PIE Fellowship Guide

Preview Packet & Application Handbook

2026–2027 Edition

Prepared by

Program Support Committee

Partners in Education (PIE)

Cal Poly Pomona

Cal Poly Pomona | College of Education and Integrative Studies

Supporting Tomorrow's Educators.
Inspiring Tomorrow's Classrooms.

PIE PARTNERS in Education CAL POLY POMONA

About This Guide

Whether you're just beginning to explore the PIE Fellowship or are preparing to submit your application, this guide is designed to help you navigate every step of the process with confidence.

The PIE Fellowship Preview Packet & Application Guide provides prospective applicants with a comprehensive overview of the fellowship program, eligibility requirements, application process, important timelines, selection procedures, and available resources. More than simply explaining how to apply, this guide is intended to help you understand the purpose of the fellowship, prepare a competitive application, and gain insight into what it means to become a PIE Fellow.

The information contained within this publication has been organized to follow the same journey you will experience as an applicant, from learning about the fellowship and preparing your application to understanding the review process and, ultimately, becoming part of the PIE Fellow community.

We encourage you to read this guide before beginning your application and to refer to it throughout the application process. Our goal is to ensure that every applicant has access to clear, consistent, and transparent information that supports a positive application experience.

We are excited that you are considering applying for the PIE Fellowship and wish you the very best throughout your journey toward becoming an educator.

What You'll Find inside

Throughout this guide, you'll find practical information and resources designed to support you during every stage of the application process, including:

- Fellowship eligibility requirements
- Application timeline
- Application components
- Tips for preparing strong written responses
- Interview information
- Frequently asked questions
- Recipient expectations
- Fellowship highlights
- Helpful resources and contacts

Before You Begin

We recommend reading this guide in its entirety before beginning your application. Doing so will help you better understand the fellowship program, prepare stronger application materials, and ensure you don't miss important requirements or deadlines.

About Partners in Education (PIE)



Partners in Education (PIE) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the preparation and success of future educators at Cal Poly Pomona. Through fellowships, recognition programs, and meaningful partnerships, PIE invests in aspiring teachers as they prepare to make a lasting impact in classrooms and communities.

Working in collaboration with the College of Education and Integrative Studies (CEIS), PIE connects donors, alumni, educators, and community partners who share a common belief: great teachers change lives. By reducing financial barriers and recognizing outstanding future educators, PIE helps ensure that talented individuals have the opportunity to pursue careers in education and positively influence future generations of students.

Since its founding in 2005, the organization has supported hundreds of credential candidates through fellowship opportunities and continues to strengthen the teaching profession by investing in those who demonstrate exceptional promise, leadership, and commitment to education.

Our Mission

To identify, support, and celebrate outstanding future educators through meaningful partnerships, philanthropic investment, and a shared commitment to educational excellence.

At a Glance

Founded	**2006**
Organization	Partners in Education (PIE)
University Partner	Cal Poly Pomona
College Partner	College of Education and Integrative Studies (CEIS)
Governance	Volunteer Board of Directors
Primary Focus	Supporting future educators through fellowship and recognition programs

Why This Matters

Every outstanding teacher begins with an opportunity to learn, grow, and lead. Through the generosity of donors and the dedication of volunteers, Partners in Education helps create those opportunities by investing in future educators before they ever step into their own classrooms.

What is the PIE Fellowship?

The PIE Fellowship recognizes and supports outstanding future educators at Cal Poly Pomona by providing financial assistance, professional recognition, and opportunities for continued engagement within the educational community.

Financial Support The fellowship provides financial assistance of $5,000, allowing recipients to focus on their academic and professional preparation during their clinical practice program.	**Professional Recognition** Recipients are recognized for their academic achievement, leadership, commitment to education, and potential to positively impact future students.
Community PIE Fellows become part of a growing network of educators, alumni, donors, university partners, and fellow recipients who share a commitment to educational excellence.	**Lasting Impact** The fellowship is an investment in future educators whose influence will extend far beyond the university and into classrooms, schools, and communities for years to come.

More Than a Scholarship

The PIE Fellowship is more than financial assistance. It is an investment in your future as an educator and an invitation to join a community committed to supporting excellence in teaching.

Why Apply?

Investing in Your Future as an Educator

Applying for the PIE Fellowship is about more than financial assistance, it is an opportunity to be recognized for your commitment to education and to join a community dedicated to supporting future teachers. Whether you are just beginning your credential journey or preparing to enter your own classroom, the fellowship recognizes your potential to make a meaningful difference in the lives of future students.

Financial Assistance:

Receive financial assistance that helps reduce financial barriers during clinical practice, allowing you to focus on developing the knowledge, skills, and experiences needed to become an effective educator.

