



NEXTGEN SERVICE SUMMER POLICY ACADEMY: INFORMATION SESSION



SUMMER POLICY ACADEMY

Program Overview

The NextGen Service Summer Policy Academy (SPA) is a three-week program and professional development experience designed to empower **undergraduate juniors** to explore meaningful and impactful careers in public service.

What You'll Gain:

1. Insights into public service careers
2. An expansive network
3. Policy knowledge and skills
4. A broader civic perspective
5. Financial support (\$1,000 stipend)
6. Ongoing career support

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What to Expect

Washington, DC Immersion, June 15 - 20

- Networking and mentorship opportunities with public service leaders and changemakers
- Personal reflection sessions to identify personal strengths and clarify career goals
- Site visits to national organizations and governmental agencies
- Exclusive visits to famous historical sites, such as the U.S. Capitol building and Smithsonian museums

Residential Study at a Host School, June 21 - July 3

- Develop practical policy analysis skills
- Engage in hands-on learning through case studies and simulations
- Collaborate with peers on real-world policy challenges
- Participate in field experiences and site visits
- Explore the campuses local area

SUMMER POLICY ACADEMY

Summer 2026 Reflections



SUMMER POLICY ACADEMY

University of California-Berkeley: Democracy and Law Policy

Students will explore the conditions for democracy and the actions that governments can take to protect, promote, and deliver on the promise of democracy for human flourishing. Specific areas of democracy policy include issues or representation and identity justice, voting and elections, speech and expression, citizenship, effective governance and administration, and institutional trust.



UC Berkeley
Goldman School of
Public Policy

SUMMER POLICY ACADEMY

University of Minnesota: Global Policy

With an emphasis on roleplay and simulation, students will take a hands-on approach in grappling with some of the world's most pressing transnational challenges. Specific areas of focus may include conflict, access to water, human rights, and sustainable development.



SUMMER POLICY ACADEMY

University of Washington: Social Policy

Students will explore pressing social policy issues, including poverty and inequality, food insecurity, education, social welfare, and criminal justice. They will learn to define policy problems, build a policy research toolkit, and apply key policy analysis tools, including policy matrices, policy implementation, stakeholder analysis, and values-based policymaking. At the end of the program, students will work in pairs to create a digital poster using one of the policy analysis tools they have learned and present their work to the Evans community.



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EVANS SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC POLICY & GOVERNANCE

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

SUMMER POLICY ACADEMY

Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must be:

- A current **Junior** with an expected graduation date between **December 2027** and **August 2028**
- In good academic standing (i.e., “*on track*” to graduate by 2028)
- U.S. Citizens or lawful permanent residents

