



Gary L. McDowell Institute
Student Fellows Program, 2023-24

The Gary L. McDowell Institute at the Jepson School of Leadership Studies seeks applicants for the 2023-2024 Student Fellows. The primary goal of this program is to enrich the intellectual experience of students interested in political, social, and economic thought. All undergraduate students are welcome to apply and we anticipate selecting 25-30 fellows this year.

During the second half of the fall semester, the fellows will begin a co-curricular reading group focused on Zena Hitz's *Lost in Thought: The Hidden Pleasures of an Intellectual Life* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2021). "Drawing on inspiring examples, from Socrates and Augustine to Malcolm X and Elena Ferrante, and from films to Hitz's own experiences as someone who walked away from elite university life in search of greater fulfillment, *Lost in Thought* is a passionate and timely reminder that a rich life is a life rich in thought." Zena Hitz is a Tutor at St. John's College in Annapolis, as well as the founder and president of the Catherine Project.

After fall break, fellows will begin an exploration of enduring questions raised by the text and apply insights to contemporary issues. Discussions will be facilitated by Dr. Jessica Flanigan, Richard L. Morrill Chair in Ethics & Democratic Values and Associate Professor of Leadership Studies and PPEL, and Dr. Kevin Cherry, Associate Professor of Political Science. In the spring semester, the fellows will complete Hitz's book and host Hitz as our scholar-for-the-day. Hitz's discussion with the fellows and her public lecture is scheduled for **March 21, 2024**. Student fellows must be available for these programs.

True to the principles that inspire the McDowell Institute—free inquiry, thoughtful deliberation, and rigorous discussion of classical texts and issues—we welcome students, regardless of their political perspective. The program seeks to engage ideas across the ideological spectrum, including conservative, liberal, and libertarian ideas.

Interested students should submit by email a statement of interest in the Fellows Program and the name of a University of Richmond faculty member who is willing to serve as a reference to Dr. Dan Palazzolo, Co-Director of the Gary L. McDowell Institute, at dpalazzo@richmond.edu and Ms. Katherine Rockwell, Administrative Coordinator, Jepson School of Leadership Studies, at katherine.rockwell@richmond.edu

A selection committee consisting of Dr. Palazzolo, Dr. Flanigan, Dr. Cherry, and Dr. Terry Price, Co-Director of the McDowell Institute, will begin a review of applications on September 15, 2023.