

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

**2017-18 Application**

The Astin Civic Engagement Research 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 reducing poverty from a holistic approach. Scholars will serve as interns with the organization during fall and winter quarters, working together to conduct an impact analysis of organizational programs to examine how they support the organization in meeting its mission. 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 poverty as it relates to Los Angeles as well as research methodologies.

If you have an interest in issues of civic engagement, social justice, and reducing poverty; 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.

Scholars 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 2017**

Please email completed applications to Dr. Douglas Barrera at [dbarrera@college.ucla.edu](mailto:dbarrera@college.ucla.edu). **Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on May 12th, 2017. 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 |  |
| Are you available to take a course during Summer Session C (all fees would be paid by the Astin Scholars program) **(not a requirement to be chosen)?** |  |

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| Previous research experience |
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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 reduce poverty in the communities that they serve. However, they are often constrained by issues of funding as well as an industry culture which suggests that providing direct services to people in need is the best way to address issues of poverty. As the Executive Director of a poverty relief organization in Los Angeles, you have been given **unlimited** funds to address poverty in your community. Please describe how you would lead your organization in taking on the issue of poverty from a **systemic perspective** Please submit your answer in **no more** than 500 words.