



Gary L. McDowell Institute  
Student Fellows Program, 2024-2025

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The Gary L. McDowell Institute at the Jepson School of Leadership Studies seeks applicants for the 2024-2025 Student Fellows Program. The primary goal of this program is to enrich the intellectual experience of students interested in political, social, and economic thought. We anticipate selecting approximately 50 Fellows this year.

Each academic year, Fellows participate in programs hosted by the McDowell Institute and read and discuss one book. The book selected for this academic year is Dr. Brad Wilcox's *Get Married: Why Americans Must Defy the Elites, Forge Strong Families, and Save Civilization*. Dr. Wilcox argues that "getting married and forging a strong family is the best way to build a prosperous, meaningful, and happy life—and a way that needs a lot more guidance and support from the culture and law than it is now garnering." Dr. Wilcox is Professor of Sociology at the University of Virginia and Director of the National Marriage Project.

During the second half of the fall semester, Fellows will begin an exploration of enduring questions raised by Dr. Wilcox's text and apply insights to contemporary issues. Discussions will be facilitated by Dr. Jessica Flanigan, Richard L. Morrill Chair in Ethics & Democratic Values and Professor of Leadership Studies and PPEL, and Dr. Kevin Cherry, Associate Professor of Political Science. In the spring semester, the Fellows will complete Dr. Wilcox's book and host him as our scholar-for-the-day. Dr. Wilcox's discussion with the Fellows and his public lecture is scheduled for **March 27, 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. Terry Price, Co-Director of the Gary L. McDowell Institute, at [tprice@richmond.edu](mailto:tprice@richmond.edu) and Ms. Heidi Thompson, Administrative Coordinator, at [heidi.thompson@richmond.edu](mailto:heidi.thompson@richmond.edu). A selection committee consisting of Dr. Price, Dr. Flanigan, Dr. Cherry, and Dr. Dan Palazzolo, Co-Director of the McDowell Institute, will begin a review of applications on September 15, 2024.