



MARYLAND

SCIENCE POLICY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Providing scientific, technical, and health knowledge to policymakers and benefiting the citizens of Maryland

The mission of the Maryland Science, Technology, Engineering, and Health Policy (MSTEHP) Fellowship is to enhance access of Maryland's legislative and executive branch policymakers to scientific, technical, and health expertise. The ultimate goal is to enhance the availability of knowledge to decision-makers, benefitting Marylanders.

Simultaneously, scientists, engineers, and health professionals with graduate degrees would gain a better understanding of policymaking and the opportunities and challenges faced by the public. The program would subsequently enhance the knowledge available for state policymaking and create better leaders in academia, government, nonprofits, industry, and federal laboratories.

Why is the MSTEHP Fellowship Program needed?

Many of today's public policy challenges are related to science and technology. Consider issues like cybersecurity, wastewater management, autonomous vehicles, and the opioid crisis. These issues are extremely complex and the amount of data and analysis available about them is growing at a tremendous rate.

In addition, it can be challenging to convince scientists, engineers, and health professionals at the graduate level to take on public service. State fellowship programs can help respond to these challenges, enhancing both the knowledge of policymakers and the scientific, technical, and health communities.

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What will MSTEHP fellows do?

MSTEHP fellows would undertake activities that are typical of any staffer in a public policy office. At the direction of the legislators and/or executive branch policymakers for whom they are working, the MSTEHP fellows would contribute their scientific, technical, and health expertise and analytical skills to a policy maker's existing team.

Their activities might include reviewing existing research; collecting and analyzing data; organizing roundtables with stakeholders; preparing for hearings; developing presentations, videos, social media and other communications; interacting with constituents and special interest groups; and writing policy memos and talking points.

How will the MSTEHP Fellowship Program work?

The goal is to have 2-4 fellows in the legislative and/or executive branch. Fellows would begin in the summer and serve for a year. Anyone with an advanced terminal level degree in science, including social sciences, engineering, or health from an accredited U.S. university, may apply to the program. The MSTEHP Fellowship Program would be housed by a host institution, which would manage and administer the program.

Candidates can apply for a fellowship in a program area where scientific, technical, and health expertise is often needed: health, energy, environment, information technology, transportation, infrastructure, and other disciplines as determined by host offices. After vetting and prioritizing top candidates by the MSTEHP Fellowship Program and advisory council, each office in the legislative and/or executive branch would have the opportunity to interview and rank candidates.

The candidates would then do the same and rank the offices. The fellow program would next match candidates to appropriate offices. Fellows will receive a full-time stipend that includes health benefits.

Once selected, each fellow would participate in an orientation program to enhance their understanding of public policy and the working of state legislative and executive branches, as well as professional development opportunities. Program staff would check in on fellows and mentors regularly to ensure the program is running smoothly.