

PURPOSE 2026 Application

FSU-FAMU PURPOSE Research Training Fellowship

The application portal for Cohort 9 (Spring 2026-Fall 2026) will open on August 1, 2025.

Applications are due by 11:59pm on Monday, October 6, 2025

Thank you for your interest in the PURPOSE Research Training Fellowship! The PURPOSE program trains a diverse cohort of fellows in research with a focus on social justice in education. The goal of the program is to provide fellows with opportunities to develop the knowledge and skills they need to enter and successfully complete graduate programs in education and related fields. PURPOSE fellows will spend one year developing research skills through one-on-one faculty mentor relationships, research apprenticeships with faculty mentors (5 hours/week), coursework (5-10 hours/week), bi-weekly proseminars, and a service-learning research practicum (for example, at the local CDF Freedom Schools at FAMU DRS). Financial support for the program is provided by a grant from the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) Pathways Training Program (Award number: R305B210014).

Fellowship Eligibility Requirements

1. Continuous enrollment through Fall 2026 at FSU or FAMU as either an upperclassman or beginning master's student in education or a related field (including but not limited to Psychology, English, etc.)
Note: PURPOSE is a yearlong fellowship that requires you to participate throughout the spring, summer, and fall semesters of 2026. Post-baccalaureate students are only eligible to participate in the event that they are between undergraduate and graduate programs at FAMU or FSU during the summer of 2026, but preferred consideration will be given to continuously enrolled students. Graduate students who plan to graduate before the fall 2026 semester are not eligible to participate.
2. Ability to devote 10-15 hours/week to fellowship activities
3. In-person availability during the day in Tallahassee so you can work with your mentor, attend bi-weekly proseminars on Fridays throughout the year, and serve at your service-learning site during the summer.
4. U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident (documentation required of permanent residents)
5. 3.0 GPA (undergraduates) or 3.3 GPA (graduate students)

Application Documents

Please prepare these required application components prior to initiating the online application submission.

1. **Goal statement:** A statement describing your goals, interests, experience, and fit with PURPOSE. Please be sure to address each of the following in a 2-3 page statement:
 - a. Your academic/career goals, including interest in pursuing a doctorate in an education related field
 - b. How PURPOSE could help you achieve your goals
 - c. Potential areas of research interest
 - d. Your interest in working with one or more faculty mentors (see purposetraining.org for faculty bios)
 - e. Any experiences working in research and/or education
2. **Letter of recommendation:** Invite a faculty member (preferred) or a relevant mentor/educator to speak to your potential for graduate study and conducting research in education. The letter of recommendation should include the recommender's name, title, institution, and email address; the recommender must send the letter directly to the PURPOSE Director, Jeannine Turner (jeturner@fsu.edu). See [tips](#) and a [video](#) for how to ask for a letter of recommendation.
3. **Unofficial undergraduate and graduate (if applicable) academic transcript(s)**
4. **Documentation for Permanent Residents** (U.S. citizens do not need to submit proof of citizenship)

Please contact the Program Director, Betsy Staudt Willet (betsy.staudtwillet@fsu.edu), if you have any problems with the survey or questions about the application.

Online Application Questions

Basic Information

1. Name
2. Student email address
3. Personal email address
4. Phone number
5. Emergency Contact name and phone number
6. At what university will you (or do you plan to) be enrolled in the Spring 2026 semester? *FAMU, FSU, Neither*
Note: You must be enrolled in either university in Spring 2026 to apply for the fellowship.
7. Do you plan to graduate in Spring or Summer of 2026?
Note: PURPOSE is a yearlong fellowship that requires you to participate throughout the fall semester of 2026. Post-baccalaureate students are only eligible to participate in the event that they are between undergraduate and graduate programs at FAMU or FSU during the summer of 2026, but preferred consideration

will be given to continuously enrolled students. Graduate students who plan to graduate before the fall 2026 semester are not eligible to participate.

8. What is your anticipated graduation date?
9. What will your enrollment status be in Spring 2026? *Undergraduate or Graduate*
10. Are you a U.S. citizen or permanent resident?

Note: You must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident to apply for to the fellowship. A response of "No" will take you to the end of the survey. If you are a permanent resident, you will be asked to upload proof of U.S. residency.

11. How did you hear about the PURPOSE fellowship?
12. Please briefly introduce yourself, including your major or degree program, your general interest in attending graduate school, and your specific interest in doing research in particular graduate programs.

