

COLLEGE NOW HAS A GAP YEAR PROGRAM!

College Now is offering a Gap Year Fellows Program to twenty high school graduates who are not ready to go to college directly after high school. Our Gap Year program will help the Fellows develop or refine their career pathways and to plan forward for their next college and career steps.

GAP YEAR – a purposeful gap between graduating from high school and starting your career or college experience

STIPEND – a predetermined amount of money to be paid to a trainee or a learner.

DEFERMENT – an approved delay to the start of your college enrollment and your scholarships

PRIORITY DEADLINE – those who apply by this date are considered for more program benefits such as a higher stipend award and increased opportunities for scholarship awards

College Now's Gap Year Fellows program is a career and college exposure and preparation program which,

- provides stipends to participate in our 6 hours per week Advising Program
- plus other benefits such as daily RTA passes for travel to our Advising Program
- has five opportunities for Fellows through our AmeriCorps Fellows service program.

Our Gap Year Fellows Advising Program is a 12-month, 6 hour per week program which provides flexibility for Fellows to be employed full-time while also attending our amazing program. Please see the Gap Year Fellow Benefits Package on the next page.

Our AmeriCorps Fellows program for five Fellows is a summer (June and July), 30 hours per week program providing service in College Now's programs. AmeriCorps Fellows receive a stipend and educational award, and will have the flexibility to work part-time. Also, upon successful completion of the summer program, AmeriCorps Fellows may have the opportunity to apply for the next program year of service (August 2021-June 2022). You can learn more about the national AmeriCorps program here <https://americorps.gov/about>. You can learn more about College Now's AmeriCorps Fellows program after completing the Gap Years Fellows application.

Applications to our Gap Year Fellows Program are accepted on a rolling basis, meaning they will be reviewed as they are submitted. However, we have a **priority deadline of March 25**. You can apply at the link here: <https://tinyurl.com/gapyear21>.

Applicants who apply by **March 25** will be the first to be considered for the five College Now AmeriCorps Fellows service opportunities and are also eligible to apply for the College Now Traditional Scholarship. *The AmeriCorps Fellows and the College Now Traditional Scholarships have separate application, interview, and selection processes.*

Information Sessions: Students who are interested in becoming a Gap Year Intern should attend one of the Information Sessions. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/2108993456926633997>

GAP YEAR FELLOWS BENEFITS PACKAGES:

Gap Year Fellows will receive stipends for attending and successfully completing our Gap Year. The AmeriCorps Fellows (selected through a separate application process) will receive a separate stipend & educational award.

PLUS: additional benefits of attending our Gap Year Program include:

- *Time, opportunity, and guidance to plan for next year (and beyond)*
- *Flexibility to be employed full-time while being a Gap Year Fellow, or to be employed part-time while being an AmeriCorps Fellow*
- *Assistance with enrollment into trade/certificate program or two- or four-year college programs*
- *Possible scholarships to attend trade/certificate programs or two- or four-year college programs*
- *RTA passes for travel to College Now's Gap Year Program*
- *Classroom learning to explore fields of interest and career opportunities*
- *Classroom learning that will help you develop and be successful along your career and college path*
- *Career Site and College Campus Visits*
- *Materials and supplies for the Advising Program*
- *Supplies for transition to college*

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What will a typical week look like for a Gap Year Fellow? Find out: https://www.collegenowgc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/YearInTheLife_GapYear.pdf

QUALIFICATIONS

Below are the qualifications to be eligible for the Gap Year Fellows Program

College Now Advisors can help you complete the required applications. The priority application due date is March 25th. You can apply later, however applying after March 25 limits your stipend awards and your scholarship opportunities.

IF YOU APPLY BY MARCH 25th:

(Those who apply by March 25th receive priority consideration for the AmeriCorps Fellows Program. Also, those who apply and are admitted and attend the Gap Year Fellows Program and will receive a stipend of \$50.00.)

1. Class of 2021 High School Senior from a high school served by College Now
2. GPA of 2.5 or higher
3. Completed Gap Year Fellows Program Application <https://tinyurl.com/gapyear21>
4. Completed FAFSA for the 2021-2022 school year <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
5. Completed College Now Traditional Scholarship, which can be deferred (*requires FAFSA completion and an ACT of 18 or higher or an SAT test score of 960 or higher*) <https://smr.to/p68784>
6. Completion of the Say Yes Scholarship application (if eligible to apply), which can be deferred (*requires FAFSA completion*) <https://sayyescleveland.org/scholarships/class-of-2021/>
7. Deferred admission to a college or university **OR** completed Tri-C application www.tri-c.edu/apply (this can be completed after March 25th)
8. Participate in an interview with our Gap Year Team (this will be scheduled after March 25th)

IF YOU APPLY AFTER MARCH 25th:

(Applying after March 25 may limit your stipend awards and your scholarship opportunities)

The qualifications are the same as above, EXCEPT for number 5. You will not need to apply for the Cleveland Now Traditional Scholarship because the deadline will have passed.

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Questions? Please email College Now's Gap Year Program, gapyear@collegenowgc.org, or contact your school's College Now Advisor with any questions or to learn more about the Gap Year Program. Your College Now Advisor can help you complete the Gap Year Fellows applications. You can also visit our website for more information: <https://www.collegenowgc.org/gap-year-program/>

Need to know who is your College Now Advisor? Please email College Now's Gap Year Program, gapyear@collegenowgc.org