CAPC Research Assistantship Program

Program Description

The CAPC Research Assistantship Program is for students interested in developing their research and professional skills as well as gaining a deeper understanding and appreciation of the study of American politics. Research Assistants (RAs) are paired with a faculty member who directs their research for the semester as well as helping them develop a unique project based at least in part, on the research they are conducting on behalf of the faculty member. In addition, students are also assigned a graduate student to help mentor and guide them through the research process. RAs are also given formal training in writing, data analysis, public speaking/presentation skills, conducting academic research, and formulating cogent research questions.

Program Application

The following materials are required for the application (deadline December 11th 2015)

1. Cover letter with name, major, class standing, UID, and contact information
2. A current unofficial transcript
3. One page resume of your educational and employment background that includes name of a faculty reference.
4. A writing sample, such as a short paper. Submit a copy of a paper that you are proud of.
5. A 300-500 word essay on the following question: “Given the current political climate and the increasingly politicized atmosphere in which decisions that affect the production of public policy, how can research and scholarship support the development and protection of American democracy?”

Admittance to the Program

Students with successful applications will be called for an interview with the CAPC Coordinator. Admitted students will be given course credit in the form of an independent study. Students will be notified of their acceptance to the program via email. Questions about the application and registration process should be directed to CAPC Coordinator Christian Hosam at chosam@umd.edu.