

frequently asked questions

jumpstart



A national non-profit organization "working toward the day every child in America enters school prepared to succeed."

How do I apply?

Interested Cal State Fullerton students should visit our website at www.jstart.org to complete the application for the Corps member position. After you have applied, please give us a couple of weeks to respond.

What are the requirements for being a Corps member?

Students receive extensive training in the field of early childhood education, so previous experience is **not** required. The requirements for participation in Jumpstart include:

- ✓ **Dedication** to early childhood education
- ✓ **A commitment to service 300 hours** for the **academic school year**; jumpstart will create a plan to outline how you will complete your hours
- ✓ **Professionalism**
- ✓ **Enrollment in a Child and Adolescent Studies Course** for both fall and spring Semesters on **Wednesdays**
 - 4:00 p.m. – 5:50 p.m. CAS 394+L (fall semester) and CAS 464+L (Spring Semester)
 - 5:00 p.m. – 6:50 p.m. CAS 140+L (fall semester) and CAS 499 (Spring semester)
- ✓ And a **TB Test**

When does this program start?

Jumpstart follows the academic year. The first day of the program is Wednesday, August 26th, 2011 during the first week of class. The last day of the program is before finals week in May 2012.

What are the benefits for participating in the Jumpstart program?

- ✓ **Make a Difference in the Life of a Child:** Inspire children to develop a love and learning and help children succeed in school
- ✓ **\$1,132 Education Award:** Jumpstart is partnered with AmeriCorps to provide students with a \$1,132 education award in exchange for 300 hours of service.
- ✓ **Earn Academic Credit:** All Jumpstart Corps members enroll in a Child and Adolescent Studies Course. Students can also use Jumpstart as their practicum, field placement, or internship placement site.
- ✓ **Work-Study Eligibility:** Although many students are volunteers, students who are eligible for work study funding can be paid for their work with Jumpstart.
- ✓ **Personal and Professional Development:** Groups of six or more students work together as a team in the preschool classroom and have many opportunities to develop leadership, teamwork, and communication skills.
- ✓ **Community Engagement:** Jumpstart Corps members work within Orange County community and develop strong relationships with the children inside of the preschool classrooms, the families we serve and classroom teachers.

Can this count towards my internship, practicum, or service-learning hours?

Yes. Jumpstart can be your site placement. You must register your site placement with the Center for Internships & Community Engagement in Langsdorf Hall (LH) 206 and we will help you with this process.

Is this a paid position?

Jumpstart is **only** a paid position through **federal work-study** program. Students who participate will receive an education award for \$1,132 at the completion of your 300 service hours.

How do I find out if I have federal work-study?

Students who filled out the FAFSA and indicated they were interested in Work Study should receive an award letter from the Office of Financial Aid. If you still are not sure, you should contact the Office of Financial Aid located in University Hall (UH) 146 or call (657) 278-3125.

What if I am not eligible for work-study, can I still participate?

Jumpstart accepts students who are not work study eligible as volunteers. Those students enjoy all the normal benefits, including academic credit and a \$1,132 education award (for completing 300 hours). Volunteers have to complete the same amount of hours and are required to attend all the sessions.

What is the time commitment?

Corps members work about **8-12 hours per week** and complete **300 hours** over the course of the academic year. This time includes:

- ✓ 2 hours – Training (Jumpstart CAS course)
- ✓ 4 hours – Jumpstart session
- ✓ 2 hour – Team planning meetings
- ✓ 2-6 hours – Classroom assistance time

Students are not expected to work during finals week or any breaks, but can earn additional hours doing Classroom Assistance Time.

Will session times stay the same for the entire academic year?

Only session times remain the same throughout the year. For example, if you want to have an 8:30-11:00am Tuesday/Thursday session time for the fall semester, we ask that you schedule your spring semester classes so that you can attend session during that same time. We do this so that students can remain in the **same class** and can work with the **same partner children** throughout the year. This model provides a better experience for students and children who participate in Jumpstart.

Where are the preschools located?

Jumpstart Fullerton works with several local preschools, all within several miles of campus:

- John Marshall Elementary School: 2066 Falmouth Avenue, Anaheim, Ca 92801 (4.3 m from CSUF)
- Topaz Head Start Center: 1600 Sapphire Road, Fullerton, CA 92831 (1.5 miles from CSUF)
(placement site are subject to change)

Can I select my preschool placement site?

We make every effort to place students on teams based on their preferences, however scheduling and team size usually determine where people are placed. If you have a site or team preference, please let us know.

Are there any leadership opportunities within the Jumpstart program?

Jumpstart has several Leadership Team positions available, the Team leader position and the Volunteer Coordinator position. For more information on these positions, please read the full position description at www.jstart.org

Can I earn academic credit through Jumpstart?

Yes! All students enroll in a 2-unit service-learning course and a 1-unit lab course. The courses are designed to provide hands-on experience with care-giving, educational and service support settings for preschoolers and their families.

What if I cannot commit for both the fall and spring semesters?

If you are interested but do not think you can make the commitment for the year, contact us. We have service events and other volunteer projects that allow students to get involved with Jumpstart.



For more information contact:

Jo'ie D. Taylor

jodtaylor@fullerton.edu

(657) 278-3746

**get cash.
earn credit. change lives.**