



Student Leadership Institute (SLI) Program Overview

Overview & Values

The Student Leadership Institute (SLI) at the Campaign for College Opportunity is a transformative 7-month program dedicated to leadership development, policy advocacy, and professional growth. Running from **November 2024 to June 2025**, SLI will bring together a cohort of 20 passionate college students from across California, providing them with the skills and tools needed to become effective advocates for higher education policy and to lead initiatives that impact student experiences.

The Campaign for College Opportunity believes that students are at the core of effective advocacy and policy change. Our mission is to empower student voices, ensuring they play a crucial role in shaping policies that reflect their needs and experiences. In a time of complex challenges in higher education, we are committed to equipping students with the confidence and knowledge to influence transformative, student-centered policy reform.

Important Dates

- **Application Close:** Monday, October 21st, 11:59pm
- **Interviews:** Week of October 22nd
- **New Cohort Announced:** October 28th
- **Session Dates:**
 - **Session 1:** Friday, November 8th
 - **Session 2:** Thursday, January 23th
 - **Session 3:** Monday, March 3rd
 - **Session 4:** Wednesday, April 9th
 - **Session 5:** Friday, May 2nd

Program Structure & Key Activities

- Application Can Be Found: [HERE](#)

Participants will engage in a comprehensive range of training, including:

- **Workshops** focused on leadership development and policy advocacy
- **Hands-on advocacy efforts** in higher education policy
- **Networking opportunities** with industry professionals and fellow student leaders
- **Guest speakers** who share expertise on relevant topics

Throughout the program, participants will also:



- Complete assignments and activities to prepare for each session
- Engage in regional and state-level advocacy, including:
 - Attending Zoom sessions

Ideal Candidate

We are looking for passionate and engaged college leaders who are committed to advocating for higher education issues affecting their communities. Ideal candidates will demonstrate:

- A strong commitment to fully engage with the program requirements
- Alignment with the Campaign's core pillars and an open-minded approach to advocacy
- A willingness to collaborate with others
- A desire to learn and grow their leadership skills
- The ability to effectively engage with diverse groups

No prior knowledge of policy or California legislation is required, as participants will receive support in building their skills throughout the program.

Goals of the SLI Program

- **Engage and Expand Skills:** Foster the development of a diverse group of student advocates in California's higher education landscape.
- **Empower Actionable Leaders:** Cultivate a cohort of student leaders who are prepared to engage with policy priorities through various means, such as drafting communications, sharing personal narratives in relevant forums, and engaging in discussions with institutional leaders and policymakers.

How to Apply

If you're ready to take the next step in your leadership journey and make a meaningful impact in higher education, we encourage you to apply. Here's what you need to know:

Application Components

- Complete the online application, including thoughtful responses to the questions provided.

Application Criteria

- Applicants must be students at a California UC, CSU, or CCC.
- There are no specific GPA requirements, and prior leadership experience is not mandatory.
- We prefer undergraduates in their 1st or 2nd year; typically, graduate students are not accepted.

Selection Process



- If selected, candidates will be available for interviews during the week of October 21st.
- The new cohort will be announced on Monday, October 28th.
- Students must be available for all session dates and should be prepared to attend the first meeting in person in Los Angeles.

Commitment Expectations

- Participants are expected to attend all five sessions. Missing more than one session will result in forfeiture of the \$1,000 stipend.
- Session locations will be announced, with the first session taking place at the Campaign for College Opportunity offices.

Costs and Funding

- There is no cost to attend the sessions; all expenses will be covered by the Campaign for College Opportunity, including travel and hotel accommodations if necessary.

Support and Resources

- Participants will receive mentorship and training materials throughout the program to support their development.

Contact Information

- For any questions, please contact Public Affairs Manager, Ashley Tejada at Ashley@collegecampaign.org.

We look forward to your application and to seeing how you can contribute to advancing higher education advocacy!