

**Helen S. and Alexander W. Astin Civic Engagement Scholars Program**

**2018-19 Application**

The Astin Civic Engagement Scholars Program funds a select group of upper-division students who demonstrate a strong, ongoing commitment to civic engagement research. The program is named for visionary UCLA higher education scholars Helen ("Lena") and Alexander ("Sandy") Astin to honor their nationally recognized body of research in the area of civic engagement. This year, all students chosen as Astin Scholars will work with one community partner as a member of a research team. This nonprofit organization is dedicated to improving the quality of life within its community through holistic family support and educational initiatives. Scholars will serve as research consultants for the organization during 2018-19 academic year, collaborating to, among other projects, conduct impact analyses of organizational programs to examine how they support the organization in meeting its mission. Fall and Winter quarters will be spent designing the research projects and collecting data. Spring quarter will be spent analyzing data collected and writing the results of each student’s research. Each quarter, students will enroll in a 4-unit upper division course. Courses will focus on theories and ideas about educational inequality, poverty, and community-based research, as they relate to social circumstances in Los Angeles.

If you have an interest in issues of civic engagement, social justice, and addressing educational advancement in underrepresented communities; if you have an interest in conducting community-based research and analysis; and/or if you have ever considered working in the nonprofit field, we highly encourage you to apply.

Those chosen to participate will receive a research scholarship during the year. **Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 and have junior or senior standing in the fall of 2018.**

Please email completed applications to Dr. Douglas Barrera at dbarrera@college.ucla.edu. **Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on May 25th, 2018. Students selected for an interview will be contacted via email.**

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| Name |  |
| Student ID # |   |
| Email address |   |
| Major |   |
| Minor |   |
| Degree Expected Term |   |
| Cumulative GPA |   |

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| Previous research experience (including research done as a course requirement) |
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| Previous community-based academic work (courses, internships for credit, etc.) |
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Essay Narrative

Many nonprofit organizations have a mission to improve educational advancement within the communities that they serve. However, they are often constrained by issues of funding as well as an industry culture which suggests that providing after-school tutoring is the best way to address the educational advancement gap among underrepresented students. As the Executive Director of a community service center in Los Angeles, you have been given **unlimited** funds to improve educational advancement in your community. Please describe how you would lead your organization in taking on this issue from a **systemic perspective.** Please submit your answer in **no more** than 500 words.