



FAQS

1. What is the Hoover Institution?

A: With its eminent scholars and world-renowned Library & Archives, the Hoover Institution is a public policy think tank that seeks to improve the human condition by advancing ideas that promote economic opportunity and prosperity while securing and safeguarding peace for America and all mankind.

2. What is the Veteran Fellowship Program?

A: The Hoover Institution's Bochnowski Family Veteran Fellowship Program (VFP) is an accelerator program for doers. The VFP is a year-long, non-residential, project-based program for a cohort of ten post-9/11 veterans who want to effect meaningful policy change and accelerate solution-finding at a local, state or national level. The program, which was launched in fall 2021, invites participants to address challenges to public policy with actionable solutions.

3. Who is eligible for the program?

A: The program is open to post-9/11 veterans who have served on active duty within the past 25 years from any of the following branches of the US military: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, National Guard, or Space Force. For those in the National Guard, their service must include at least one period of activation at either the state or federal level.

4. Are reservists eligible?

A: If the reservist previously served on active duty in the last 25 years and now holds a civilian job full time while serving part time in a reserve capacity (regular reserves or National Guard), they are welcome to apply.

5. What are the costs associated with participating in the Hoover Veteran Fellowship Program?

A: For the in-person portions of the program, Hoover will pay for accommodations, most meals, and transportation costs in and around the Stanford location. We ask all participants to cover costs associated with travel to and from the in-person gatherings on the Stanford campus. Hoover will provide a \$10,000 stipend to those who have been selected to participate in the program.

6. What is the Capstone Project?

A: With their capstone project, each Veteran Fellow works on a significant policy issue that aligns with the principles and priorities of the Hoover Institution. Capstone topics are defined at the discretion of the Veteran Fellows, articulated in the application process, and refined at the first in-person gathering in June. The capstone should provide a real-world framework that integrates and applies a deep mastery of the problem and informed approaches for policy improvements or solutions. Capstones are intended to be actionable and **not** academic research.

7. Who should write letters of recommendation on my behalf?

A: You should request a letter of recommendation from your current supervisor. If you are the founder or head of your respective institution, then it is suggested that you ask a board member or senior advisor to the organization to draft the letter on your behalf. If you are currently unemployed or between jobs, then it is suggested that you ask your previous supervisor. Other letters should be from professional or community associates or colleagues who can speak to your experience and the impact of your work. We will not accept letters of recommendation from family or friends and ask that each recommender state their relationship to the candidate.

8. Where do Veteran Fellows stay for in-person sessions?

A: Housing will be provided to participants during the five in-person engagements that take place at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University and in Washington DC. We do not recommend that families accompany fellows to these engagements as it detracts from the bonding and network-building experience that is integral to the program.

9. What are the deadlines for the application process?

A: Please view the latest program dates and deadlines at the [Hoover.org website](https://www.hoover.org). Note that your letters of recommendation are also due by the application close deadline.

10. What if I cannot attend all of the in-person engagements of the program?

A: It is required that all fellows attend the five in-person engagements of the program. No exceptions will be made.

11. I want to pursue a capstone that focuses on veterans. Should I apply for this program?

A: Any veteran-related proposals should nest within broader policy needs. The program is not focused on veteran-only issues; rather it provides a support network to elevate and articulate veterans' ideas and perspectives that address policy challenges in line with the support Hoover can give.