

## Application Cover Sheet

### Mendell Graduate Fellowship in Cultural Literacy: 2025-2026

Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life  
University of California, Santa Barbara

Name:	
SSN:	
Department:	
Perm #:	
Date Advanced to Candidacy:	
Home Address:	
If non-U.S. citizen, address in country of permanent residence:	
Phone:	
Email:	
Project Title:	
Name and Email of Chair of Ph.D. Committee:	

- Are human subjects involved in this research? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
  - If Yes, are you compliant with UCSB's HSC/IRB? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Are you or will you be ABD by the application deadline? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- Will you be a full-time registered student or on approved research leave of absence both at the time of application and for the duration of the fellowship? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Project Abstract (100 words maximum, single-spaced; do not exceed space allowed).

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## **Mendell Graduate Fellowship in Cultural Literacy: 2025-2026**

**Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life  
University of California, Santa Barbara**

The Steve and Barbara Mendell Graduate Fellowship in Cultural Literacy was established to encourage discussion and debate relating to questions of ethics and values in contemporary public life, with particular attention to how these questions might be informed by knowledge of history and cultural traditions.

The endowment supports one or more fellowship stipends each year for outstanding graduate students in the College of Letters and Science at UCSB (Humanities and Fine Arts, Social Sciences, Science) whose research or programs of study advance the goals of broad-based cultural literacy and high ethical standards in our participative democracy.

Although the scope of possible research topics for funding is wide, all such topics must relate to some aspect of contemporary values and ethics in the public sphere, such as the importance of civility, appreciation for pluralism and human rights, understanding how public issues are framed, ways social conflict is resolved, and how to improve and extend democratic practice.

Mendell Fellows are an important part of the Capps Center community. Accordingly, Fellows are expected to participate in quarterly gatherings for professionalization workshops and sharing research, and to contribute to the intellectual life of the Center, such as attending our events.

### **Types of Support**

Support may be provided for dissertation fellowships, supplemental fellowships, or summer stipends for special research projects. The number of fellows and award amounts are variable; typically, there are two to six awards, ranging from \$3,000 to \$4,000 per award. Fellowship recipients are allowed to hold other campus fellowships or employment during the tenure of their fellowship. Awards may not be deferred beyond the specified period of possible tenure. The fellowship year lasts from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Stipends are typically issued on October 1.

### **Eligibility**

Only doctoral students who have advanced to PhD candidacy by the application deadline are eligible to apply. Applicants must have either registered student status or approved research leave of absence (if appropriate), both at the time of application and for the duration of the fellowship.

### **Requirements**

- Application cover sheet (above)
- A brief curriculum vitae (no longer than 2 pages)

- A list of three references including the applicant’s dissertation director or faculty graduate advisor (can be at end of CV)
- A project description (double-spaced, 4 pages maximum) and a bibliography (1-2 pages)
- *Merge these documents in the order listed above into a single PDF file; title the PDF file “Lastname Firstname Mendell Application”*
- One letter of recommendation from Chair of Ph.D. committee or dissertation director (letters should be emailed to Greg Johnson, Director, at [gjohnson@ucsb.edu](mailto:gjohnson@ucsb.edu))

## **Project Description Guidelines**

The project description must:

- State the objectives, ideas, and methodology of the project
- Discuss the project’s significance and originality with reference to current scholarship and/or arts practice
- Discuss the project’s relevance to cultural literacy and ethical values in the public sphere
- Include a timetable and plan of work, indicating the status of the project and outlining project activities in the proposed award period (e.g., original research, travel, or presentations)
- Specify how the fellowship funds will be spent (ranging from \$3,000 to \$4,000), including particular cost estimates and their purposes
- Define the project’s target audience(s) and the form(s) in which the research will eventually be disseminated (e.g., book, articles, art exhibit, performance, etc.)

Project descriptions will be evaluated on the clarity of objectives and methodology; the project’s significance and originality; specificity and feasibility of the plan of work, how funds will be spent, and dissemination of research; and the project’s relevance to cultural literacy and ethical values in the public sphere.

## **Deadlines**

The completed application must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 5, 2025. Please email your application materials (single PDF file) to Greg Johnson at [gjohnson@ucsb.edu](mailto:gjohnson@ucsb.edu). It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure the faculty letter of recommendation is submitted timely.

## **Award Announcement**

Applications will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary faculty committee and awards will be announced by June 9, 2025.

## **Contact / Info**

For further information, please contact Greg Johnson, Director of the Walter H. Capps Center, at [gjohnson@ucsb.edu](mailto:gjohnson@ucsb.edu), or visit our website: <https://www.cappscenter.ucsb.edu/fellowships>