Professional Recognition:

Be recognized by Partners in Education, Cal Poly Pomona, and the College of Education and Integrative Studies for your accomplishments and potential as a future educator.

Join a Professional Community:

Become part of a network of educators, alumni, donors, university partners, and fellow recipients who are invested in supporting future teachers throughout their careers.

Celebrate Your achievement:

Recipients are recognized during the annual *Sponsor a Future Teacher Awards Dinner*, where they are celebrated alongside donors, university leadership, faculty, family, and fellow educators.

Invest in your Future:

The fellowship is an investment in your future as an educator, recognizing not only your accomplishments today but also your potential to positively influence students, schools, and communities for years to come.

Every application represents more than an opportunity to receive financial support. It is an opportunity to share your story, demonstrate your commitment to education, and become part of a tradition of excellence that continues to shape future generations of teachers.

Am I Eligible?

Determine Your Eligibility Before You Apply

Before beginning your application, review the eligibility requirements below to determine whether you qualify for the PIE Fellowship. Applicants must satisfy all eligibility requirements established by Partners in Education (PIE), the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships, and the College of Education and Integrative Studies (CEIS).

Eligibility Requirements

Can I Apply?

- ☐ I have a minimum **3.0 GPA** upon entering the credential program.
- ☐ I have been **fully admitted** into a Cal Poly Pomona credential program.
- ☐ I am working toward my **first teaching credential**.
- ☐ I am **not currently employed** as an intern teacher or participating in a teacher residency program.
- ☐ I meet the **Financial Aid Office's eligibility requirements** for scholarship consideration.
- ☐ I will be enrolled in **clinical practice** during the eligible fellowship period.

Before You Continue

If you can confidently check each eligibility requirement above, you're ready to begin preparing your PIE Fellowship application.

Application Requirements

What Will I Need to Submit?

- ☐ Complete the General Scholarship Application.
- ☐ Complete the PIE Fellowship Application.
- ☐ Submit one letter of recommendation.
- ☐ Complete all required written responses.
- ☐ Submit both applications before the published deadline.

Before You Begin

Start gathering your application materials early. Giving yourself sufficient time to prepare thoughtful responses, request letters of recommendations, and review your application before submission will strengthen your final application. The next section will walk you through each component of the application and provide guidance for preparing thoughtful and competitive responses.

Understanding the Application

What You'll Be Asked to Share

The PIE Fellowship application is designed to help the selection committee learn about your experiences, your commitment to education, and your potential as a future educator. The questions below provide applicants with an opportunity to share their story, reflect on meaningful experiences, and demonstrate readiness for the teaching profession.

The guidance provided below is intended to help applicants better understand each application component. It is not intended to prescribe or suggest preferred responses, but rather to encourage thoughtful reflection and preparation.

Application Prompt	What to Expect	Preparing Your Response
Community Service	Describe your recent campus or community involvement and the impact of your service.	Focus on the impact of your involvement rather than simply listing activities. Explain what you contributed, what you learned, and how the experience influenced your growth.
About You	Introduce yourself and share experiences that have shaped your educational journey.	Share experiences that have shaped your educational journey and desire to become an educator. Be authentic and help reviewers understand who you are beyond your résumé.
Why Teaching	Reflect on the experiences or individuals who inspired you to become an educator.	Reflect on the experiences, mentors, or moments that inspired your decision to pursue teaching. Explain why the profession is meaningful to you personally.
Your Teaching Goals	Describe the type of educator you hope to become and the classroom you envision.	Describe the kind of educator you hope to become and the learning environment you aspire to create for your future students.
Fellowship Impact	Explain how receiving the fellowship would support your completion of clinical practice.	Be specific about how the fellowship will support your successful completion of clinical practice and explain the financial, personal, or professional barriers it may help you overcome.
Letter of Recommendation	Request at least one recommendation from someone who can speak to your qualifications and potential.	Choose someone who knows your work ethic, character, professionalism, and potential as an educator, and provide them sufficient time to write a thoughtful recommendation.

Preparing Strong Responses

Telling Your Story Authentically

The written responses are an opportunity for the selection committee to learn about you beyond your academic record. Strong responses provide meaningful reflection, demonstrate your commitment to education, and help reviewers understand the experiences that have shaped your journey toward becoming an educator.

There are no "perfect" answers. Instead, focus on providing honest, thoughtful, and well-supported responses that directly address each prompt.

Characteristics of Strong Responses

Effective Responses	Common Pitfalls
Demonstrate authenticity and personal reflection.	Writing what you think reviewers want to hear.
Answer every part of the question.	Only answering part of the prompt.
Include specific examples and experiences.	Making vague or overly general statements.
Reflect on what you learned from your experiences.	Simply listing activities or accomplishments.
Are organized, proofread, and easy to read.	Submitting responses with spelling or grammatical errors.

