



What is Jumpstart?

Jumpstart is a national program that has been training college students for over 20 years in early childhood development, specifically language & literacy. Jumpstart is partnered with 3 Mississippi universities (University of Mississippi in Oxford; Mississippi University for Women in Columbus; and University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg). Jumpstart came to MUW 5 years ago. Through a proven curriculum, the children served through Jumpstart develop skills they need to be ready for school. Jumpstart's mission is to work toward the day every child in America enters kindergarten prepared to succeed (no matter what the family's income, status, or zip code is – which are all indicators to a child's success in school, according to research).

What is required?

- All Corps members receive high quality pre-service & mid-year training to help them implement Jumpstart's outcome-based program, promote children's school success, and build family involvement.
- Corps members complete 300 hours of service during the fall & spring school year. During the school year, Corps members serve part-time, 10-15 hours per week.

What are the qualifications & experience?

- Corps members & volunteers must exhibit dedication to early childhood education through required trainings and ongoing observation & feedback for program quality assurance.
- Corps members & volunteers must display a commitment to service.
- Corps members & volunteers must always demonstrate professionalism.

What are the compensations & benefits?

- Corps members have the potential to earn Federal Work-Study during term of service.
- Corps members have the potential to earn an AmeriCorps education award (approximately \$1,200) to pay for tuition, loans, or other qualified expenses.
- Corps members have the unique opportunity to enhance knowledge and skills in the field of early childhood education while joining a national network (of over 36,000 alumni) that earns community service hours. This invaluable opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young children from our community will set you apart from others in future career options.

Where & when do Corps members serve?

- We currently have two program partner sites:
 1. On-campus site at MUW CPDC holds “Jumpstart Sessions” on Mondays & Wednesdays from 2:00-5:00 pm
 2. Off-campus site at The Assembly Kids Academy holds “Jumpstart Sessions” on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 2:00-5:00 pm
- In addition to the “Jumpstart Sessions,” members also visit their program partner site to serve the children through “classroom assistance time.” The days and times of this service is based on the Corps members availability in cooperation with the site’s classroom schedule.
- “Independent Planning” and “Team Planning Meetings” are also requirements to prepare for the Jumpstart Sessions. These hours of preparation (including the Sessions and Classroom Assistance Time) all count within the total 10-15 hours of weekly service.

What is a “Jumpstart Session?”

Upon completion of training, the team of college students (known as Corps members of Jumpstart) go into our program partner site(s) to host Jumpstart Sessions with the 3 & 4-year olds. The sessions are part of Jumpstart's supplemental curriculum. You do not create your own lessons plans; everything is already designed by researched educators. You just take the session plan, plan for the activities (with the materials you are given; so no out-of-own pocket expenses) and deliver it to the children with your assigned team of Corps members. You will have opportunities within the session to work with children in whole group, small group, and one on one. You will not be alone; you will serve the children with your team of fellow Jumpstart Corps members as well as receive support & guidance from classroom teachers and staff.

What is “Classroom Assistance Time?”

This is a great opportunity for individual Corps members to visit the site independently to assist the classroom teachers in any learning activities and to have fun while building relationships with your special little “Jumpstart buddies.” These service hours can occur any day or time that fits within your personal/course schedule in cooperation with your site’s classroom schedule.

What type of individual or team preparation is required?

Not all 10-15 weekly hours are served at the sites and/or with the children. Some of your service (usually 1-2 hours a week) is completed on your own time, preparing for your sessions (both individually and as a team). This involves reviewing the week’s Session Plan, practicing the storybook read-aloud and songs, preparing games, crafts, or activities. Materials needed to prepare for sessions are provided to Corps members. However, if you have any personal materials or props that can enhance the Session, that is welcomed too.