



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **WHAT IS JUMPSTART?**

Jumpstart is a national early education organization that recruits and trains volunteers to work with preschool children in under-resourced communities. Through a proven curriculum, these children develop the language, literacy, and social-emotional skills they need to be ready for kindergarten and beyond. Jumpstart is working towards the day every child in America enters kindergarten prepared to succeed. Learn more at [www.jstart.org](http://www.jstart.org).

### **WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BECOMING A MEMBER?**

Students receive extensive training in the field of early childhood education. Previous experience is not required; however, we do require that interested applicants:

- Be at least 17 years old
- Have a dedication to early childhood education and a commitment to service
- Exhibit professionalism
- Enroll in a specific Child and Adolescent Studies course both fall and spring semesters on Monday evenings
- Complete a criminal background check and submit a current TB Test and other immunization documentation as needed
- Possess a high school diploma or equivalent
- Commit to serve for the entire academic school year

### **WHAT ARE THE DATES FOR THE PROGRAM?**

Jumpstart follows the CSUF academic school year. The first day will begin on the first day of classes in Fall Semester in mid-August and will tentatively end at the end of Spring Semester in May. Applications are accepted starting early spring semester in March of each year.

### **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION IN THE JUMPSTART PROGRAM?**

- Experience working with preschool children on language, literacy, and social-emotional skills
- Earn academic course credit with your enrollment in Jumpstart-specific Child and Adolescent Studies courses held on Monday evenings
- Serve 12-15 hours a week on a team of your peers
- Receive professional training in the field of early childhood education
- Join a national service network including over 20,000 alumni
- [Segal AmeriCorps Education Award](#) of at least \$1,200 following your 300 hours of service (AmeriCorps members only)
- Earn Federal Work-Study (if you have been awarded)

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

In many cases, 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 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 AmeriCorps members 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 Gordon Hall (GH) 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 the benefits of academic course credit, personal and professional training, hands-on experience, and if eligible, the Segal AmeriCorps Education award.

## **WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?**

Jumpstart members serve between 12-15 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 – 2 times per week for 2 hours each
- 2 hours Team planning meetings - 2 times per week
- 3 hours Individual classroom service completed on weekdays
- 2-5 hours Session planning and family involvement
- Occasional evening or weekend trainings or events

*\*Due to the changing protocols caused by COVID-19 at our preschool programs, information regarding Jumpstart session, Individual Classroom Service and general programming is subject to change. The Jumpstart program plans to continue in-person programming for the upcoming Fall and Spring Semesters.*

## **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/ Mondays and Wednesdays, a team of Jumpstart members implement curriculum in a preschool classroom. Jumpstart members engage children in active learning experiences to build language, literacy, and social emotional skills during the Jumpstart session.

## **WHAT IS INDIVIDUAL CLASSROOM SERVICE (ICS)?**

Individual classroom service (ICS) is an important component of the Jumpstart program model. This a time for Jumpstart members to spend extra time supporting the children in their Jumpstart classroom. Members complete at least 3 hours per week for a total of 60 hours over the course year. 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 OR Mondays and Wednesdays depending on schedules. The time of session varies based on the preschool classroom daily schedule. Typically, sessions are held between 8am-1pm in the mornings or 12pm-5pm in the afternoon. It is required that you schedule your fall and spring semester classes around your Jumpstart commitment. We do this so that Jumpstart 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 members and the children we serve.

## **WHERE ARE THE PRESCHOOLS 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. Please note that members are required to provide their own transportation.

## **HOW DO I APPLY?**

Applications are available online: <https://my.jstart.org/apply/>

*If you have questions or would like more information, please contact:*

[jumpstart@fullerton.edu](mailto:jumpstart@fullerton.edu) | (657) 278-4406