Cornell University
Public Service Scholars
Become Part of the Change!

I. OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

The Public Service Scholars (PSS), based at the Public Service Center, is an integrative program that combines service, leadership, academic, internship, and employment opportunities. The program is designed to promote scholarship and service that is responsive to the concerns of the community and contributes to the common good.

Public Service Scholars works with students who are motivated to develop their leadership skills and play a significant role in elevating active citizenship at Cornell University. PSS provides an opportunity for undergraduate students to engage in meaningful volunteer, community service-learning and social advocacy work. This unique program also provides a select group of undergraduate students with a sustained and sequential service-learning experience that includes close faculty and staff mentorship and guidance.

What are the goals of the Public Service Scholars Program?
The goals are to

• Promote the University’s land grant mission of service by fostering civic engagement between the University, its students, and the community.
• Encourage students to become more actively involved in their community.
• Develop students’ skills and traits for active democratic citizenship.
• Recognize students’ outstanding service and public scholarship.
• Advance service-learning and other forms of public scholarship in colleges and departments to enhance teaching and learning, and students’ overall educational experience.

How would this benefit me as a Cornell student?
There are many incentives to being a Public Service Scholar. As a Scholar, a student is provided with support, faculty and/or staff mentorship, and a $2,000 fellowship to support the student’s community project. Each student will have access to various leadership development and skill-based training opportunities to support his/her work in the community. Additionally, Scholars will have access to a professional development fund, which enables them to receive funding for opportunities such as travel to national conferences and workshops off campus.

Who is eligible to apply?
The program is open only to full-time Cornell undergraduate students who have at least 3 semesters remaining and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
What are the requirements?
1. Enroll in the Writing Course: The Literature of American Social Action Movements in Spring 2015, and the Anthropology Course: Democratizing Research in Fall 2015, and a course relating to global citizenship (list of classes is available). It is recommended that you participate in one of the Global Service-Learning Trips supported by the Program such as one of the trips to Thailand and Ecuador.
2. Enroll in an on-going one-credit course to continue to reflect on the Scholars experience and prepare the E-portfolio.
4. Complete a minimum of 300 service hours as a Scholar in the program.
5. Engage in a full-time summer internship at a non-profit organization, government agency or other public interest setting domestically or abroad.
6. Engage consistently with a local community organization during your time as a Scholar.
7. Create and keep a service-learning plan, journal and an electronic portfolio.
8. Complete a capstone research project.

II. APPLICATION PROCESS

We encourage you to attend the information sessions about the Public Service Center Scholars. Staff and faculty members will be present to answer any questions you may have about the program and/or the application process.

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 5:00 p.m. on OCTOBER 20, 2014

PLEASE SUBMIT APPLICATIONS VIA EMAIL TO AYK3@CORNELL.EDU (SUBJECT: Public Service Scholars Application) with subject heading: Public Service Scholars.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARS APPLICATIONS CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

A. CONTACT INFORMATION SHEET
B. SHORT ESSAYS (QUESTIONS BELOW)
C. RESUME
D. CORNELL TRANSCRIPT (unofficial is acceptable). For first-year student, please provide a list of classes in which you are currently enrolled.

If you have questions or would like to set up an appointment to talk about the Public Service Scholars Program, please contact Amy Kuo Somchanhmavong, Associate Director, Service-Learning at ayk3@cornell.edu or 607-254-8072.

II. APPLICATION
Contact Information

First Name ____________________________ Last Name ____________________________

College ____________________________ Major or likely Major ____________________________

Graduation year ______ Net ID ___________ Cell Phone ____________________________

Race/Ethnicity (optional) ____________________________

Current Street Address ____________________________

Permanent Mailing Address ____________________________

Short Essays

For questions 1 and 2, please answer the following questions using a one-page double-spaced typewritten page for each question (i.e., up to four pages total).

1. Describe a project in which you are currently engaged or would like to focus on as a Public Service Scholar. Be sure to include answers to the following questions:
   a. What is the community focus?
   b. Who are your potential or your current community/organizational partners?
   c. What is the process by which the focus has been identified?
   d. How does the project involve citizenship and service?
   e. How is it linked to larger societal trends?
   f. To what extent does the project link to your on-campus academic work and future plans?

2. Describe a past experience with or motivation for community service and political activism that best illustrates your potential as an active Public Service Scholar.

Please attach a current resume and your current Cornell Transcript to this application.

Thank you for applying to join the new class of Public Service Scholars.