

UCLA

Latino Policy & Politics Initiative



UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Initiative (LPPI) is a comprehensive think tank that addresses the most critical domestic policy challenges facing Latinos and other communities of color in states and localities across the United States. LPPI leverages UCLA's cross-disciplinary strengths to create an enterprise-wide home for Latino social policy with expertise in over a dozen issue areas including civil rights, criminal justice, educational equity, health access, and voting and civic participation. LPPI fosters innovative research, leverages policy-relevant expertise, drives civic engagement, and nurtures a leadership pipeline to propel viable policy reforms that expand opportunity for all Americans.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Looking towards the future, LPPI builds sustainability into equitable policy by training the elected officials, organizational leaders, and community allies of today and tomorrow. LPPI invests in civic leaders determined to make an impact by exposing students to the policy challenges of today with the research training necessary to inform a better tomorrow. Fellows support all aspects of LPPI, from mobilization to research to advocacy, to distill rigorous research into policy-friendly formats that spark action. Fellows will receive research training, executive coaching, and opportunities to cultivate relationships with leading advocates, scholars and elected officials from across the U.S. We welcome candidates who are enrolled in an accredited higher education institution with a demonstrated interest in Latino issues.

FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION

UCLA LPPI is recruiting new policy fellows to work full-time during the summer and part-time for the full academic year. To apply, please submit one single PDF document that includes a cover letter, resume, and a 10 page writing sample to latino@luskin.ucla.edu with the subject line "UCLA LPPI Policy Fellowship." More information is available at: latino.ucla.edu.



Minimum Qualifications:

1. Enrolled at an accredited higher education institution (community college, four-year college, graduate or professional program, or doctoral program) in the U.S. This cycle undergraduates with at least 2 or more years left in their degree program are eligible. Graduate and professional students with at least one full academic year left in their degree program are eligible for summer and/or year-long fellowships.
2. Strong interest in social science research and applied policy analysis;
3. Familiarity with introductory data collection and data analysis, including data visualization;
4. Excellent verbal and written communication skills;
5. Strong organizational skills and entrepreneurial attitude;
6. Ability to work independently, prioritize tasks and meet deadlines; and
7. Proficiency in a variety of social media applications (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn) and utilizing cloud-based computing (like Google Drive).

Desired Qualifications:

1. Ability to initiate and nurture professional relationships with diverse stakeholders from the private, government, and public sectors;
2. Demonstrated experience of working on a team with a clear commitment to public service;
3. Strong interest in legislative advocacy and government systems.

EXPERIENCE

LPPI utilizes a multi-pronged approach to ensure Latinos and other communities of color have a seat at the decision-making table and fair opportunities to thrive. LPPI's approach includes these tactics:

1. Through data science and rigorous research, LPPI shines a spotlight on the issues that matter most to Latinos.
2. Utilizing the convening power of the nation's leading public university, LPPI connects innovators who can drive change through the streets, boardrooms, the courts & elected office.
3. LPPI puts research to work to inform evidence-based policy reforms across the U.S.
4. Through the UCLA Voting Rights Project uses impact litigation, research, and clinical education to expand access to the ballot box.

LPPI fellows will have a seat at the table to understand organizational strategy, applied policy research, advocacy and external partnerships, strategic communications, and much more. Ultimately, LPPI fellows will have access to a world-class professional environment to tackle policy challenges armed with data and emboldened by what is possible.

IMPACT

LPPI's investment in leadership is already driving change. LPPI policy fellows are actively involved in strengthening American democracy and expanding opportunity for Latinos and other communities of color. The LPPI policy fellow alumni network is national. Currently, fellows are key staffers in the California and Texas State Legislatures, a program officer at a philanthropic organization in Oregon, policy advocates at national civil rights organizations in New York and California, and research analysts at think tanks in Washington, D.C.

