

NSSC Student Association Elections FAQ

What is the weekly time commitment required of SA executive members?

On average, your commitment to the SA will require anywhere from 5-15 hours per week of your time, depending on campus size, number of executive members, and your specific executive position. This time commitment includes things like posted office hours, executive and council meetings, meetings with campus staff, one on one meetings with Student Life Staff, completing monthly reports, training workshops, one on one training sessions and other position duties. There may be other time commitments as well. Position requirements for VP Finance, for example, typically involve weekly financial work to keep records up to date, such as for writing and recording cheques and ensuring all proper documentation is available to complete financial requests for the SA. But in general, some weeks may require more hours than others; things like orientation and elections tend to require more commitment than a typical week because there is more happening that the SA oversees organizing and facilitating.

What are the benefits of being a SA leader?

Being an SA leader provides opportunities to develop and hone your leadership skills in a post-secondary setting. You will receive training on topics that you may not otherwise experience with your program and you get to use that training in a real, non-profit organization to enrich student life on campus for everyone. As an executive member, you will meet people across 15 NSSC campuses - fellow students, SA members as well as staff and faculty who could serve as great contacts for you after graduation. The SA also provides you with great opportunities to learn and grow while at the same time giving you excellent portfolio and resume pieces that many employers look for when hiring, making you a well-rounded, invested, future employee with lots of hands on learning experience.

What type of reporting is expected of me; and why?

The type of reporting required really depends on your position. Everyone is expected to do the basic monthly reports which detail what you've done during the month in your position as well as other things you may have helped with that were not part of your typical role. In addition, we ask that you try to include in your report some reflective comments (what worked best, what didn't, areas you think you could have improved on or something you would do differently next time) to help us continue to grow as an organization. These reports are uploaded to our SharePoint site and the information included is used for your monthly reporting to the Students' Council. Student Life staff reviews this information on a monthly basis to get a clear picture of what the SA has been doing and how best to support their activities. Also required is a year-end report. The year-end report is a reflection piece on your year in leadership, summing up your accomplishments, challenges and insights into what you would do differently if you could do it all again. We also ask for conference reflections from both the spring and fall conferences to help you complete your learning experience.

Do I get paid to be an SA executive?

Unfortunately, there is no weekly pay cheque for hours worked as an SA executive member. However, all campuses do offer students an honorarium (or stipend) at the end of each semester (or at the end of the year). This honorarium should not be considered as payment for time put into the position, but rather seen as a thank you for your volunteer efforts throughout the year. Honorariums vary in monetary value from campus to campus depending on the SA budget.

What is my expected Academic Standing?

It is expected that while you are serving in the role of SA executive member, you will pass all classes and remain in good academic standing with the College. All executive members are students first and foremost. Completion of your diploma/certificate should be the priority before any other extracurricular campus activities. This is noted in the Student Leadership Agreement.

Who will support me in this role?

There are many people who support and encourage the SA throughout the year; one of your biggest areas for support is from your fellow SA members. Each of you will bring different skills and life experiences to the organization and it is always a good idea to look around and see what skills are available to you in your own office. Secondly, you will find Student Life staff a great source of support and advice – they will meet with you monthly, review and provide feedback on your reports as well as provide support and advice to you as you plan your activities. They also provide training opportunities throughout the year and will most likely be your first point of contact outside the SA when something isn't working out the way you thought. You will also have on campus support to draw from - each Association has SA Advisors appointed by the Executive Committee at their campus. These are typically members of Student Services or other campus staff who serve as liaisons between the SA and the Campus, helping you to form strong bonds and giving you direct staff and faculty contact.

Will I incur any out of pocket expenses in this role?

There should be no out of pocket expenses for an Executive Member. Travel, lodging, and meals for conferences are covered in the SA budget while all training sessions and materials are provided to you by your Student Life staff at no cost. All activities, events, and programming put on by the SA will be covered by the SA budget, as approved. Please note that before any out of pocket expenses of an SA member can be covered, they must first be approved by the Student Association, Students' Council, and/or the Student Life staff as well as included in the yearly budget. SA members who incur expenses that are outside of the pre-approved budget and have not been pre-authorized will not be reimbursed for them. The SA budget is not for individual

expenses and it should not be used in such a way. Student fees make up the SA budget and the budget is to be used to benefit students.

Does this role require me to be part of a team?

Yes. The Student Association is a working team and by taking on an executive position, you are taking on the role and responsibility of being a team member. You will work closely with other Student Association members and Students' Council members as well as Student Services, Staff and Faculty, Student Life Team, and other students in the campus community. Teamwork is what makes this organization tick, so you need to be prepared to work collectively and cooperatively with a lot of different people.

Are there any credit, co-op or practicum opportunities within the SA?

There are some opportunities to do a practicum or work placement with NSCC Student Life, however this depends on your program and practicum/work term requirements. Those SA members looking to do a work term or practicum project with NSCC Student Life to discuss placement opportunities. All proposals should be made by the end of February to ensure students have the opportunity to make the appropriate arrangements. In addition, some course requirements may be fulfilled by the work done as an SA member. Executive members should speak with their faculty if they feel there is potential to meet their class requirements in this role.

If I don't want to be an Executive Member of the SA are there other ways to still be involved?

Absolutely. We want students to be able to find a role within the SA that works for them and fits with their personal goals. Instead of serving as an Executive member, there may be voluntary Coordinator positions that the SA hires yearly, depending on the needs of the campus. We also look for students to serve as class appointed council members as well as volunteers. The SA also promotes the formation of campus-based student organizations such as program-based societies and socially focused clubs. We always encourage students with common interests to think about starting one up. Lastly, you can always just participate in what your SA has to offer. If you feel that one of these options might be for you, please talk to the Student Association or a [Student Life](#) staff member to find out more information on what's available on your campus.