HSS Scholar

Olukemi Fatade

Major: Political Science

Educational Highlights: I knew I wanted to major in Political Science prior to becoming officially enrolled as a freshman. The courses in this major have been nothing short of intriguing and inspiring as it clarified my understanding of politics and the policy process. A turning point in my education took place in Dr. Day’s *Global Political Thought* course; it was here that I recognized the need to challenge the assumed hegemony of Western ideology and engage with other schools of thought. I made either the Dean’s or President’s list nearly every semester here and was inducted into the National Political Science Honor Society, Pi Sigma Alpha during my junior year. While enrolled in classes, I was an active member of the Honor Board and served as Chair for two academic years. This experience afforded me the opportunity to engage in practices that explore themes of justice, restoration and effective policy. I even further engaged in the Charleston community as I spent some time as a Social Justice intern at the YWCA of Greater Charleston during the summer and fall of 2018.

Research Focus or Project: My primary research focus is in public policy and the achievement of social justice through policy reform. I took advantage of the department’s curriculum to primarily explore and analyze education policy for grades k-12 in the United States. I also worked with Dr. Watson on research focused on social justice for indigenous peoples.

Future Plans: After graduation, I will begin training in June as a corps member with Teach for America. Once I have completed training, I will be in San Antonio, Texas teaching middle grades education for the next two years. During this time, I intend to pursue every opportunity where my skills are utilized to make progress towards the fair distribution of justice and conduct independent research related to education policy and social justice. I will also be actively seeking a graduate school program for Public Policy.

*This award was presented by Jerold L. Hale, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Department of Political Science at the College of Charleston on the 18th day of April 2019*