Professional Development Program
Learning Goals & Objectives

Through a year-long professional development curriculum, the AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowships (STPF) works to complement fellows' placement experience by enhancing their capacity in four foundational learning areas: Policy and the Federal Government; Communication; Leadership; and Networking and Career Strategies. Fellows use the knowledge and skills they learn in professional development trainings during their fellowship and in future professional interactions.

**Professional Development Learning Goals**

1) Integrate science and technology expertise with inclusive communication and leadership skills to impact policy in the federal government.
2) Build and maintain a network of diverse stakeholders who are committed to utilizing science to inform policy.
3) Develop science and technology policy knowledge and skills to operate effectively in the federal government.
4) Empower fellows as agents of change for advancing science and serving society for all.

**Professional Development Learning Objectives**

**Policy and the Federal Government**

Fellows will be able to…

- Examine the complexities between and within the legislative, executive, and/or judicial branches of government on policy formation.
- Analyze the relationship between science and policy in the federal government and the role of diverse stakeholders.
- Evaluate the impact of contemporary societal issues on science and policy.
- Contribute to pathways that encourage the value of scientific thinking in federal agencies.
- Contribute to pathways that advance equity and justice in the science/policy nexus and the federal government.

**Communication**

Fellows will be able to…

- Demonstrate knowledge of communication processes to facilitate collaboration with diverse stakeholders.
- Defend the importance of effective science communication on outreach and the potential impacts on policy formation.
- Formulate effective oral and written strategies to communicate science to diverse audiences including the public, media, and policymakers. These strategies will:
  - Consider multi-culturally relevant communication spaces to meet intended audiences.
  - Create environments of empathy and mutual respect.
  - Employ storytelling, visual aids, nonverbal cues, and persuasive strategy to convey evidence-based information.
  - Value and promote perspective sharing.
  - Employ active listening techniques.
Leadership
Fellows will be able to…
- Demonstrate an understanding of culturally competent models of leadership and the potential impacts on individuals and organizations.
- Develop inclusive leadership skills to promote desired outcomes.
- Integrate social and emotional intelligence with applied leadership models.
- Lead with a perspective that inclusion is a foundational lens to create policy and evaluate its efficacy.
- Capitalize on opportunities to serve as science policy leaders in various sectors including academia, government, non-profit, and industry/private sector.

Networking and Career Strategies
Fellows will be able to…
- Develop skills to form networks and achieve career goals.
- Understand the value of building relationships through diverse networks to increase the quality and dissemination of one’s work, and to mitigate one’s own implicit biases.
- Apply appropriate networking techniques to form lasting connections with individuals and organizations within the science policy matrix.