Reflection Questions

Before submitting your application, ask yourself:

- ☐ Did I fully answer every part of the prompt?
- ☐ Did I include specific examples?
- ☐ Did I explain why the experience was meaningful?
- ☐ Did I demonstrate my commitment to education?
- ☐ Did I proofread my responses before submitting?
- ☐ Did I help someone who doesn't know me better understand who I am through my responses?

Writing Tip

Give yourself time to revise. Strong responses are rarely written in a single sitting. Draft your responses early, revisit them after taking a break, and consider asking a trusted mentor or faculty member to review your work for clarity and grammar.

What Happens After You Apply?

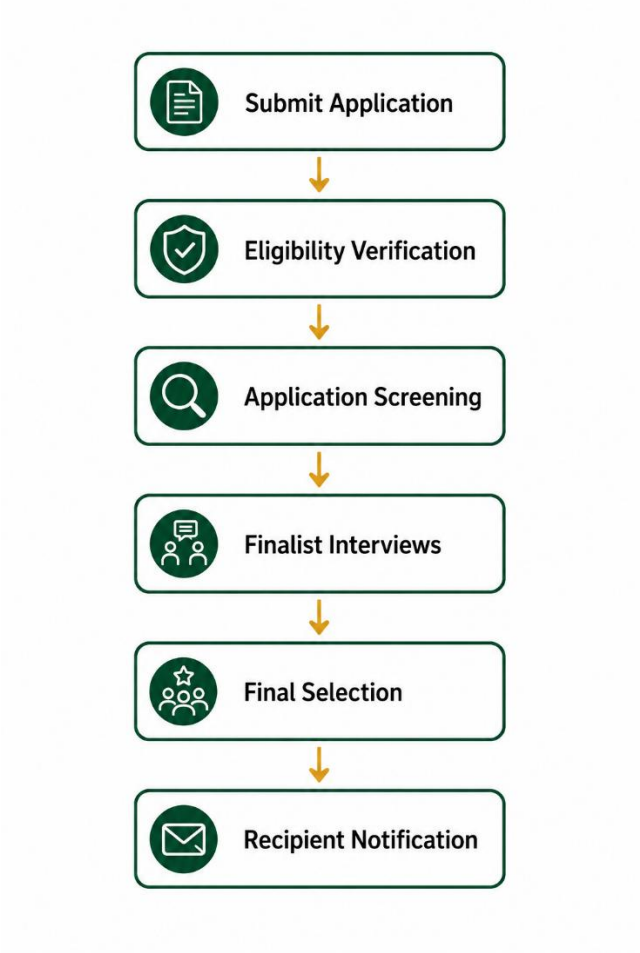
Understanding the Selection Process

Once the application deadline has passed, every completed application begins a structured review process designed to ensure fairness, consistency, and transparency. Each stage of the process helps the selection committee identify applicants who demonstrate strong potential as future educators while remaining aligned with the mission and values of Partners in Education.

While each application is unique, every eligible applicant progresses through the same general review process.

Fellowship Selection Process

The diagram below provides a high-level overview of the fellowship selection process from application submission through recipient notification.



Submit Application
Applicants submit all required materials before the published deadline.

Eligibility Verification
Applications are reviewed to confirm published eligibility requirements have been met.

Application Screening
Eligible applications are independently reviewed using the established screening process.

Finalist Interviews
Selected finalists participate in structured interviews with the Interview Committee.

Final Selection
Application materials and interview results are considered together before final recommendations are made.

Recipient Notification
Recipients are notified after the selection process has concluded.

Our Commitment to Fairness

Every eligible application progresses through the same structured review process. Throughout each phase, committee members strive to ensure consistency, fairness, and equitable consideration for all applicants.

Finalist Interviews

Preparing for Your Interview

Applicants selected for a finalist interview have successfully advanced through the application review process. The interview provides the selection committee with an opportunity to learn more about each finalist beyond the written application and better understand their experiences, goals, and commitment to becoming an educator.

The interview is not intended to be intimidating. Rather, it is an opportunity for you to expand upon your application, reflect on your educational journey, and share your passion for teaching.

What to Expect

During Your Interview	
Interview Format	Finalists participate in a structured, in-person interview conducted by members of the Interview Committee.
Consistent Process	Each finalist is asked a consistent set of interview questions to ensure a fair and equitable experience for all applicants.
Topics of Discussion	Questions may explore your educational journey, experiences working with students, service, leadership, professional growth, and commitment to teaching.
Conversation	Interviewers may ask follow-up questions to better understand your experiences or allow you to expand upon your responses.