SUMMER POLICY ACADEMY

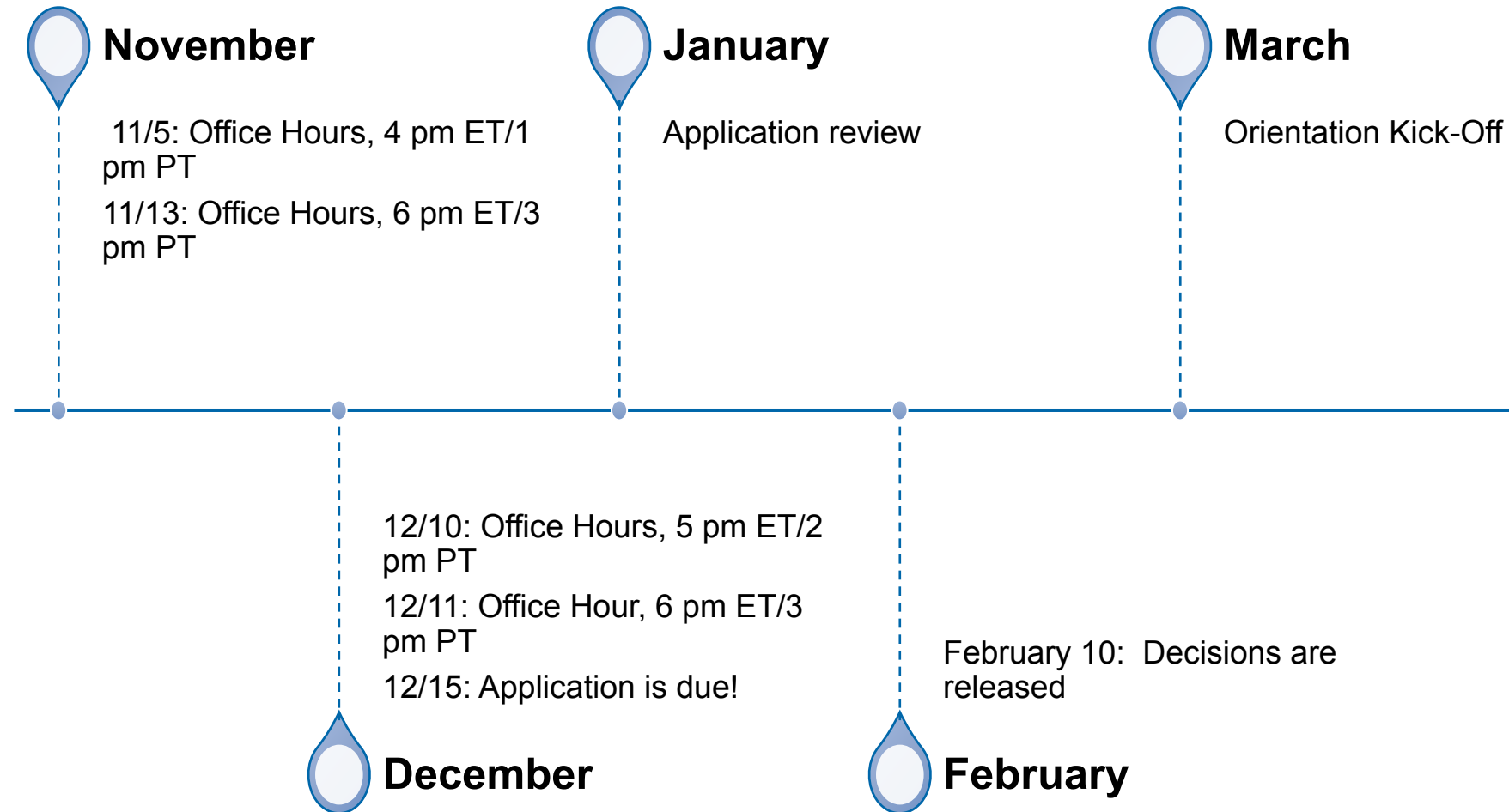
Application Criteria

- Student Information
 - Contact details, birth date, educational background, etc.
- Resume
- Transcript(s)
- Summer Plans
- Preferred Host School
- Letter of Recommendation
- Essay Prompts
 - *Describe a specific moment, issue, or experience that sparked your interest in public service. What do you hope to learn about public service careers during your time at the NextGen Service Summer Policy Academy, and how do you see those insights informing your path forward? (500-word limit)*
 - *Identify a policy issue or community challenge you care about. What role do you think government could or should play in addressing it? What would you want to better understand about how policy is made and/or implemented to help address this issue? (500-word-limit)*

APPLICATION CLOSING DECEMBER 15, 2026 @ 11:59 PM PT

SUMMER POLICY ACADEMY

Timeline



Contact Information

Network Email

nextgen@volckeralliance.org

Apply Today!



Learn More!



Upcoming Programming



IMPACT AT EVERY LEVEL

EXPLORING GOVERNMENT CAREERS IN HOUSING POLICY

OCTOBER 14 @ 8:30 PM ET/5:30 PM PT

Featuring



Jake Day
Maryland State Secretary of Housing
and Community Development



James Reid
Allegheny County Deputy
Chief of Staff, Policy



Cecilia Lunaparra
Councilmember,
City of Berkeley, CA

Register here:



IMPACT AT EVERY LEVEL

Exploring Government Careers in Public Health

OCTOBER 28 @ 8:30 PM ET/5:30 PM PT

THE PEOPLE KEEPING US HEALTHY!

Real public servants. Real career paths. Find out what they do all day, how they got there, and how to land your first (or next) opportunity! **Scan the QR code to register!**

