

Capitol Pathways

Opening access to policymaking and public service to the next generation of leaders who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.



About our program:

Capitol Pathways is a paid spring internship program for college students who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). With the long-term goal of making Minnesota state government and policymaking more representative of our diverse communities, our program provides students leadership, legislative and career readiness training alongside an immersive hands-on paid internship experience with an organization working in policy during the legislative session. For the 2023 legislative session, our program will run from December - May, 2023.

Eligibility:

Before proceeding, please carefully read the application criteria below to ensure you are eligible to apply to the program.

To be considered for this internship, you must:

- Be a current college undergraduate student in good academic standing (at least a 2.0 G.P.A and not on academic or progress probation) attending an accredited two- or four-year institution of higher education in Minnesota. (We are not accepting High School PSEO students at this time.)
- Have completed your first year in college (at least have Sophomore status) or have the equivalent in credits of a full first year student.
- Self-identify as BIPOC.
- Have a J1/F1 visa with authorization to work in the U.S. if you are an international student.
- Undocumented students are eligible to apply.
- Be available to interview with up to three host organizations during the weeks of:
 - **Dates: November 21 – December 2, 2022**
- Be available to attend 4-hour long monthly cohort meetings on the following dates:
 - **Dates: January 20, February 17, March 24, April 21 and May 12 (2023)**
- Be available to attend a mandatory paid student orientation and legislative training on:
 - **Dates: December 26 – 30, 2022**
- Be available to attend a race & equity training sometime on the week of January 16, 2023. Date to be determined.

Programming

As we navigate the pandemic, we will continue hybrid programming for the upcoming 2023 year. Program staff will provide detailed information about in-person and virtual programming to students accepted into the program.

Capitol Pathways

Additional Details

The Internship Experience:

In the program, student interns:

- Join a cohort of up to 35 other students and attend 4-hour long monthly cohort meetings for networking, leadership development and professional skill-building sessions. Cohort meetings are facilitated by program leaders and selected speakers. Cohort meetings are compensated time by the host organization.
- Are matched with an organization (lobbying firm, nonprofit, government agency and others) working at or around the Capitol for the length of a legislative session. These internship sites are referred to as our host organizations/sites. All host organizations will assign a staff person as the student intern's direct host supervisor.
- Work at their internship a minimum of 10 hours per week during the length of session and are compensated a minimum of \$15/per hour. Internships provide policymaking experience. In light of the ongoing pandemic, some of the work may be conducted remotely. Intern responsibilities and duties will vary depending on the organization they work with however, some work examples include:
 - Informational interviews with legislators, Capitol staff and other policy professionals
 - Research, track and summarize bills
 - Attend committee meetings, take notes and draft summaries
 - Assist in scheduling, preparation, and staffing meetings
 - Attend events within your organization and externally
 - Write articles for social media (e-newsletters, blogs, etc.)
- Are consistently exposed to other job, internship and networking opportunities through their host organizations, programmed social hours following cohort meetings, a closed social media alumni network where opportunities are posted, and ongoing mentorship by program staff.

Selection & Placement Process

Phase One: Pre-selection

Program staff will review host and student applications to determine their organizational needs and interests. Based on this information, we will pre-select student applicants to move on to the interview phase.

Phase Two: Interviews

Selected students will interview with up to three organizations. Not all students who interview will move on to Phase Three.

Phase Three: Official acceptance into the program

Program staff will make final selections based on host feedback from interviews along with information from host and student applications. Program staff will notify students of their acceptance into the program and final host site placement.

Apply Today!

Student application period is open from October 17, 2022 — November 11, 2022 at 11:59 CT
citizensleague.org/CapitolPathwaysStudent

Still have questions?

Join a virtual info session on one of the following dates and times below:

- Wednesday, October 26 from 11am — 12pm
- Thursday, November 3 from 1pm — 2pm

RSVP to an info session by completing the form below:

<https://forms.gle/WQhP9aNiMSn1YPqF8>



"Capitol Pathways gave me hope that I can run for office one day. And this is just the beginning; I learned that there are so many things we can do to improve our communities, and if we don't get out and speak up, nobody else will do it."

— Raniya Yimam, Capitol Pathways alum

Program Timeline

2022

October 17	Student application opens
October 26	Student info session I (virtual)
November 3	Student info session II (virtual)
November 11	Student application closes
November 18	Interview notifications (phase I)
Nov 21 — Dec 2	Interviews (phase II)
December 9	Students notified of official status in program (acceptance or decline)
December 12	Students confirm participation
Dec 26 - 30	Students' orientation & legislative training

2023

January 2	Internship start date
Week of Jan 16	Race & equity training (date TBD)
January 20	Cohort Meeting 1
February 17	Cohort Meeting 2
March 24	Cohort Meeting 3
April 21	Cohort Meeting 4
May 12	Cohort Meeting 5
May 19	Last day of internship
June (TBD)	End of Session Celebration

Student Training & Cohort Meeting Dates

- **Orientation and legislative training week:** December 26 - 30, 2022
- **Student Race & Equity Training:** Week of January 16, 2023 (Date TBD)
- **Cohort Meeting 1:** January 20, 2023
- **Cohort Meeting 2:** February 17, 2023
- **Cohort Meeting 3:** March 24, 2023
- **Cohort Meeting 4:** April 21, 2023
- **Cohort Meeting 5:** May 12, 2023

Dates & schedule subject to change. Go to citizensleague.org/CapitolPathways for the most up-to-date information.

Questions?

Contact Program Manager Kalia Xiong at kxiong@citizensleague.org, or 651-289-1075