



**Robert '61 and Peggy Sharp
Fellowship in Business,
Free Enterprise, and
Entrepreneurship
Application**

2026



Scholarship Overview

The Sharp Family Fellowship in Business, Free Enterprise, and Entrepreneurship

What: The Sharp Fellowship

The Robert R. and Peggy I. Sharp Fellowship, established in 2005, provides qualified business majors at Florida Southern College with internship and mentorship opportunities focused on entrepreneurship and innovation. The fellowship offers up to **\$16,000 in scholarship funds** annually, distributed equally between two Sharp Fellowship recipients.

Why: Building an Entrepreneurial Mindset

The fellowship is designed to help students cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset, which includes skills such as situation analysis, opportunity and risk assessment, solution development, and implementation planning. Research shows that these skills are highly valued by employers and are critical for driving innovation and business growth.

How: Fellowship Structure and Requirements

1. **Application and Selection:** Each fall semester, students apply for the fellowship, with final selection made by a committee of faculty and a Financial Aid staff member. Finalists are interviewed by members of the Sharp family, who provide recipient recommendations.
2. **Internship Proposal:** Selected fellows must identify and propose a company or organization for their internship four weeks before the start of the applicable semester for approval. The internship should be completed during the Spring 26 or Fall 26 semester.
3. **Internship Placement:** Fellows work with a host company that is either a startup, a growing business, or an established organization with a specific innovation project, dedicating at least 10 hours per week on-site.
4. **Post-Internship Deliverables:** Upon completion, fellows must submit a report and presentation covering their experience and outcomes across four core entrepreneurial skills:
 - Situation Analysis
 - Opportunity and Risk Assessment
 - Solution Proposal
 - Implementation and Launch Plan
5. **Certification:** Successful fellows receive the Robert R. and Peggy I. Sharp Fellowship Certificate in Entrepreneurship, validating their mastery of the targeted skills.

By providing real-world experience and focused mentorship, the Sharp Fellowship helps students apply entrepreneurial concepts, enhancing their career readiness and innovation capabilities.

Scholarship Application

The application letter should address the following information:

1. Name, Student ID#, GPA, Major
2. What is your interest in the Sharp Fellowship, what impact do you expect it to have on you?
3. Describe your interest in entrepreneurship and/or innovation.
4. What start-up or company would you like to work with as part of the Fellowship, or if the specific company has not been identified, please describe the type of organization that you would like to work with. The specific company or start-up organization must be identified 4 weeks prior to the start of the applicable semester, for committee review and approval.
5. What are your qualifications that best position you as the ideal candidate for the Fellowship?
6. What is your five-year vision and how will the Sharp Fellowship help you fulfill that vision?

THE LETTER SHOULD NOT EXCEED 2 PAGES. It should be single-spaced in Times Roman, 10 or 12 pt. font. Include a 1-page resume outlining activities, recognitions, community service and work experience. Both documents are to be submitted electronically to Mr. Ryan Buckley, Director of Development, at rbuckley@flsouthern.edu. The deadline for applications is on or before **4:00 PM, Friday, November 7, 2025**.

NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Finalists for the Fellowship will be notified by November 21, 2025, and will be personally interviewed by the Sharp Family in the weeks following notification. If candidates have identified an internship opportunity, they should be prepared to discuss the company and project specifics. If candidates have not yet identified a specific company, they should be prepared to discuss their ideal type of company and project.

Recipients of the Fellowship will be notified by December 12, 2025.

The Sharp Fellowship will be supervised by Dean Weber, with a minimum of 1 meeting per month.



**FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR TO
REQUEST FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT:**

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