



Vaqueros belong in Washington, D.C.

The Archer Fellowship Program

at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

ABOUT THE ARCHER CENTER

Founded in 2001 by Congressman Bill Archer upon his retirement 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 educates the next generation of leaders from Texas and around the world, instilling in them a love of public service. More than 2,000 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 nine academic institutions of The University of Texas System with the life-changing opportunity to live, learn, and intern in our nation's capital during the fall or spring semester. Home to numerous government, nonprofit, media, and research institutions, Washington, D.C., offers unparalleled opportunities for career development and cultural enrichment, enabling students to pursue their interests in federal policy and public service.

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. Archer Fellows live together near Capitol Hill, experiencing fellowship and signature events that foster lasting friendships and professional connections.

ELIGIBILITY

Federal policy impacts many aspects of life, both domestically and internationally. For this reason, the Archer Fellowship Program is open to undergraduates of all majors and areas of study—we believe policymaking and public service are relevant and important for students from any discipline.

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

- Minimum GPA of 3.0 at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- Previous work or internship experience
- Campus leadership and/or community involvement
- 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 their semester of participation:

- 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 in-residence course credit at their home campus, 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 are eligible to 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 the Archer Center staff provides guidance and assistance throughout the process. Archer Fellows have had successful internship experiences in a wide variety of fields in the nation's capital and 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/internships1.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, third-party 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. Students are encouraged to visit archercenter.org/funding-your-fellowship1.html for more information.

The Archer Center and our supporters are committed to making the Archer Fellowship Program accessible 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 in funding for fellows. Archer Center scholarships, along with a variety of campus, private, and government aid, allow students to receive substantial composite funding for their fellowship. Please reach out to the Archer Center if you'd like to discuss your individual financial circumstances.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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The Archer Center

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ARCHER FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

Matthew Rodriguez, Spring 2024 Archer Fellow

MAJOR: Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

D.C. INTERNSHIP: Office of U.S. Representative Hakeem Jeffries (NY-08)

CURRENT JOB: Press Assistant and Staff Assistant, U.S. House of Representatives

"UTRGV and the Archer Center gave me the opportunity to intern in our nation's Capitol and gain firsthand experience working directly with members of Congress on the House floor. The support, experience, and guidance I received from both organizations were undoubtedly a key to launching my career in Washington, D.C. If you're even slightly considering it, take the leap and apply. It truly changed my life."