Academic experiences and aspirations

13. Have you taken an educational or psychological research methods course in the past? If yes, what is the course prefix, number and title (e.g., EDF5481 Methods of Educational Research)?
14. Are you required by your home program to take a research methods course in the spring 2026 semester? If yes, what is the course prefix, number and title (e.g., "EDF5481: Methods of Educational Research")?
15. Are you seeking a degree in Education or a related field (for example, English, Psychology, Sociology, Communication Science)? Please specify.
16. What is your current GPA? If you are a graduate student, what was your undergraduate GPA?
17. If applicable, what were your GRE scores?
18. Are you interested in pursuing a doctorate (e.g., PhD, EdD, PsyD)?

Mentorship

19. In PURPOSE you will be matched with a faculty mentor. The success of that relationship will require your active participation. How do you plan, or how would you build that relationship with your faculty mentor?
20. What do you, or would you, look for in a mentor-mentee relationship?
21. What are some of your preferred communication methods and meeting methods (Please select all that apply)?
22. How might you handle conflicts or disagreements with mentors or advisors, and what steps do you take to ensure productive and respectful communication?
23. Select the mentor(s) with whom you are most interested in working throughout the fellowship. At a minimum, please rank your top five mentors because your

rankings will be used to make a mentor match. See <https://purposetraining.create.fsu.edu/faculty-mentors/> for the current list of mentors.

Time commitments

1. If you receive the fellowship, will you be able to stay in Tallahassee throughout the Summer 2026 semester?

Note: PURPOSE is a yearlong fellowship that requires you to be in Tallahassee to conduct research during the summer of 2026 as well as to attend proseminars.

2. Will you generally be available during the day in Tallahassee so you can work with your mentor and attend bi-weekly proseminars throughout the year, as well as participate at the 6-week Freedom Schools summer camp or other approved service-learning site?

Note: Successful performance in the PURPOSE program depends on local residency in order to meet with PURPOSE mentors, attend proseminars, and participate regularly in summer service-learning.

3. Will you be available consistently to attend bi-weekly professional development seminars (proseminars) in person on Friday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30AM?

Note: In person participation in 80% of proseminars is a requirement every semester of PURPOSE.

4. Please report any schedule conflicts with proseminars (bi-weekly on Fridays from 9:30-11:30AM).

5. Do you have any upcoming academic commitments in spring, summer or fall 2026 (e.g., internships, teaching or other practicum)? If so, what are they (e.g., "In fall 2026 I will be doing my teaching practicum Monday through Friday 8-3PM...")?

6. Will you have room in your academic schedule (i.e., 5-10 hours per week) to fully participate in an educational research methods course in spring 2026?

Note: Participation in a research methods course in the spring semester is required in order to develop successful research proposals.

7. Have you had any previous experiences requiring a similar time commitment level of 5-10 hours per week of coursework and the 5 hours per week of research apprenticeship? Yes or No

8. If yes, what strategies did you use to manage your responsibilities in those situations of similar time commitment? If no, what strategies might you use to

manage your responsibilities given these new experiences with the PURPOSE time commitment?

9. How many courses do you intend to take in spring 2026? Please share the number of credit hours if known.
10. Please share any extracurricular activities you may hold in 2026 and indicate any leadership positions.
11. Please share your job(s) and hours per week for each.
12. Please share any volunteer position(s) you may hold in 2026.

Demographics (optional)

13. Do you identify as Hispanic, Latina/o, or of Spanish origin?
14. What is your race? (If you identify as multiple races, please select all that apply.)
15. Were you eligible for the Pell grant in the most recent academic year of your enrollment?
16. Are you a student with a disability registered with the University's Student Disability Resource Center?
17. Are you a first generation college student? (Note: first generation status includes circumstances in which your custodial parent/guardian(s) were enrolled in some college but did not complete their degree)
18. Are you a veteran? (Note: Served honorably on active duty in U.S. armed forces)

Uploads

Upload the required application documents.

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 - a. Name of reference
 - b. Title or position

- c. Institution of employment
 - d. Email address
- 3. Unofficial undergraduate and graduate (if applicable) academic transcript(s)**
- 4. Documentation for Permanent Residents:** If you are a permanent U.S. resident, please provide official documentation of U.S. residency.
- Note: If you are a recipient of the Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, and are interested in participating in the fellowship without remuneration, please contact the program manager, Betsy Staudt Willet (betsy.staudtwillet@fsu.edu).*