be no letter grades.

Is the entire program virtual?

Yes. All our sessions will be held on Zoom.

If I miss a session, can I make it up?

You can miss one of the five sessions but must do two Capstone projects if this happens.

How many people will be in the cohort?

The cohort will be limited to 15 students.

Who do I talk to for more information?

For questions about the program content or goals, please contact Marybeth Gasman at marybeth.gasman@gse.rutgers.edu

For questions about the application itself, your application status, and/or how to participate virtually, please contact Gisselle Criollo at gisselle.criollo@gse.rutgers.edu