



Heritage Fellows Program Application

OVERVIEW: The Center for Baptist Heritage & Studies once again invites applicants for its Heritage Fellows program. A limited number of Fellows will be selected for the academic year (2023-2024) to serve as undergraduate scholars in the area of Baptist history and heritage. Through the educational and archival resources of the Center, Fellows are immersed in the history and ethos of the Baptist tradition in a 1-2 day orientation, followed by research and completion of a project throughout the course of the year. Previous topics have included subjects such as interfaith friendships, Baptist church polity/governance, mission, worship and pursuing peace. The unique role of Virginia Baptists in the struggle for religious freedom remains of perennial interest. Heritage Fellows represent the future of thoughtful Baptist leadership.

THE AWARD: Applications must be received by the Center via email (or postmarked) by **June 16**, with appointments to be made in the following weeks. Selected applicants may be interviewed by a selection committee prior to the final decision. Stipends are made payable directly to the Fellows, at the completion of various points of progress (or “gates”), for a total of \$4,000 (\$2,000 in the fall, \$2,000 in the spring).

CRITERIA: Applicants shall be members of a Baptist church (ordinarily one cooperating with the Baptist General Association of Virginia) and actively engaged in religious activities on campus or in their church. Their pastor or Baptist campus minister must recommend them. Candidates must be enrolled in one of the following: the University of Richmond; or another educational institution within Virginia with a recognized Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) program affiliated with the BGAV; or a Virginia Baptist-affiliated college or university. Candidates must be **sophomores or juniors** at the beginning of the fall semester of the year of appointment. The one-year appointment begins with a summer orientation and continues fall and spring. Candidates must demonstrate potential leadership within a faith community and maintain above-average grades of B or 3.0 or above.

EXPECTATIONS: Heritage Fellows are required to attend an initial orientation seminar in Richmond and to complete assigned readings and projects. There also may be other opportunities for selected Fellows, including participation in Center-sponsored events, workshops, seminars and other learning opportunities.

Part I.

Legal name: _____
Last First Middle

Prefer to be called: _____ Email: _____

Permanent Home Address: _____
Number and Street

City _____ State and Zip Code _____

If different from above, please give your mailing address for all Heritage Fellows correspondence:

Mailing address: _____
Number and Street

City _____ State and Zip Code _____

Preferred Phone: _____ Other: _____
Area Code /Number Area Code/Number

College or University
(name) _____

Present Class at Time of Application (Please check) Fr So Jr Sr

Class Expected in Fall of Academic year of Appointment Fr So Jr Sr

Probable area of academic concentration: _____

Probable career or professional plan: _____

Home Church: _____

Address: _____
 Number and Street

 City State Zip Code

Minister of Home Church: _____

Church you currently attend: _____

Address: _____
 Number and Street

 City State Zip Code

Baptist campus minister _____
 Name

Are you active in Baptist Campus Ministry? (Briefly describe involvement) _____

Part II. Your responses are requested in your own words; you may attach your answers using a separate document. Please note the word limits for each question.

1. Describe your current involvement within your church or faith community (300 words or fewer).

2. Describe your faith journey to this point in your life (300 words or fewer).

3. In recent years, various public figures have denounced the concept of separation of church and state as negative or even anti-Christian. Based on what you know about the Baptist tradition and Virginia Baptist history, comment on *why* you think such pronouncements are either helpful or unhelpful. Please support your assertions with relevant sources and examples. If you are unsure, consult with your pastor or campus minister and/or do some brief research on Baptists and religious freedom to better inform your answer (300-600 words).

My signature below indicates that the information contained in the application is complete, factually correct and honestly presented.

Signature _____

Date _____

Instructions:

1. Please include your name on Part III, Section A and send or deliver to your pastor or Baptist campus minister as noted. Make sure the minister is aware of the application deadline.
2. Please include your name on Part IV, Section A of this application, and send it to the academic registrar or academic dean's office on your campus. Make sure they are aware of the deadline. They may require you to complete additional paperwork in order to share the information.

Application Deadline: June 16

Application must be emailed (or postmarked) on or before June 1.

3. Email or mail completed Parts I and II of this application to:

info@baptistheritage.org

OR

Center for Baptist Heritage & Studies
VBHS
410 Westhampton Way
Richmond, VA 23173

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Part III — Recommendation

A. Student's Name:

B. Student, please submit Part III of this application to your pastor or to the Baptist campus minister at the school you currently attend.

Dear Minister:

Please assist us in the consideration of this student as a candidate for the Heritage Fellows program at the Center for Baptist Heritage & Studies. The selection committee will rely heavily on the information you provide.

If selected, the student will engage in a Baptist heritage studies immersion over the next academic year, with the opportunity to make meaningful contributions through their research and writing and may have their work published.

In the form of a **letter**, please provide your complete and candid assessment of the candidate's character, maturity, leadership abilities, giftedness and active involvement in the church and/or the faith community on campus. Your statement is a critical item of evidence and will be received in confidence for use by the committee. Your timely response will be appreciated; we must have all application materials including your letter postmarked or emailed no later than **June 16**. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Heritage Fellows Selection Committee

Please attach your letter of endorsement to this form and send to either:

info@baptistheritage.org

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Richmond, VA 23173



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Part IV — Academic Standing

A. Student's Name:

B. Student, please submit Part IV to the academic registrar, academic dean's office or other appropriate party and request that they complete the form and send it directly to the Center for Baptist Heritage & Studies.

Memo: Registrar or Academic Dean
From: Heritage Fellows Selection Committee
Re: Academic Standing of above-named student

The candidate has applied for consideration as a Heritage Fellow with the Center for Baptist Heritage & Studies at the University of Richmond for the upcoming academic year. Heritage Fellows must be classified as either sophomores or juniors by the coming fall semester. Heritage Fellows must maintain overall above average grades of B or 3.0. Please complete the following:

I certify that the above named student currently has earned an overall grade of B or 3.0.

Name and Title

College or University

Date

All application materials including this record of academic achievement shall be postmarked no later than **June 16**. Thank you.

Please send this form directly to:

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Richmond, VA 23173

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