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**The 2025-2026 Values and Vocations Fellowship**

The Values and Vocations Fellowship provides students with the opportunity to explore the intersection of spirituality and social justice through community-based learning and a weekly integration seminar. The central premise of the Values and Vocations Fellowship is that social justice work cannot be effectively sustained over a lifetime without a strong, centered, and regular spiritual practice.

The Values and Vocations Fellowship will be awarded to up to four Occidental students for the 2025-2026 academic year. Fellows will volunteer 8 to 10 hours per week on a social justice project at a community organization. An additional two hours each week will be spent attending the integration seminar. During this seminar, fellows will engage in small group exercises, spiritual or contemplative practices and discussions about religion, spirituality, social justice, community engagement and vocation. Rev. Dr. Susan E. Young, Director for Religious and Spiritual Life will lead the seminar. Fellows will receive a $1,000 per semester stipend. The program is for both the fall and spring semesters.

To apply for the Fellowship, students must: (1) submit the attached application; and (2) participate in a fifteen-minute interview. The Values and Vocations Fellowship application is divided into two parts. Part one is the student application and part two is the faculty reference. **Both the student application and faculty reference are due Wednesday, September 17.** We will contact you to schedule an interview upon receiving your application.

Students may submit their application by emailing it to Rev. Dr. Young at young@oxy.edu. Faculty should complete the reference form attached to this document; they do not need to write a formal letter of reference. Faculty must submit their reference form to ORSL directly by either: (1) emailing it to Rev. Dr. Young at young@oxy.edu; (2) dropping it off in a sealed, signed envelope to the Office for Religious and Spiritual Life in Lower Herrick; or (3) by mailing it in a sealed, signed envelope to the Office for Religious and Spiritual Life.

**Questions? Contact: The Rev. Dr. Susan E. Young at** **young@oxy.edu** **or 323-259-1308.**

*See next page for application.*



**2025-2026 Values and Vocations Fellowship**

**Part One: Student Application**

Completed student applications must be received by ORSL no later than **September 17, 2025. Please email your application to** **young@oxy.edu****.**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Email:**

**Phone:**

**Class/Year:**

**Major:**

**Student ID:**

**Name of faculty recommender:**

**Please provide answers to the following questions in no more than three single-spaced pages.**

1. Describe your interest in the Values and Vocations Fellowship. Please discuss your spiritual journey or questions and how you believe the Fellowship will help you explore, develop, or answer these questions.
2. How do you think this Fellowship opportunity will help inform or shape your interest in social justice work or community service?
3. Describe a project you would like to pursue as a fellow. (Students are encouraged to develop their own project. ORSL can help students connect to community organizations if necessary.)
4. How would you participate as a seminar member for this Fellowship? For example, how would you respond to your beliefs or values being challenged? How would you engage in discussion with people who differ from you?
5. What would you like to leave this Fellowship knowing and having accomplished?

**2025-2026 Values and Vocations Fellowship**

 **Part Two: Faculty Recommendation Form**

*Date: ­ Student Name: ­*

*Recommender Name: ­ Dept.: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

In what capacity do you know this student? Please check all that apply.

Academic advisor

Had the student in one class

Had the student in several classes

Worked on a prior project with this student

Other (specify) ­

1. Rate the student's academic abilities:

Weak Exceptional

 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

2. Rate the student's ability to work independently:

Weak Exceptional

 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

3. Rate the student's ability to engage in discussion:

Weak Exceptional

 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

4. Rate the student’s ability to be challenged by views different from their own:

Weak Exceptional

 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

5. Rate the student’s capacity for self-reflection:

Weak Exceptional

 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

6. Please share any additional insights regarding this applicant’s suitability for this Fellowship.

**Please return this form to Rev. Dr. Susan Young by Wednesday, September 17, 2025.**

**You may submit it by: (1) emailing it to Rev. Dr. Young at** **young@oxy.edu****; (2) dropping it off in a signed, sealed envelope at the Office for Religious and Spiritual Life located in Lower Herrick; or**

**(3) mailing it in a signed, sealed envelope to the Office for Religious and Spiritual Life.**