



UTRGV School of Medicine Belongs in Washington, D.C.

The Graduate Archer Fellowship Program

at The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine

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 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 Graduate Archer Fellowship Program provides graduate and medical students from institutions across The University of Texas System with the life-changing opportunity to live, learn, and intern in our nation's capital during the summer. Home to many government, nonprofit, media, and research institutions, Washington, D.C., provides unparalleled opportunities for career growth and cultural experiences, enabling students to explore 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. Through a shared cohort experience, Archer Fellows build lasting friendships and professional connections.

ELIGIBILITY

Federal policy impacts many aspects of life, both domestically and internationally. For this reason, the Graduate Archer Fellowship Program is open to graduate students from all areas of study. We believe understanding the policymaking process and becoming effective policy advocates are important for students from any discipline.

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

- Applicant must be pursuing a graduate or medical degree at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine
- Medical student in good academic standing without course deficiencies (first-year students must meet this requirement by the end of the fall 2025 semester)
- Previous professional or internship experience
- Campus involvement and/or community leadership experience

If selected for the Graduate Archer Fellowship Program, students must meet the following requirements by the beginning of the summer of their participation:

- Medical student in good academic standing without course deficiencies



COURSES

UT Rio Grande Valley Archer Fellows take courses housed in Public Affairs, which are taught by faculty from UT Dallas, UT Austin, and policy experts from the Washington, D.C., community. Students earn nine hours of graduate-level credit:

PAFF 6344-01: Federal Policymaking

PAFF 6374: Directed Research

PAFF 6645-01: Internship–Archer Program

Students are strongly encouraged to consult their academic advisors to learn how these in-residence classes will fit into their degree plans. Archer Fellows in the School of Medicine will apply to the UTRGV Graduate College as non-degree seeking students and will take the above courses through UTRGV.

POLICY WORKING GROUPS

As part of their Independent Study course, Archer Fellows will participate in a specialized working group focused on their academic and professional interests. These working groups enable Archer Fellows to connect with policy leaders in their field through policy roundtables and tailored academic research projects. The working groups also foster research and policy collaboration between Archer Fellows.

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 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 COST AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Archer Fellows pay a program fee in place of UTRGV School of Medicine tuition. The current Graduate Archer Fellowship Program fee is \$3,900 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-fellowship.html for more information on program expenses.

The Archer Center and our supporters are committed to making the Graduate Archer Fellowship Program accessible by removing financial barriers that may prohibit a fellow from achieving their educational goals. The Archer Center's need- and merit-based scholarship provides up to \$8,000 in funding. With a variety of scholarships and funding resources, many Archer Fellows receive comprehensive 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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Archer Center Admissions

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ARCHER FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Alessandra Jimenez, Summer 2021 Archer Fellow

DEGREE: Doctor of Medicine

D.C. INTERNSHIP: American Medical Association

CURRENT JOB: Emergency Medicine Residency Program, University of California San Francisco

"My time in Washington, D.C., has shifted my career trajectory by creating opportunities through my classes and the internship that I secured with the American Medical Association. My network of career support has grown tremendously. I am thankful, and could not have grown as quickly without the Archer Center's support."

