Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS JUMPSTART?

Jumpstart is a national nonprofit organization working towards the day every child in America enters kindergarten prepared to succeed. We place caring adults in preschool classrooms in low-income communities. Corps members work on a team of their peers to help children develop the language and literacy skills they need to be ready for kindergarten and beyond.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING A CORPS MEMBER?

Students receive extensive training in the field of early childhood education. Previous experience is not required. We are that interested applicants:

- Have a dedication to early childhood education and a commitment to service
- Exhibit professionalism
- Enroll in a Child and Adolescent Studies course both fall and spring semesters
- Complete a criminal background check and submit a current TB Test
- Commit to serve for the entire academic school year

WHEN DOES THE PROGRAM START?

Jumpstart follows the academic school year. The first day of the program will begin on Monday, August 22nd and will tentatively end no later than Friday, May 19th.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION IN THE JUMPSTART PROGRAM?

- Work with preschool children on language, literacy, and social skills
- Earn academic course credit with your enrollment in Jumpstart specific Child and Adolescent Studies courses held on Mondays from 4-7pm or 6-9pm, depending on prerequisite
- Serve 10-15 hours a week on a team of your peers
- Receive professional training in the field of early childhood education
- Earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of $1,200 following your 300 hours of service (AmeriCorps members only)
- Join a national service network including over 20,000 alumni
- Earn Federal Work Study (if you have been awarded)

CAN I USE JUMPSTART FOR MY INTERNSHIP, PRACTICUM OR SERVICE-LEARNING HOURS?

Yes, Jumpstart can serve as your placement site for your academic internship or practicum course. You need to get Jumpstart approved by your department and register your placement with the Center for Internships & Community Engagement.

IS THIS A PAID POSITION?

Jumpstart is only a paid position for students who have been awarded Federal Work Study as part of their financial aid award package. All students who complete the required 300 hours of service as an AmeriCorps member will receive an education award of at least $1,200 following their service.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT IF I HAVE FEDERAL WORK-STUDY?

Students who have completed and submitted the FAFSA application should receive notification of their financial aid eligibility from the Office of Financial Aid. If you are still unsure, 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?

Yes! Jumpstart welcomes all students interested in volunteering in preschool classrooms to join us. If you are not eligible for Federal Work Study, you can still enjoy all the benefits of an AmeriCorps member including academic course credit and the Segal AmeriCorps Education award.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

Corps members serve between 10-15 hours per week and complete 300 hours over the course of the academic school year. This time includes:

- 2-3 hours Jumpstart training through the Child and Adolescent Studies courses
- 4 hours Jumpstart session held on Tuesdays and Thursdays only
- 2 hours Team planning meetings held throughout the week
- 3 hours Child centered time completed at various times throughout the week
- 1-3 hours Session planning and family involvement
- Occasional evening or weekend trainings or events

WHAT IS THE JUMPSTART SESSION?

The Jumpstart session is the centerpiece of the Jumpstart program. During this two-hour block of time, held twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays, a team of Corps members implement curriculum in a preschool classroom. Corps members engage children in active learning experiences to build language and literacy skills during the Jumpstart session. Corps members support the five ingredients of active learning (materials, manipulation, choice, language from children, and support from adults) throughout the session elements while paying close attention to children’s interests and abilities.

WHAT IS CHILD CENTERED TIME (CCT)?

Child centered time (CCT) is an important component of the Jumpstart program model. This a time for Corps members to spend extra time supporting the children in their Jumpstart classroom. Corps members serve these hours individually, 3 hours per week for a total of 60 hours over the course year. Corps members must complete these hours in the same classroom and with the same children as the Jumpstart session.

WILL SESSION TIMES STAY THE SAME FOR THE ENTIRE ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR?

Yes, Jumpstart sessions are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays only. The time of session varies based on the preschool classroom daily schedule. Typically, sessions are held between 8:30am-11:30am in the mornings and 1:00pm-3:30pm in the afternoon. We ask that you schedule your fall and spring semester classes around your Jumpstart commitment. We do this so that Corps members can continue to serve in the same classroom with the same group of children throughout the year. This model provides the best experience for both the Corps members and the children we serve.

WHERE ARE THE PRESCHOLS LOCATED?

Jumpstart Fullerton currently places students with the Santa Ana Unified School District Head Start Program (sites are between 10-15 miles away from campus) and the Anaheim Elementary School District State Preschools (sites are between 4-6 miles from campus). We make every effort to place students on teams based on their preferences, however scheduling and team size usually determine where students are placed.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Applications are available online at [www.jstart.org/apply](http://www.jstart.org/apply).

For more information, please feel free to contact Katie Herbst at [jumpstart@fullerton.edu](mailto:jumpstart@fullerton.edu)