Preparing for Success

Before your interview, consider taking time to:

- ☐ Review your application and written responses.
- ☐ Reflect on experiences that have shaped your decision to become an educator.
- ☐ Think about examples that demonstrate your leadership, service, and commitment to education.
- ☐ Review the fellowship mission and the purpose of the PIE Fellowship.
- ☐ Practice speaking clearly and confidently while remaining authentic.
- ☐ Plan to arrive early and dress professionally.
- ☐ Bring your enthusiasm for teaching and be yourself.

Remember

The interview is an opportunity to expand upon your application and share your experiences in your own voice. Every finalist brings unique strengths, perspectives, and experiences to the conversation.

Becoming a PIE Fellow

Introduction

Receiving a PIE Fellowship is both an honor and the beginning of a meaningful relationship with Partners in Education. Beyond financial assistance, the fellowship connects recipients with a community of educators, donors, university partners, and volunteers who are invested in supporting future teachers throughout their credential journey.

What Happens Next?

Fellowship Journey



What to Expect

Next Step	What it Means
Recipient Notification	Recipients are notified following completion of the selection process.
Fellowship Acceptance	Selected recipients confirm their acceptance and receive additional fellowship information
Ambassador Assignment	Each Fellow is paired with a member of the PIE Board of Directors or the broader PIE community who serves as a mentor, resource, and source of encouragement throughout clinical practice.
Professional Photos	Fellows participate in a professional photoshoot, with photographs featured in the annual PIE Awards Dinner program book, recognition events, and other PIE publications and communications.
Awards Dinner	Fellows are formally recognized during the annual Sponsor a Future Teacher Awards Dinner alongside donors, university leadership, faculty, family members, and fellow educators.

PIE Ambassador Program

Supporting your Journey

Every PIE Fellow is paired with a member of the Partners in Education Board of Directors or another member of the PIE community who serves as their Ambassador.

What the Ambassador Does

Your Ambassador Will	Examples
Welcome you to the PIE community	Introduce themselves and begin building a relationship.
Offer encouragement	Check in throughout your clinical practice program.
Serve as a resource	Answer questions or connect you with helpful resources.
Celebrate milestones	Recognize accomplishments and clinical practice successes.
Stay connected	Maintain communication throughout the fellowship year.

Your Role as a Fellow

- ☐ Respond to emails in a timely manner
- ☐ Maintain regular communication.
- ☐ Share updates from clinical practice.
- ☐ Ask questions when you need guidance.
- ☐ Keep your Ambassador informed of significant milestones during clinical practice.
- ☐ Attend fellowship events when possible.

Why it Matters

The Ambassador Program reflects PIE's belief that supporting future educators extends beyond financial assistance. Through mentorship, encouragement, and meaningful relationships, Fellows become part of a community committed to their success both during clinical practice and beyond graduation.

Celebrating Your Achievement as a PIE Fellow

Recognition Beyond the Fellowship Award

Being selected as a PIE Fellow is a significant accomplishment worthy of celebration. Throughout the fellowship year, Partners in Education recognizes Fellows not only for their academic achievement, but also for their commitment to the teaching profession, leadership potential, and future impact on students and communities.

Professional Photo Shoot

Prior to the *Sponsor a Future Teacher Awards Dinner*, Fellows participate in a professional photoshoot. These photographs are featured in the annual Awards Dinner program book highlighting each year's class of PIE Fellows and may also be used during recognition events, in PIE publications, and in other fellowship communications.

Sponsor a Future Teacher Awards Dinner

The annual Awards Dinner brings together Fellows, donors, university leadership, faculty, family members, alumni, and community supporters to celebrate the incoming class of PIE Fellows

During the evening, Fellows are formally recognized and have the opportunity to meet and thank the donors and supporters whose generosity makes the fellowship possible.

Why Recognition Matters

Recognition is more than celebrating an award. It is an opportunity to honor the dedication, perseverance, and potential of future educators while connecting them with the community that believes in their success.



Welcome to the PIE Community

Your Fellowship is Just the Beginning

Although the fellowship officially concludes when your credential program ends, your connection with Partners in Education does not. PIE values its alumni and encourages Fellows to remain engaged by mentoring future educators, participating in events, and continuing to strengthen the PIE community.



Each year, PIE recognizes alumni whose leadership, service, and lasting impact on education exemplify the mission and values of Partners in Education.

As a PIE alumnus, you may have opportunities to:

- Stay connected with your PIE Ambassador.
- Attend future PIE events and celebrations.
- Share your teaching experiences with future Fellows.
- Volunteer during the fellowship application and interview process.
- Mentor or encourage future educators as an ambassador yourself.
- Be nominated for the PIE Distinguished Fellow Award, recognizing alumni who demonstrate exceptional leadership, service, and lasting impact in the teaching profession.

Thank you for considering the PIE Fellowship. We wish you success throughout your credential journey and hope to welcome you into the Partners in Education community.

PIE Website

Questions?
Contact CEIS Communications
ceiscomm@cpp.edu