

The Archer Fellowship Program

at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

ABOUT THE ARCHER CENTER

Founded in 2001 by Congressman Bill Archer as he retired from 30 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives, the Archer Center serves as the Washington, D.C., campus of The University of Texas System. The Archer Center seeks to educate the next generation of leaders from Texas and instill in them a love of public service. More than 1,800 alumni have graduated from the Archer Center's programs and are now making a difference in communities around the world.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW: LIVE, LEARN, AND INTERN IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Archer Fellowship Program provides undergraduate students from across The University of Texas System institutions with a unique opportunity to live, learn, and intern in our nation's capital during the fall or spring semester. While in Washington, D.C., students earn in-residence UT Rio Grande Valley credit for their coursework and gain hands-on work experience in an internship. By living together near Capitol Hill, Archer Fellows build lasting friendships and professional connections with each other. The Archer Fellowship Program can be tailored to students' own personal and intellectual interests.

ELIGIBILITY

The Archer Fellowship Program is available to undergraduate students of all majors and areas of study, and we welcome a diverse array of student interests and backgrounds. Federal policy touches many aspects of peoples' lives in the U.S. and around the world. For this reason, the Archer Center believes it is important for students from any discipline to understand the policy process and how to be an effective policy advocate.

Students must meet the following eligibility requirements in order to apply:

- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- Previous work or internship experience
- Experience serving and/or providing leadership to campus or community
- Applicant must be pursuing a bachelor's degree at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

If selected for the Archer Fellowship Program, students must meet the following requirements by the beginning of the semester they will be in Washington, D.C.:

- Junior or senior status by years and hours (first and second year students are not eligible)
- Twenty-four hours of in-residence credit completed at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- Completion of political science core-curriculum requirements (POLS 2305 and POLS 2306 or their equivalents)

COURSES

Archer Fellows take courses taught by faculty from UT Austin, UT Dallas, and policy experts from the Washington, D.C., community. Students earn 15 hours of upper-division course credit, including six hours of course credit for their internship experience.

POLS 3392: Policy Making Process

POLS 3391: Archer: Advocacy and Politics

POLS 3319: Archer: Politics of National Memory

HONR 4680: Archer Internship

Students are strongly encouraged to consult their academic advisor to learn how these classes will fit into their degree plans.

Because the courses are considered in-residence, graduating seniors may participate in the program during their final semester.

INTERNSHIP

All Archer Fellows participate in a full-time internship that aligns with their academic and professional goals. Archer Fellows are responsible for researching and applying for internships, while Archer Center staff provide guidance and assistance throughout the process. The Archer Center has a vast network of connections in a variety of fields in the nation's capital, and Archer Fellows have developed a fantastic reputation as high quality interns.

While many internships in Washington, D.C., offer financial compensation (e.g., stipends, hourly pay, etc.), some opportunities remain unpaid. For that reason, students should not expect to earn an income while in D.C. Visit archercenter.org/internships.html for a non-exhaustive list of potential internship sites.

PROGRAM COSTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Archer Fellows pay a program fee in place of UT Rio Grande Valley tuition and a housing fee for the Archer Center's shared living accommodations. The current Archer Fellowship Program fee is \$4,900 and is subject to change in future years. Students typically fund their fellowship through existing financial aid, designated campus funding, Archer Center need- and merit-based scholarships, and personal resources. Thanks to generous funding, the program is more affordable than ever. Students are encouraged to visit archercenter.org/funding-your-fellowship1.html for more information on program expenses.

The Archer Center and our supporters are committed to making the Archer Fellowship Program affordable by removing financial barriers that may prohibit a fellow from achieving their educational goals. The Archer Center's need-based scholarship provides up to \$8,000. With a variety of scholarships and funding resources, the Archer Fellowship is comparable or less than the cost of a semester on a fellow's home campus. Please reach out to the Archer Center if you'd like to discuss your individual financial circumstance.

APPLICANT ADVISING

Prospective Archer Fellows can meet with their campus coordinator to learn more about the program and are welcome to contact the Archer Center with questions.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Mark Andersen

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Archer Fellowship Program Campus Coordinator
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The Archer Center

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ARCHER FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

J. Edward Moreno, Fall 2019 Archer Fellow

MAJOR: Mass Communication

D.C. INTERNSHIP: Texas Tribune

CURRENT JOB: New York Times Carr Fellow in Business

"As an Archer Fellow, I experienced so many once-in-a-lifetime opportunities that I didn't think would be available to me as an UTRGV student. Those moments and the long-lasting friendships that I left with still push me forward in life today."

